

July 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# BULLETIN

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## Lincoln County FSA Updates

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### Lincoln County Farm Service Agency

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**County Executive Director:**  
Dee Harbach

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
Brian Harrell

**Program Technicians:**  
Kresta Hedges

**County Committee:**  
Kelly Johnson  
Kim Clark  
Deanna Clark

### County Office Message

Due to COVID-19 procedures, the Lincoln County FSA office is open to producers by appointment only. Please contact our office by phone prior to arriving so we can ensure a safe and efficient visit. We are also available to complete signups and provide service over the phone, by mail or email for producers that are unable to come into the office.

We have been busy administering CFAP (Coronavirus Food Assistance Program) to the producers in Lincoln County. If you haven't completed a CFAP application please contact our office. The deadline is **August 28, 2020**. Producers of cattle, sheep, hogs, wool, dairy, malt barley and oats are eligible.

Crop Reporting is nearing the deadline of **August 14, 2020**. If you haven't filed your 2020 crop report, please contact the office to set an appointment. Accurate crop reports are required to remain eligible for many FSA programs.

**Next County Committee Meeting: TBD**

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## Nominations Open for the 2020 County Committee Elections

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages all farmers, ranchers, and FSA program participants to take part in the Lincoln County Committee election nomination process.

FSA's county committees are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA and allow grassroots input and local administration of federal farm programs.

Committees are comprised of locally elected agricultural producers responsible for the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties. Committee members are accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture. If elected, members become part of a local decision making and farm program delivery process.

A county committee is composed of three to 11 elected members from local administrative areas (LAA). Each member serves a three-year term. One-third of the seats on these committees are open for election each year.

County committees may have an appointed advisor to further represent the local interests of underserved farmers and ranchers. Underserved producers are beginning, women and other minority farmers and ranchers and landowners and/or operators who have limited resources.

All nomination forms for the 2020 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by Aug. 1, 2020 (or next business day). For more information on FSA county committee elections and appointments, refer to the FSA fact sheet: *Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a COC Member* available online at: [fsa.usda.gov/elections](https://fsa.usda.gov/elections).

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## USDA Announces Streamlined Guaranteed Loans and Additional Lender Category for Small-Scale Operators

*Options Help More Beginning, Small and Urban Producers Gain Access to Credit*

Producers can apply for a streamlined version of USDA guaranteed loans, which are tailored for smaller scale farms and urban producers. The program, called EZ Guarantee Loans, uses a simplified application process to help beginning, small, underserved and family farmers and ranchers apply for loans of up to \$100,000 from USDA-approved lenders to purchase farmland or finance agricultural operations.

A new category of lenders will join traditional lenders, such as banks and credit unions, in offering USDA EZ Guarantee Loans. Microlenders, which include Community Development Financial Institutions and Rural Rehabilitation Corporations, will be able to offer their customers up to \$50,000 of EZ Guaranteed Loans, helping to reach urban areas and underserved producers. Banks, credit

unions and other traditional USDA-approved lenders, can offer customers up to \$100,000 to help with agricultural operation costs.

EZ Guarantee Loans offer low interest rates and terms up to seven years for financing operating expenses and 40 years for financing the purchase of farm real estate. USDA-approved lenders can issue these loans with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) guaranteeing the loan up to 95 percent.

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Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Dee Harbach at 307-886-9001 extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

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