



NEWSLETTER



September 2020

Platte County

Farm Service Agency:

1502 Progress Ct
Wheatland, WY 82201

Phone: 307-322-4050 x 2

Fax: 855-415-3444

Office Hours:

8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Monday-Friday

Office Personnel:

Pam Metz, CED
Dixie Mount, FLM
Heidi Platt, Loan Analyst
Kristine Crippen, PT
Bartley Schwegler, PT
Angela Utter, Farm Loan PT

County Committee:

Amy Miller, Chairperson
Del Tinsley, Vice-Chairperson
Chuck Maike II, Member

Next Committee Meeting:

Sept. 24 @ 9:00 am

Do you get our monthly emails? You can stay up to date with all of the latest FSA program information by signing up for GovDelivery. Call our

Platte County News

Platte county is suffering from a drought and we know our farmers and ranchers are feeling the effects. The Platte county office is working hard to get programs implemented that will benefit you and help offset some of the drought effects.

Platte County has been approved for the Livestock Forage Program (LFP). LFP helps compensate for grazing losses due to drought. LFP requires that you have livestock AND either own or lease pasture physically located in the disaster affected county. In order to prepare for signup, please start to gather your information now. Pasture leases and livestock inventory records are needed for program eligibility. More information can be found in the article later in this newsletter.

Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program-notices of loss need to be filed within 30 days of the loss being apparent.

ARC/PLC and CRP payments will be going out in October. If you are expecting one of these payments please let the county office know if payments are not received by October 30th.

With wheat harvest finishe dup and corn harvest coming in the next months, please remember we offer Marketing assistance Loan on farm and warehouse stored wheat, corn and other covered commodities. Marketing Assistance Loans are 9-month loans at a low interest rate (currently 1.125% for September). These loans give the producer some cvash flow while storing grain after harvest. Thus, allowing producers to potentially sell at better prices later in the marketing season.

Finally, landowners with base acres have a one-time opportunity to update the PLC yields on their farms. These yields are used to calculate payments for the ARC/PLC program should a payment be triggered. Yields are updated using the production from the farm from 2013-2017. Deadline to sign the yield update in **September 30, 2020**.

Pam Metz, CED

Attention All Buyers of Agricultural Products

It is required that buyers of agricultural products check or register with the Secretary of State's Office to determine if there are liens against the Seller of the product. If a lien is found you are required to place the lien holders name on the check as well as that of the Seller. Ag Products include but are not limited to: livestock (including horses), crops used for feed (hay, silage, oats, etc.), machinery, equipment and all other crops. **Failure to place the lien holder's name on the check may result in civil legal action being taken against the Buyer of the product. Protect yourself as a Buyer!** You may contact the Secretary of State's Office at 1-307-777-7311.

Wool, Mohair, Unshorn Pelts Trigger Loan Deficiency Payment in Platte County; Marketing Assistance Loans Also Provide Potential Option for Producers

Producers of wool, mohair and unshorn pelts in Platte County may be eligible for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA).

LDPs, along with Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs), are marketing tools available to producers beginning upon shearing.

MALs help producers meet cash flow needs without selling commodities when market prices are at market lows. Producers who are eligible for marketing loans, but choose to forgo the loan, are eligible for LDPs if the posted county price falls below the county loan rate. Producers also can purchase a commodity certificate that may be exchanged for the outstanding loan collateral. Unshorn pelts are not eligible for MALs. Producers can check LDP rates on the USDA Price Support page.

For a commodity to be eligible for a loan, LDP, or certificate, the producer must have beneficial interest in the commodity, defined as having title, possession and control of the commodity, and responsible for loss of or damage to the commodity. All related application forms must be completed at the local FSA office prior to loss of beneficial interest. Other eligibility requirements may apply; consult your local FSA office for more information.

Marketing assistance loans are available for a large number of commodities and include graded and non-graded wool and mohair. MALs requested now through Sept. 30, 2020, have a 12-month maturity.

For more information on the availability of LDPs and MALs for wool, please contact the Platte County FSA office at (307) 322-4050.

Maintaining ARC/PLC Acreage

If you're enrolled in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, you must protect all cropland and noncropland acres on the farm from wind and water erosion and noxious weeds. By signing ARC county or individual contracts and PLC contracts, you agree to effectively control noxious weeds on the farm according to sound agricultural practices. If you fail to take necessary actions to correct a maintenance problem on your farm that is enrolled in ARC or PLC, the County Committee may elect to terminate your contract for the program year.

