

April 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# BULLETIN

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## Natrona and Converse County FSA Updates

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### Natrona/Converse County FSA Office

5880 Enterprise Drive, Suite 100  
Casper, WY 82609 Phone: 307-261-5436 Fax: 855-415-3428

**County Executive Director:** Deena R. McDaniels

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
Dixie Mount

**Program Technician:**  
Wanda K. McLean

**County Committee:**  
Kem C. Nicolaysen, Chairman  
Josh Moore,  
Vice Chairman Lee Moore,  
Member  
Heather Harlan, Member  
William Kossert, Member

### USDA Service Centers Open for Business by Phone Appointment Only

U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Centers are encouraging visitors to take precautionary measures to help prevent the spread of coronavirus.

The Natrona County USDA Service Center will continue to be open for business by phone appointment only and field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. While our program delivery staff will continue to come into the office, they will be working with our producers by phone, and using online tools whenever possible. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, or any other Service Center agency are required to call to schedule a phone appointment.

Farm Service Agency: (307) 261-5436 extension 2

Natural Resources Conservation Service: (307) 261-5436 extension 3

Natrona County Conservation District (307) 261-5436 extension 4

Employees may also be contacted by email at the following email address:

**Next County Committee Meeting: May 26, 2020 Time:8:00am**

Deena R. McDaniels [Deena.mcdaniels@usda.gov](mailto:Deena.mcdaniels@usda.gov)  
Kenneth Wolfley [Kenneth.wolfley@usda.gov](mailto:Kenneth.wolfley@usda.gov)  
Lisa Ogden [Lisa.Ogden@wy.nacdnet.net](mailto:Lisa.Ogden@wy.nacdnet.net)

Online services are available to customers with an eAuth account, which provides access to the [farmers.gov](http://farmers.gov) portal where producers can view USDA farm loan information and payments and view and track certain USDA program applications and payments. Online NRCS services are available to customers through the [Conservation Client Gateway](#). Customers can track payments, report completed practices, request conservation assistance, and electronically sign documents. Customers who do not already have an eAuth account can enroll at [farmers.gov/sign-in](http://farmers.gov/sign-in).

For the most current updates on available services and Service Center status visit [farmers.gov/coronavirus](http://farmers.gov/coronavirus).

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## 2020 Acreage Reporting Dates

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

Acreage reporting dates vary by crop and by county so please contact your local FSA office for a list of county-specific deadlines.

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the applicable acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the applicable acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the applicable dates or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact your local FSA office.

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## USDA Offers Targeted Farm Loan Funding for Underserved Groups and Beginning Farmers

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers that FSA offers targeted farm ownership and farm operating loans to assist underserved applicants as well as beginning farmers and ranchers.

USDA defines underserved applicants as a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities.

For farm loan program purposes, targeted underserved groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics and Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Underserved or beginning farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank can apply for either FSA direct loans or guaranteed loans. Direct loans are made to applicants by FSA. Guaranteed loans are made by lending institutions who arrange for FSA to guarantee the loan. FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. The FSA guarantee allows lenders to make agricultural credit available to producers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria.

The direct and guaranteed loan program provides for two types of loans: farm ownership loans and farm operating loans. In addition to customary farm operating and ownership loans, FSA now offers Microloans through the direct loan program. The focus of Microloans is on the financing needs of small, beginning farmer, niche and non-traditional farm operations. Microloans are available for both ownership and operating finance needs. To learn more about microloans, visit [fsa.usda.gov/microloans](https://fsa.usda.gov/microloans).

To qualify as a beginning producer, the individual or entity must meet the eligibility requirements outlined for direct or guaranteed loans. Additionally, individuals and all entity members must have operated a farm for less than 10 years. Applicants must materially or substantially participate in the operation.

For more information on FSA's farm loan programs and targeted underserved and beginning farmer guidelines, visit [fsa.usda.gov/farmloans](https://fsa.usda.gov/farmloans)

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Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact [Deena R. McDaniels](#) at [307-261-5436](tel:307-261-5436) extension 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).