

April 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# BULLETIN

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## Platte County FSA Updates

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

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

#### County Executive

**Director:**  
Pam Metz

#### Farm Loan Manager:

Dixie Mount

#### Loan Analyst:

Heidi Platt

#### Program Technicians:

Vacant

#### County Committee:

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

Hello everyone! I know you all would like to have information regarding the distribution of the USDA money under the CAREs Act/CFAP (Corona Virus Food Assistance Program). Additionally, you want to know how much money, if any, will be allotted to the various sectors in agriculture.

The only specific information I know is what Secretary Perdue has announced publicly, that being the CAREs Act/CFAP will provide \$16 billion in direct support based on actual losses for agricultural producers where prices and market supply chains have been impacted and will assist producers with additional adjustment and marketing costs resulting from lost demand and short-term oversupply for the 2020 marketing year caused by COVID-19.

Unfortunately, we do not know what these programs will look like yet. The rules are being written. If you have additional questions about this, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

A few other things going on in the office:

- Acreage reporting may be a little different this year depending on when the office gets to open up. We may end up mailing maps out to producers for certification. Please bear with us during this

## Next County Committee Meeting: TBD

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

uncertain time and watch for future information on acreage reporting.

- FSA has is currently accepting applications 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 corn loan is May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Thank you for all that you do!

-CED Pam Metz

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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 precautionary measures to help prevent the spread of coronavirus.

The Natrona County USDA Service Center 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 or Natural Resources Conservation Service are required to call to schedule a phone appointment.

Farm Service Agency: (307) 322-4050 extension 2

Natural Resources Conservation Service: (307) 322-4050 extension 3

Employees may also be contacted by email at the following email address:

Pam Metz [pamela.metz@usda.gov](mailto:pamela.metz@usda.gov)  
Dixie Mount [dixie.mount@usda.gov](mailto:dixie.mount@usda.gov)  
Heidi Platt [heidi.platt@usda.gov](mailto:heidi.platt@usda.gov)

Sydney Burek [sydney.burek@usda.gov](mailto:sydney.burek@usda.gov)  
Jenna Lincoln [jenna.lincoln@usda.gov](mailto:jenna.lincoln@usda.gov)  
Robin Moser [robin.moser@usda.gov](mailto:robin.moser@usda.gov)

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).

**For the most current updates on available services and Service Center status visit [farmers.gov/coronavirus](https://farmers.gov/coronavirus).**

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## **USDA Offers Targeted Farm Loan Funding for Underserved Groups and Beginning Farmers**

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers that FSA offers targeted farm ownership and farm operating loans to assist underserved applicants as well as beginning farmers and ranchers.

USDA defines underserved applicants as a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For farm loan program purposes, targeted underserved groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics and Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Underserved or beginning farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank can apply for either FSA direct loans or guaranteed loans. Direct loans are made to applicants by FSA. Guaranteed loans are made by lending institutions who arrange for FSA to guarantee the loan. FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. The FSA guarantee allows lenders to make agricultural credit available to producers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria.

The direct and guaranteed loan program provides for two types of loans: farm ownership loans and farm operating loans. In addition to customary farm operating and ownership loans, FSA now offers Microloans through the direct loan program. The focus of Microloans is on the financing needs of small, beginning farmer, niche and non-traditional farm operations. Microloans are available for both ownership and operating finance needs. To learn more about microloans, visit [fsa.usda.gov/microloans](https://fsa.usda.gov/microloans).

To qualify as a beginning producer, the individual or entity must meet the eligibility requirements outlined for direct or guaranteed loans. Additionally, individuals and all entity members must have operated a farm for less than 10 years. Applicants must materially or substantially participate in the operation.

For more information on FSA's farm loan programs and targeted underserved and beginning farmer guidelines, visit [fsa.usda.gov/farmloans](https://fsa.usda.gov/farmloans).

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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).