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Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

BULLETIN

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Weston County FSA Updates

Weston County FSA Office
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County Executive Director:
Peggy Livingston, ext. 101

Farm Loan Manager:
Rob Weppner, 307-682-8843

Program Technician:
Sherie Hilgenkamp, ext. 100

County Committee:
Chuck Grieves, Chairman
Randy Oleson, Vice Chairman
Harry Tavegia, Member
Robin Riesland, Minority Advisor

Next County Committee Meeting:
March 11, 2020 at 1PM

Weston County Office Notes

Happy New Year, Weston County Producers! I hope 2020 is a productive and prosperous year for you!

Signups are now available for the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for 2019 and 2020. Please see the below article for more information and note for leased land containing base acres, a current lease MUST BE on file before the contract can be approved. The signup deadline for 2019 contracts is **March 16, 2020**. Please contact us and make an appointment at your earliest convenience.

If you are a wool producer, consider applying for the Loan Deficiency Program (LDP). Please see the below article for more information. Payments will likely be available for 2020 wool producers, but steps are required before you lose "beneficial interest" (control/custody) of the wool.

As we approach the start of calving season, please remember to keep records pertaining to adverse weather and livestock losses. Do not forget to call the office within **30 days of loss** to report your notice of loss timely.

I am in the process of setting dates and times for producer information meetings about FSA programs. Once I finalize our seminar topics and schedules, the dates, times, and locations will be announced in our county newsletters. These meetings are a good way to learn more about program

requirements and get questions answered to help your application process go smoothly.

My team and I look forward to serving our producers and providing exciting opportunities for you to learn about FSA programs!

- Peggy Livingston -

USDA Safety Net Program Enrollment for 2019 and 2020

Agricultural producers now can enroll in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs – two U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) safety net programs – for the 2019 and 2020 crop year.

ARC provides income support payments on historical base acres when actual crop revenue declines below a specified guaranteed level. PLC provides income support payments on historical base acres when the effective price for a covered commodity falls below its reference price. The 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized and updated both programs.

Signup for the 2019 crop year closes March 15, 2020, while signup for the 2020 crop year closes June 30, 2020. Producers who have not yet enrolled for 2019 can enroll for both 2019 and 2020 during the same visit to an FSA county office.

ARC and PLC have options for the farm operator who is actively farming the land as well as the owner of the land. Farm owners also have a one-time opportunity to update PLC payment yields beginning with crop year 2020. If the farm owner and producer visit the FSA county office together, FSA can also update yield information during that visit.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

More Information

For more information on ARC and PLC including two online decision tools that assist producers in making enrollment and election decisions specific to their operations, visit the [ARC and PLC webpage](#).

Wool Triggers Loan Deficiency Payment in Weston County

Wool producers in Weston County may be eligible for loan deficiency payments (LDPs) from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA), which help producers under certain market conditions.

Marketing assistance loans (MALs) and LDPs are marketing tools available to producers beginning upon harvest or shearing. MALs help producers meet cash flow needs without selling commodities when market prices are at harvest-time 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. Producers can check their daily LDP rates online at fsa.usda.gov.

LDPs are no longer subject to payment limitations, actively engaged in farming and cash-rent tenant rules.

Eligibility Requirements

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 the following commodities: wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, extra-long staple cotton, long grain rice, medium grain rice, soybeans and other oilseeds (including sunflower seed, rapeseed, canola, safflower, flaxseed, mustard seed, crambe and sesame seed), dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas, large chickpeas, graded and non-graded wool, mohair, unshorn pelts, honey and peanuts.

More Information

For more information, visit fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport. To find your local USDA service center, visit farmers.gov/service-locator.

Beginning Farmer Loans

FSA assists beginning farmers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size farm.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 17, 2020	Holiday - Office is closed
March 2, 2020	2019 LIP Application for Payment filing and supporting documentation submission deadline
March 16, 2020	Enrollment deadline for 2019 Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs (ARC/PLC)

June 30, 2020	Enrollment deadline for 2020 Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs (ARC/PLC)
July 15, 2020	Acreage (Crop) Reporting deadline for Spring Planted Crops and Perennial Forage

- **NAP Notice of Loss for Crops** must be filed the earlier of 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent, or 15 days of the final harvest date.
- **LIP Notice of Loss for Livestock Losses** must be filed within 30 calendar days of when the loss is first apparent.
- **Leases and/or Land Ownership including operational changes** must be reported within 30 calendar days of change to avoid late fees, repayment of funds issued and/or ineligibility for program participation

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact Peggy Livingston at 307-746-2701 extension 2 or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

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).