

JULY 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

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Sheridan~Johnson County FSA Updates

Sheridan~Johnson Co. Farm Service Agency **From the Desk of Linda Benzel, CED**

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Linda Benzel

Farm Loan Manager:
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Program Technicians:
Justine Scheeler
Staci L. Steiner

County Committee:
Raymon Turk, Chairman

Hello Producers,

2020 is determined to be a crazy and unpredictable year. We are well into drought conditions. The office is gearing up for the possibility of the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) triggering due to the US Drought Monitor. If the counties stay at Level D2 (Severe Drought) for 8 consecutive weeks, then the LFP program will be triggered. Johnson County has been at a Level D2 for three weeks; Sheridan County for one week.

It is important to have your Crop Acreage Report on file. The deadline is July 15, 2020 with a 30 day extension to August 14, 2020. If you have not filed a report, please contact our office to schedule an appointment.

If you have a shortage of stock water due to the drought, please contact our office to give us the details. If there is a need for cost-share, the Emergency Conservation Program can be requested from the National Office by the Sheridan-Johnson County Committee.

John Buyok, Vice Chairman
Ray Daly, Member
Gerry Miller, Member
Thad Stoltz, Member

Next County Committee Meeting:
Wednesday, July 15, 2020

Important Deadline Dates:

Crop Acreage Report Deadline

*July 15, 2020 with a 30 day extension to August 14, 2020

CFAP Application Deadline

*August 28, 2020

NAP coverage and notice of loss dates

*15 days of occurrence or when loss is apparent

NASS Survey Importance

*USDA uses to help structure farm programs

Changing Bank Accounts

*can't pay you, if we can't deposit correctly

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters including freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive wind or hurricanes, flood, excessive heat and qualifying drought (includes native grass for grazing), among others.

The Importance of Responding to NASS Surveys

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts hundreds of surveys every year and prepares reports covering virtually every aspect of U.S. agriculture.

Producers who receive survey questionnaires should respond quickly and online if possible.

The results of the surveys help determine the structure of USDA farm programs, such as soil rental rates for the Conservation Reserve Program and prices and yields used for the Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage programs. This county-level data is critical for USDA farm payment determinations. Survey responses also help associations, businesses and policymakers advocate for their industry and help educate others on the importance of agriculture.

NASS safeguards the privacy of all respondents and publishes only aggregate data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

NASS data is available online at nass.usda.gov/Publications and through the searchable [Quick Stats database](#). Watch a video on how NASS data is used at youtube.com/watch?v=m-4zjnh26io&feature=youtu.be.

Justine, Staci and I are here in the office. We are open for scheduled appointments. Please give us a holler if you need assistance with the FSA programs!

Best Regards,

Linda

<https://www.usda.gov/tellsonny> Tell Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Purdue about your experience with FSA or NRCS.~

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 Sheridan~Johnson 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 three 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.

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 (or next business day). 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.

USDA Announces Streamlined Guaranteed Loans and Additional Lender Category for Small-Scale Operators

Options Help More Beginning, Small and Urban Producers Gain Access to Credit

Producers can apply for a streamlined version of USDA guaranteed loans, which are tailored for smaller scale farms and urban producers. The program, called EZ Guarantee Loans, uses a simplified application process to help beginning, small, underserved and family farmers and

ranchers apply for loans of up to \$100,000 from USDA-approved lenders to purchase farmland or finance agricultural operations.

A new category of lenders will join traditional lenders, such as banks and credit unions, in offering USDA EZ Guarantee Loans. Microlenders, which include Community Development Financial Institutions and Rural Rehabilitation Corporations, will be able to offer their customers up to \$50,000 of EZ Guaranteed Loans, helping to reach urban areas and underserved producers. Banks, credit unions and other traditional USDA-approved lenders, can offer customers up to \$100,000 to help with agricultural operation costs.

EZ Guarantee Loans offer low interest rates and terms up to seven years for financing operating expenses and 40 years for financing the purchase of farm real estate. USDA-approved lenders can issue these loans with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) guaranteeing the loan up to 95 percent.

More information about the available types of FSA farm loans can be found at fsa.usda.gov/farmloans or by contacting your local FSA office at (307) 682-8843 extension 2, Rob Weppner.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Linda Benzel at 307-683-4202 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

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).