

March 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

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Niobrara County FSA Updates

Niobrara County FSA Office

905 South Main Street
PO Box 720
Lusk, WY 82225

Phone: (307) 334-2953, Ext. 2
Fax: (855) 415-3433

County Executive Director:
Laura Kessler

Program Technician:
Kimberly Nusbaum

Farm Loan Manager:
Dixie Mount
(307) 322-4050

County Committee:
Jason ZumBrunnen

Niobrara County Notes

Greetings Niobrara County Farmers and Ranchers!

This has been a challenging month! We are facing worldwide health concerns and are trying to do our part in the office and community to keep the impacts of the situation to a minimum. For the time being, it is imperative to call ahead for an appointment. If you do need to stop by, please abide by the policies we have in place that are posted on the door.

With the current situation, we have determined to reschedule the Conservation Reserve Program - Grasslands (CRP-G) workshop that was scheduled for tomorrow, March 18, 2020. We will be conducting this workshop in conjunction with our April 15th workshop on Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL). As always, if you are interested in either of these programs and are unable to attend, we are more than happy to discuss the program with you at any time.

Just a few reminders with a blizzard approaching, that if you lose livestock during this or any other storm, please make sure you call the office within 30 days to put a notice of loss on file to keep you potentially eligible for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). The other reminder we would like to highlight is the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance (NAP) spring crop deadline is April 1st.

Joe Kruse
Kurt Gaukel

Thank you for your help and understanding during this time of continual change.

Carol Geisinger, COC Advisor

Please note the following important dates and deadlines:

Next County Committee Meeting:
TBD

April 1, 2020 – Deadline to purchase NAP on spring seeded crops not insurable with crop insurance

Within 15 days of noticing crop loss – File NAP Notice of Loss

Within 30 days of noticing livestock loss – File LIP Notice of Loss

Within 30 days of livestock feed or pasture losses/issues due to extreme weather – File ELAP Notice of Loss

Farm Service Agency Expands Payment Options

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) expanded its payment options to now accept debit cards and Automated Clearing House (ACH) debit. These paperless payment options enable FSA customers to pay farm loan payments, measurement service fees, farm program debt repayments and administrative service fees, as well as to purchase aerial maps.

Previously, only cash, check, money orders and wires were accepted. By using debit cards and ACH debit, transactions are securely processed from the customer's financial institution through [Pay.gov](https://www.pay.gov), the U.S. Treasury's online payment hub.

While traditional collection methods like cash and paper checks will continue, offering the new alternatives will improve effectiveness and convenience to customers while being more cost effective.

This marks the beginning of a multi-phased roll-out of new payment options for USDA customers. Ultimately, payment option flexibility will be extended to allow farmers and producers to use debit cards and ACH debit payments to make payments for all FSA programs, including farm storage facility loan repayments, farm loan facility fees, marketing assistance loan repayments, Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) administrative fees and premiums and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) fees.

To learn more, contact your [FSA county office](#), visit [farmers.gov](https://www.farmers.gov), or download the "[Make Your FSA Payments Instantly](#)" fact sheet.

ARC/PLC Acreage Maintenance

Producers enrolled in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs must protect all cropland and noncropland acres on the farm from wind and water erosion and noxious weeds. Producers who sign ARC county or individual contracts and PLC contracts agree to effectively control noxious weeds on the farm according to sound agricultural practices. If a producer fails to take necessary actions to correct a maintenance problem on a farm that is enrolled in ARC or PLC, the County Committee may elect to terminate the contract for the program year.

Reminder to FSA Direct and Guaranteed Borrowers with Real Estate Security

Farm Service Agency would like to remind farm loan borrowers who have pledged real estate as security for their loans, of key items for maintaining loan collateral. It is required that borrowers must obtain prior consent, or approval, by either FSA, for direct loans, or by a guaranteed lender, for any transaction affecting real estate security. Examples of these transactions include, but are not limited to:

- Leases of any kind;
- Easements of any kind;
- Subordinations;
- Partial releases, and
- Sales

Failure to meet or follow the requirements set forth in the loan agreement, promissory note, and other security instruments could lead to nonmonetary default which could jeopardize your current and future loans.

It is critical that borrowers keep an open line of communication with their FSA loan staff or guaranteed lender when it comes to changes in their operation. For more information on borrower responsibilities, read [Your FSA Farm Loan Compass](#).

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact [Laura Kessler](#) at [307-334-2953](#), extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

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).