Updating Bank Accounts

FSA program payments are issued electronically into your bank account. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify your FSA servicing office if you close your account or if your bank information is changed for whatever reason. Payments can be delayed if FSA is not notified of changes to account and bank routing numbers.

If you have a loan with FSA and also participate in other FSA programs you will need to make sure to update your bank account information with the Farm Loan staff as well as the Farm Program staff. Due to the systems that are used by our programs, banking information is loaded into 2 different systems and filed in 2 different places.

NRCS also uses a completely different system for their payments so updating with them but not us will hold up any payments needing to be made to you by FSA.

Disaster Assistance for 2020 Livestock Forage Losses

Producers in Platte County are eligible to apply for 2020 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) benefits on native and/or improved pasture due to D3, extreme drought intensity as per the U.S. Drought Monitor.

LFP provides compensation if you suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land. Eligible livestock are grazing animals that satisfy the majority of net energy requirement of nutrition via grazing of forage grasses or legumes.

Eligible Livestock must:

- * Have been owned, leased, purchased, entered into a contract to purchase, or held by a contract grower during the 60 days prior to the beginning date (**beginning drought date is September 1, 2020 for Platte county**) of a qualifying drought or fire condition;
- * If sold due to drought, must have been sold during the 60 days prior to the beginning drought date;
- * Have been maintained for **commercial use** as part of a **farming operation** on the beginning date of the eligible drought or fire condition;
- * Not have been produced and maintained for reasons other than commercial use as part of a farming operation (such ineligible uses include but are not limited to: consumption by owner, wild free roaming animals or animals used for recreational purposes such as pleasure, hunting, pets, roping or for show); and
- * Not have been livestock that were or would have been in a feedlot on the beginning date of the qualifying drought or fire as part of the normal business operation of the livestock owner or contract grower.

FSA will calculate LFP payments for an eligible livestock producer for grazing losses because of a qualifying drought equal to payment factors of one, three, four or five times the LFP monthly payment rate. The LFP monthly payment rate for drought is equal to 60 percent of the lesser of either the monthly feed cost:

- For all covered livestock owned or leased by the eligible livestock producer; or
- Calculated by using the normal carrying capacity of the eligible grazing land of the eligible livestock producer

You must complete a CCC-853 and the required supporting documentation no later than **January 30, 2021**, for 2020 losses. Supporting documents must show evidence of loss and that grazing land or pastureland is owned or leased.

USDA Encourages You to Consider NAP Risk Protection Coverage Before Crop Sales Deadlines

The Farm Service Agency encourages you to examine available USDA crop risk protection options, including federal crop insurance and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, before the applicable crop sales deadline of **December 1**.

Federal crop insurance covers crop losses from natural adversities such as drought, hail and excessive moisture. NAP covers losses from natural disasters on crops for which no permanent federal crop insurance program is available. You can determine if crops are eligible for federal crop insurance or NAP by [visiting the RMA website](#).

NAP offers higher levels of coverage, from 50 to 65 percent of expected production in 5 percent increments, at 100 percent of the average market price. Producers of organics and crops marketed directly to consumers also may exercise the "buy-up" option to obtain NAP coverage of 100 percent of the average market price at the coverage levels of between 50 and 65 percent of expected production. NAP basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production.

For all coverage levels, the NAP service fee is the lesser of \$325 per crop or \$825 per producer per county, not to exceed a total of \$1,950 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

Beginning, underserved and limited resource farmers are now eligible for free catastrophic level coverage.

Deadlines for coverage vary by state and crop. contact your Platte County USDA Service Center at 307-322-4050 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

Federal crop insurance coverage is sold and delivered solely through private insurance agents. Agent lists are available at all USDA Service Centers or at [USDA's online Agent Locator](#). You can use the [USDA Cost Estimator](#) to predict insurance premium costs.

**USDA Farm Service Agency
Platte County Office
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Upcoming Deadlines/Important Dates

- September 30 - last day to update PLC yields on farms with base acres
- September 30 - last day to late file 2019 or 2020 ARC PLC contract
- October 12 - office closed Columbus Day
- November 11 - office closed Veterans Day
- November 15 - acre/crop reporting deadline for Apiculture (bees) and fall-seeded small grains
- November 26 - office closed Thanksgiving
- December 1 - Deadline for applying for 2021 coverage of Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) crops
- December 7 - final date for COC Election ballots to be postmarked or returned to the office

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).