

July 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

Niobrara County Notes

Greetings Niobrara County Farmers and Ranchers!

It has been a tough summer! We are experiencing extremely dry conditions and now we can add hail to the mix. Please remember, if you have had hail on any of your acres, and your pastures were severely affected, keep in mind that we have a program that will cover grazing days lost due to hail.

As far as drought is concerned, we are currently in our 3rd week at D2 (Severe Drought). Please keep submitting reports on the Drought Impact Reporter via the U.S. Drought Monitor, so that the authors of the Drought Monitor are aware of our deteriorating conditions. Reports can be submitted at the following website location: <https://droughtimpacts.unl.edu/ConditionMonitoringObservations.aspx>

If we remain at D2 for 8 weeks, or go to D3 (Extreme Drought), several programs will become available. Livestock Forage Program (LFP), ELAP (Emergency Livestock Assistance Program), that can cover water transportation costs to pastures that water sources have, and if there is a large need for water development, the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) can cost share on establishing water

Joe Kruse
Kurt Gaukel

development. Please let the office know if you are in a situation where you are having to haul water due to the dry conditions.

Carol Geisinger, COC
Advisor

Also, we want to remind everyone that if you have not reported your spring crops or any acres at all, we have been granted a small extension, and they can be accepted until August 14, 2020. Please remember acreage reports are a requirement for many of our livestock programs that pertain to grazing losses and late file fees are assessed for those filed after that date for 2020.

Next County Committee Meeting: August 20, 2020

August 1, 2020 is the final day to nominate a candidate for LAA area #1 which is the southwest area of Niobrara County, including Keeline and Manville. If you are interested in serving on the County Committee for this area, please contact the office to fill out the appropriate paperwork to be put on the ballot.

Please note the following important dates and deadlines:

August 14, 2020 – Deadline to file acreage report on perennial and spring seeded crops

August 28, 2020 – CFAP Deadline

September 7, 2020 – Office Closed – Labor Day Holiday

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

Within 30 days of noticing livestock, pasture, or feed loss – File LIP/ELAP Notice of Loss

Farm Storage Facility Loans

FSA's Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program provides low-interest financing to producers to build or upgrade storage facilities and to purchase portable (new or used) structures, equipment and storage and handling trucks.

The low-interest funds can be used to build or upgrade permanent facilities to store commodities. Eligible commodities include corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain, pulse crops (lentils, chickpeas and dry peas), hay, honey, renewable biomass, fruits, nuts and vegetables for cold storage facilities, floriculture, hops, maple sap, rye, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, meat and poultry (unprocessed), eggs, and aquaculture (excluding systems that maintain live animals through uptake and discharge of water). Qualified facilities include grain bins, hay barns and cold storage facilities for eligible commodities.

Loans up to \$50,000 can be secured by a promissory note/security agreement and loans between \$50,000 and \$100,000 may require additional security. Loans exceeding \$100,000 require additional security.

Producers do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply. The loans are designed to assist a diverse range of farming operations, including small and mid-sized

businesses, new farmers, operations supplying local food and farmers markets, non-traditional farm products, and underserved producers.

To learn more about the FSA Farm Storage Facility Loan, visit fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport or contact your local FSA county office. To find your local FSA office, visit offices.usda.gov.

Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to youth to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the youth loan applicant, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms.

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

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