

March 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

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Platte County FSA Updates

Platte County FSA Office **Message from the CED**

1502 Progress Ct
Wheatland, WY 82201
Phone: 307-322-4050
Fax: 855-415-3444

Hello Platte County farmers and ranchers! The warmer weather & sunshine has been great lately. As you are thinking about, and preparing for planting season, please don't forget about us at the Platte county FSA. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

County Executive

Director:

Pam Metz

Farm Loan Manager:

Dixie Mount

Loan Analyst: Vacant

Program Technicians:

Heidi Platt

County Committee:

Amy Miller, Chairperson
Del Tinsley, Vice Chairperson
Charles Maike II, Member

Next County Committee

Meeting: TBD

- As a protective measure for both customers and staff in response to the coronavirus, as of Monday, March 23, USDA Service Centers in Wyoming are open for business by phone appointment only, and field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. While program delivery staff will continue to come into the Platte County office, they will be working with 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. Platte County FSA can be reached at (307) 322-4050. NRCS can be reached at (307) 322-9060. 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 www.farmers.gov by scrolling to the "Find a Service Center" locator.
- It's calving season, and while the back end of this winter has looked different than last winter, it's important to remember that good record keeping is critical in the event that disaster strikes, and you need to apply for assistance through the Livestock Indemnity Program. Thorough records help us be able to help you.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Pam Metz at 307-322-4050 extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339

- FSA has announced the application period for the **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)-Grasslands**. The period runs from **March 16 through May 15, 2020**. This CRP program allows farmers and ranchers to protect and improve grasslands, rangelands and pastures, while maintaining the land as working grazing land. Landowners receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance for long-term contracts. [Click here](#) to learn more or call our office at (307) 322-4050.
- **Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs)** are still available on 2019 crops. These loans allow producers to use eligible commodities as loan collateral and obtain a 9-month loan while the crop is in storage. These loans provide cash flow to the producer and allow them to market the crop when prices may be more advantageous. Deadline to request a loan on wheat and barley is March 31st; the deadline to request a corn loan is May 31st.
- NAP applications for spring planted crops need to be completed and the service fee paid by April 1st.
- Mitzi Mudgett retired from the Farm Service Agency on March 27, 2020 after more than 33 years of service!

Thank you for all that you do!

-CED Pam Metz

2019 Crop Marketing Assistance Loans

Commodity loans are currently available for producers of corn, wheat, and barley who have crop year 2019 commodities in storage. Applicants must meet all eligibility requirements before receiving these USDA benefits. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan - even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

These loans provide producers with immediate financing on their stored commodities held as loan collateral. Instead of selling the crop immediately after harvest, these loans allow the producer to store the crop for a maximum of 9 months to allow for market gains in the event of a depressed market at the time of harvest. Applicants should allow 3-4 workdays for processing and disbursing the loan proceeds.

Loans can be approved beginning at harvest and until March 31 for wheat and barley and, until May 31 for corn. The 2020 crop year commodity loans rates for Platte County are as follows:

Corn---\$2.29 / bu.

Barley---\$2.39/ bu.

Wheat-HRW---\$2.75/ bu.

The CCC interest rate for marketing assistance loans changes each month. For March 2020, the interest rate is 2.50%.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans.

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](#).

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).