

June 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

BULLETIN

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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 Technicians:
Kimberly Nusbaum
Eilish Hanson

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

County Committee:
Jason ZumBrunnen
Joe Kruse
Kurt Gaukel

Niobrara County Notes

It has been a hot, windy and dry summer. Conditions are not the best here in Niobrara County. We want producers to know that we are submitting all the reports we can in order to make our conditions known. Hopefully we either start getting rain, or our efforts for drought assistance may open some programs to assist you through this time. Anyone who carries our Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Coverage please make sure you notify us with a Notice of Loss as soon as you are aware you have a loss on pasture or forage, which I am sure most everyone already does. We have heard from many of you but there are still many producers who carry policies that we have not heard from yet.

We are currently at 'D1—Moderate Drought' level on the U.S. Drought Monitor. Many livestock disaster programs such as the Livestock Forage Program (LFP), as well as CRP Emergency Haying and Grazing, are tied to the drought monitor and assistance in any of these programs is dependent on the drought monitor indicating the level of severity of our situation. If you feel that our current level shown on the drought monitor is not accurate, we strongly encourage you to submit a drought impact report at the following website: <https://droughtimpacts.unl.edu/ConditionMonitoringObservations.aspx> This is how you can impact the possible availability of disaster programs that relate to drought conditions for our local area.

We are extremely busy in the office with the new Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). The CFAP program compensates farmers and ranchers for various crops and livestock that the markets have not been kind to lately. If you are interested in learning more or applying for the program, please call the office and

Carol Geisinger, COC
Advisor

visit with us. We have created a questionnaire that will help pull your numbers together for the application. Please contact the office so that we can answer any questions you have or get a questionnaire to you.

Next County Committee Meeting: TBD

Many of you have not yet reported your spring planted crops or forage crops for the year. Please make sure you contact the office **before July 15th, 2020** to get your crop report completed. We have many producers who have not finalized their report for the 2020 crop year.

It is a busy time and our workload is very high right now, if you call and get our voicemail or you knock on our door and we do not come right away, we are more than likely assisting other producers and will assist you as soon as we can, but please be sure to leave us a message so that we can return your call. If you plan to stop by the office, please make sure to call ahead. We are currently at Stage 2 of the re-opening process; we are operating as much as possible via mail, email and phone, but can let a producer in the office one at a time, therefore making an appointment or at least calling ahead is essential.

Please note the following important dates and deadlines:

June 30, 2020 - Deadline to file 2020 ARC/PLC contract

July 3, 2020 – Independence Day Holiday - Office Closed

July 15, 2020 – Deadline to file acreage report on perennial and spring seeded crops

August 28, 2020 - CFAP Application Deadline

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

Within 30 days of noticing loss– File Notice of Loss on adverse weather conditions and livestock losses

Report Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Losses

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters including freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive wind or hurricanes, flood, excessive heat and qualifying drought (includes native grass for grazing), among others.

Eligible producers must have purchased NAP coverage for 2020 crops. A notice of loss must be filed the earlier of 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent or 15 days of the final harvest date.

Producers of hand-harvested crops and certain perishable crops must notify FSA within 72 hours of when a loss becomes apparent.

Eligible crops must be commercially produced agricultural commodities for which crop insurance is not available, including perennial grass forage and grazing crops, fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, bioenergy, and industrial crops.

For more information on NAP, contact your local FSA office or visit fsa.usda.gov/nap.

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 Niobrara 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. 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.

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).