

October 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# BULLETIN

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## Laramie County FSA Updates

### Laramie County Farm Service Agency

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**County Committee:**  
Theron Anderson  
Dave Bowman

### Laramie County Comments

Happy October Laramie County Farmers and Ranchers!

As many of you know, October is a big month for payments at FSA. ARC/PLC payments that triggered have been issued, and we are currently finishing up making CRP payments today.

2021 ARC/PLC contracts are also available to sign now. Contracts will need to be completed by March 15, 2021. We also are currently taking crop reports for any of your fall planted crops at this time, and we will need to complete them by November 15th, 2020. And for any of those fall planted crops or grasses that you would like NAP (noninsured crop disaster assistance program) coverage for; you will need to sign up by December 1st, 2020.

October also brings the deadline of signup for the Organic Certification Cost Share Program. If you are interested in applying, please submit documents by October 31st!

We are also taking signups for the second Coronavirus Food Assistance Program. Various crops are eligible including wheat, corn, oats, millet, and several more that are applicable to Laramie County. Eligible livestock this time are cattle, sheep and hogs which

Brian Jacobsen  
Heidi Romsa

are not breeding livestock (meaning have not produced offspring yet). There is also a sales aspect that covers crops like beans and lentils. Please see below article for more details.

**Next County Committee Meeting: TBD**

Please note that we still require appointments for in-office visits due to Coronavirus procedures.

Thank you for all you do!

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## **FSA Encourages Farmers and Ranchers to Vote in County Committee Elections**

The 2020 Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections will begin on Nov. 2, 2020, when ballots are mailed to eligible voters. The deadline to return ballots to local FSA offices, or to be postmarked, is Dec. 7, 2020.

County committee members are an important component of the operations of FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and USDA. Farmers and ranchers elected to county committees help deliver FSA programs at the local level, applying their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on commodity price support programs, conservation programs, incentive indemnity and disaster programs for some commodities, emergency programs and eligibility. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws.

To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm, may also be eligible to vote.

Eligible voters in local administrative area 3, who do not receive a ballot can obtain one from their local USDA Service Center.

Newly elected committee members will take office Jan. 1, 2021.

The candidates in this year's election are:

1. T.J. Hollingsworth is nominated in LAA 3, Laramie County, to serve as a committee member for a 3-year term. Hollingsworth resides Northwest of Cheyenne and has ran cattle for a number of years.

More information on county committees, such as the new 2020 fact sheet, can be found on the FSA website at [fsa.usda.gov/elections](https://fsa.usda.gov/elections) or at a local USDA Service Center.

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## **Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2**

***CFAP 1 Participants Encouraged to Apply for Additional Assistance***

**Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2**

Signup for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2) began on Sept. 21, 2020 and will continue through Dec. 11, 2020. CFAP 2 provides eligible producers with direct financial assistance due to market disruptions and associated costs because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Check out our [brief video](#) about the program.

CFAP 2 is a separate program from the first round of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, now referred to as CFAP 1. Farmers and ranchers who participated in CFAP 1 will not be automatically enrolled and must complete a new application for CFAP 2. Details on how to apply can be found on [farmers.gov/cfap/apply](https://farmers.gov/cfap/apply).

### **CFAP 2 Eligible Commodities Finder**

Many more commodities are eligible for CFAP 2 than CFAP 1. Interested in finding the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 payment rates for the eligible commodities you grow or raise? Our new, easy-to-use [CFAP 2 Eligible Commodities Finder](#) makes finding payment rates specific to your operation simple. From yam to alpaca farmers – and everyone in between – the payment rate information you need is just a few clicks away. Try it today on your desktop, tablet, or mobile device.

### **Call Center**

A call center is available for producers who would like additional one-on-one support with the CFAP 2 application process. Please call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance. The call center can provide service to non-English speaking customers. Customers will select 1 for English and 2 to speak with a Spanish speaking employee. For other languages, customers select 1 and indicate their language to the call center staff.

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## **Farm Loan Graduation Reminder for Direct Loan Borrowers**

Farm Service Agency (FSA) Direct Loans are considered a temporary source of credit available to producers who do not meet normal underwriting criteria for commercial banks.

FSA periodically conducts Direct Loan graduation reviews to determine a borrower's ability to graduate to commercial credit. If the borrower's financial condition has improved to a point where they can refinance their debt with commercial credit, they will be asked to obtain other financing and partially or fully pay off their FSA debt.

By the end of a producer's operating cycle, the Agency will send a letter requesting a current balance sheet, actual financial performance and a projected farm budget. The borrower has 30 days to return the required financial documents. This information will be used to evaluate the borrower's potential for refinancing to commercial credit.

If a borrower meets local underwriting criteria, FSA will send the borrower's name, loan type, balance sheet, and projected cash flow to commercial lenders. The borrower will be notified when loan information is sent to local lenders.

If any lenders are interested in refinancing the borrower's loan, FSA will send the borrower a letter with a list of lenders interested in refinancing the loan. The borrower must contact the lenders and complete an application for commercial credit within 30 calendar days.

If a commercial lender rejects the borrower, the borrower must obtain written evidence that specifies the reasons for rejection and submit to their local FSA farm loan office.

If a borrower fails to provide the requested financial information or to graduate, FSA will notify the borrower of noncompliance, FSA's intent to accelerate the loan, and appeal rights.

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Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Robin B. Hudson at 307-772-2314 ext. 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).