

June 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

BULLETIN

GovDelivery

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

- [Message from the CED](#)
- [Document the Drought: USDA U.S. Drought Monitor Offers Producers a Voice to Report Drought Impacts](#)
- [Nominations Open for the 2020 County Committee Elections](#)
- [Reminder to FSA Direct and Guaranteed Borrowers with Real Estate Security](#)

Platte County FSA Updates

Platte County FSA Office
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:
Kristine Crippen
Bartley Schwegler
Angela Utter

County Committee:
Amy Miller, Chairperson
Del Tinsley, Vice Chairperson
Charles Maike II, Member

Message from the CED

I hope this bulletin finds everyone safe and well. The office is open by appointment only at this time. Please take time to read the articles regarding how to report drought conditions and that Platte County Committee nominations are currently open for LAA #1.

Please read through the following program information. (Thanks to CED Hanlon for sharing her bulletin comments.)

- **CFAP (Coronavirus Food Assistance Program)** - This is the program authorized by the CARES act. Livestock producers, wool producers, and producers who have grown some specific grains or grain hays can participate in this program. Please contact the office for more information. Or, you can also visit www.farmers.gov/cfap to learn more. We are taking applications for this program through August 28, 2020.
- **Wool LDP (Loan Deficiency Payment)** - This program is available to ALL wool producers. If you still own your wool, please contact us to complete Page 1 of the CCC-633EZ, which must be on file before you lose beneficial interest.
- **Acreage reporting** - Reporting for all spring planted crops, perennial hays, and grazing are due by July 15, 2020. If you have finished planting please make an appointment to do so. Acreage

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

reports are a required eligibility item for many of our programs, and fees are assessed to file late reports.

- **Production** - You have until July 15, 2020 to submit your 2019 production records. Also, don't forget to provide your 2020 production to the office when you complete your haying. If you decide to graze or leave your hay crop unharvested, please contact the office before you put cows on it.

Notices of Loss - if you incur crop losses, grazing losses, livestock losses, or honeybee losses please contact the office to file a Notice of Loss (NOL) as soon as the loss is apparent. Many programs only allow 15 days to report the loss. Causes of loss are dependent upon the program, but a few of the common causes are **drought**, lightning, and flooding. It is much easier to have a successful application if you file your losses timely and keep good records of the loss event. For NAP producers, please also remember to contact the office before you graze or choose not to harvest a covered hay crop. Having an appraisal or other record of production is vital to completing the loss claim.

Thank you for all that you do!

-CED Pam Metz

Document the Drought: USDA U.S. Drought Monitor Offers Producers a Voice to Report Drought Impacts

The U.S. Drought Monitor's reporting feature offers producers an opportunity to submit drought impact and condition reports.

The USDA, in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, produced the U.S. Drought Monitor to include a reporting feature that allows producers to report local drought impacts and conditions.

The report allows producers to:

- Provide a written description of drought impacts on livelihood, activities, etc.;
- Select categories to show losses and gains as a result of the drought;
- Report on the duration of drought event;
- Select **Affected Places** – geographic areas ranging from an entire state to a small area within a state;
- Submit images that document the drought and its impact;
- Provide contact information (includes an option to keep information confidential).

The reporting tool for producers to record the effects of the drought can be accessed at the following link: droughtreporter.unl.edu/submitreport/

More information including state specific drought impact maps can be found on the U. S. Drought Monitor homepage: droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home.aspx

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 Platte 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 3 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.

The area up for election this year is LAA #1 in Platte County, which is everything north of township 25 and is currently held by Del Tinsley. For more specific information regarding the boundaries of LAA #1, or to determine your LAA, please contact the office.

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](#).

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).