

August 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

BULLETIN

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Platte County FSA Updates

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

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County Executive Director:

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Farm Loan Manager:

Dixie Mount
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Loan Analyst:

Heidi Platt

Program Technicians:

Kristine Crippen
Bartley Schwegler
Angela Utter

County Committee:

Amy Miller, Chairperson

Our office is open to scheduled appointments, provided you do not feel ill, been exposed to COVID, or have any symptoms. Please call the office to make an appointment to complete any FSA business if you want to meet in person. We are also still accepting applications by phone, fax, email and snail mail.

We are still accepting applications to the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). This program provides direct financial assistance to those whose operations have been negatively impacted by the global pandemic. Commodities that are most likely to be eligible for this program in our county are cattle, sheep, 2019 corn, 2019 oats, and 2019 millet. USDA recently **extended the application deadline to Sept. 11**. If you haven't already spoken to us about this program, please call our office to find out if your operation could benefit from it. You also can learn more by visiting the farmers.gov/cfap website.

Farm owners have **until Sept. 30** to request an update to their PLC yields for commodities that are covered under the federal farm bill Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs. It is the owner's choice to update or keep existing yields. This is a one-time opportunity through the life of the 2018 farm bill, so you are encouraged to at least check it out if you haven't already. You can learn more by [visiting this webpage](#) and going to the Resources tab to find the yield update calculator.

Del Tinsley, Vice Chairperson
Charles Maike II, Member

**Next County Committee
Meeting: Sept 24th @
9:00 am**

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

We continue to watch the drought monitor closely as most of the county is experiencing severe drought conditions. If you have **NAP** coverage, please contact the office to file a Notice of Loss within 15 days of the loss becoming apparent. We encourage producers to let the office know about yield losses, pasture performance and take pictures to document the drought. The more information we have to send to the authors of the drought monitor, the better they can do at accurately reflecting the conditions in Platte county. Emails can be sent directly to Pam Metz.

Upcoming dates to remember:

- Monday, September 7 – Office closed for Labor Day holiday
- Friday, September 11 – Deadline to apply for CFAP benefits
- Wednesday, September 30 – Deadline to update PLC yields for ARC/PLC program
- Monday October 12 – Office closed for Columbus Day holiday

Thank you for all that you do!

-CED Pam Metz

CRP Emergency Grazing Approved for Platte County

Emergency grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres has been authorized for Platte County in response to ongoing drought conditions. CRP contract holders who would like to use this option must contact the Platte County FSA office prior to conducting any grazing activity.

There are some restrictions to emergency grazing. For example, if grazing is requested, livestock owners must leave 25 percent of each field or contiguous fields ungrazed or graze 100 percent of a field but at not more than 75 percent stocking rate. Producers can use the CRP acreage under the emergency grazing provisions for their own livestock or may grant another livestock producer use of the CRP acreage. Livestock producers accessing CRP acres held by someone other than themselves must notify the FSA county office prior to grazing.

The eligible CRP acreage is limited to acres located within the approved county. There will be no CRP annual rental payment reduction for emergency grazing authorizations. CRP acres must be considered fully established before grazing under emergency provisions.

All grazed acres are subject to FSA spot-check at any time during the authorization period. Participants will be required to report the number of acres grazed to FSA at the end of the grazing period.

It is important to contact your local FSA office prior to any grazing activities on CRP acres to ensure your contract remains in compliance.

For more information, call the Platte County FSA office at (307) 322-4050.

Preauthorized Debit Available for Farm Loan Borrowers

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) has implemented pre-authorized debit (PAD) for Farm Loan Program (FLP) borrowers. PAD is a voluntary and alternative method for making weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual payments on loans.

PAD payments are pre-authorized transactions that allow the National Financial and Accounting Operations Center (NFAOC) to electronically collect loan payments from a customer's account at a financial institution.

PAD may be useful if you use nonfarm income from regular wages or salary to make payments on loans or adjustment offers or for payments from seasonal produce stands. PAD can only be established for future payments.

To request PAD, customers, along with their financial institution, must fill out form RD 3550-28. This form has no expiration date, but a separate form RD 3550-28 must be completed for each loan to which payments are to be applied. A fillable form can be accessed on the USDA Rural Development (RD) website at rd.usda.gov/publications/regulations-guidelines. Click forms and search for "Form 3550-28."

If you have a "filter" on the account at your financial institution, you will need to provide the financial institution with the following information: Origination ID: 1220040804, Agency Name: USDA RD DCFO.

PAD is offered by FSA at no cost. Check with your financial institution to discuss any potential cost. Preauthorized debit has no expiration date, but you can cancel at any time by submitting a written request to your local FSA office. If a preauthorized debit agreement receives three payment rejections within a three-month period, the preauthorized debit agreement will be cancelled by FSA. The payment amount and due date of your loan is not affected by a cancellation of preauthorized debit. You are responsible to ensure your full payment is made by the due date.

For more information about PAD, contact the Platte County USDA Service Center at 307-322-4050 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

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).