

March 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# BULLETIN

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## Park County FSA Updates

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### Park County FSA Office

1017 Highway 14A  
Powell, WY 82435

Phone: 307-754-9411  
Fax: 855-415-3438

### County Executive

#### Director:

Darla Rhodes

### Farm Loan Officer:

Tom Schambow

### Program Technicians:

Tanya Butz  
Marcia Shuler

### County Committee:

Emily Karst - Chairperson  
Lynn George - Vice-Chairperson  
Tim Acord - Regular Member

### County Office Message

Greetings to all Park County farmers and ranchers! We hope this message finds you safe and healthy during these trying times.

In light of the public health concerns, we are continuing to serve our producers, however it will look a little different for the time being. Our office is no longer open to public visits. We will assist producers via telephone or email.

Just a few reminders:

- Sheep producers - there is currently a Loan Deficiency Program payment eligible on wool. You need to make sure to complete the CCC-633EZ page 1 with the County Office prior to losing beneficial interest in the wool (normally lost at shearing).
- With calving and lambing in full swing, if you lose livestock during a 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 Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance (NAP) spring crop deadline is April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Next County Committee  
Meeting: April 8th**

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

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

USDA Service Centers in **Wyoming** 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 their Service Center to schedule a phone appointment.** In the event a Service Center is closed, producers can receive assistance from the closest alternate Service Center by phone.

Producers can find Service Center phone numbers at [farmers.gov/service-center-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-center-locator).

FPAC agencies continue to look at the flexibilities to deliver programs on behalf of producers, just as they have in past situations, such as natural disasters. Farmers and ranchers are resilient and FPAC agencies will continue to deliver the farm safety net programs and resource conservation programs that keep American agriculture in business today and long into the future.

Online services are available to customers with an eAuth account, which provides access to the [farmers.gov](https://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](https://farmers.gov/sign-in).

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## **Higher Limits Now Available on USDA Farm Loans**

Higher limits are now available for borrowers interested in USDA's farm loans, which help agricultural producers purchase farms or cover operating expenses. The 2018 Farm Bill increased the amount that producers can borrow through direct and guaranteed loans available through USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) and made changes to other loans, such as microloans and emergency loans.

Key changes include:

- The Direct Operating Loan limit increased from \$300,000 to \$400,000, and the Guaranteed Operating Loan limit increased from \$ 1.429 million to \$1.75 million. Operating loans help producers pay for normal operating expenses, including machinery and equipment, seed, livestock feed, and more.
- The Direct Farm Ownership Loan limit increased from \$300,000 to \$600,000, and the Guaranteed Farm Ownership Loan limit increased from \$1.429 million to \$1.75 million. Farm ownership loans help producers become owner-operators of family farms as well as improve and expand current operations.

- Producers can now receive both a \$50,000 Farm Ownership Microloan and a \$50,000 Operating Microloan. Previously, microloans were limited to a combined \$50,000. Microloans provide flexible access to credit for small, beginning, niche, and non-traditional farm operations.
- Producers who previously received debt forgiveness as part of an approved FSA restructuring plan are now eligible to apply for emergency loans. Previously, these producers were ineligible.
- Beginning and socially disadvantaged producers can now receive up to a 95 percent guarantee against the loss of principal and interest on a loan, up from 90 percent.

## About Farm Loans

Direct farm loans, which include microloans and emergency loans, are financed and serviced by FSA, while guaranteed farm loans are financed and serviced by commercial lenders. For guaranteed loans, FSA provides a guarantee against possible financial loss of principal and interest.

For more information on FSA farm loans, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) or contact your [local USDA service center](#).

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Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact [Darla Rhodes](#) at [307-754-9411](tel:307-754-9411) 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).