



NEWSLETTER



Weston County Newsletter

June 2020

Weston County FSA Office

1225 Washington Blvd., Ste. 2
Newcastle, WY 82701

P: (307) 746-2701 ext. 2

F: (855) 418-3437

Office Hours

8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Monday – Friday

County Executive Director

Peggy Livingston

Peggy.Livingston@wy.usda.gov

Farm Loan Manager

Rob Weppner

P: (307) 682-8843

Rob.Weppner@wy.usda.gov

Program Technician

Sherie Hilgenkamp

Sherie.Hilgenkamp@usda.gov

County Committee

Chuck Grieves, Chairman

Randy Oleson, Vice Chairman

Harry Tavegia, Member

Robin Riesland, Minority

Advisor

Next County Committee

Meeting:

July 22, 2020 at 1PM

MESSAGE FROM THE WESTON COUNTY FSA OFFICE

WE WANT TO REMIND EVERYONE TO CALL US PRIOR TO MAKING A TRIP TO TOWN. OUR BUILDING IS STILL CLOSED TO WALK-IN CUSTOMERS. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO SET UP A TIME TO MEET WITH US.

- **Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP)** - if you have not signed up for this program, we strongly encourage you to do so. This program was recently approved for providing financial assistance to producers impacted by COVID19. Applications will be accepted through **August 28, 2020**. We are processing applications as soon as possible.

CFAP assistance is available to livestock producers who have an ownership interest in eligible livestock that have suffered a five percent-or-greater price decline as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and face additional significant costs in marketing their inventories due to unexpected surplus and disrupted markets. Eligible livestock include:

- Pigs (<120#); Hogs (>120#)
- Feeder cattle (<600#); (>600#)
- Slaughter Cattle (Fed Cattle); (Mature Cattle)
- All other Cattle (Exclude Dairy used or intended for dairy production)
- Sheep (Lambs and yearlings < 2 yoa)

CFAP payments for eligible livestock are based on:

- actual sales between January 15, 2020, to April 15, 2020, of owned inventory as of January 15, 2020, including any offspring from that inventory, and
- the highest inventory between April 16, 2020 and May 14, 2020.
- We are requiring copies of the sales receipts of livestock sold between 1/15/20 and 4/15/20. You may self-certify your highest inventory between 4/16/20 and 5/14/20, keeping in mind that this program is likely to be thoroughly audited in the future and if you are selected, you will be required to provide evidence of your self-certified inventory.

CFAP payments are eligible to producers of non-specialty crops, who have suffered a five percent-or-greater price decline over a specified time as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and who face increased marketing costs for inventories. Eligible commodities include millet, oats, grain sorghum, durum wheat, and hard red spring wheat. Producers must provide total 2019 production for the commodity and total 2019 production that was not sold as of January 15, 2020.

- **Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)** - For those producers who are participating in NAP for 2020, we would like to remind you of the requirements for filing a Notice of Loss on your covered crops. Please notify the office **within 15 days of when the loss becomes apparent**. Eligible losses may include hail, drought, freeze, excessive moisture, tornado and excessive wind. We have been hearing from some of you about potential reduction in your hay production. If you decide to abandon part or all of your covered crop(s), it is very important that you contact our office, file a Notice of Loss, and refrain from grazing or destroying the crop prior to an appraisal. Our office will contact an FSA certified appraiser to measure potential production. Once the appraisal is complete, you may graze, replant, etc. the failed crop.
- **Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)** – ELAP assistance is for losses **not** covered under other Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Programs, specifically Livestock Forage Program and Livestock Indemnity Program. If a hailstorm destroys pasture(s) that you were currently grazing and you have to move your livestock from the hail-affected pasture or fed additional livestock feed above normal quantities to maintain the livestock until additional feed becomes available, it may qualify for assistance. Grazing losses must be claimed on a pasture-by-pasture basis; therefore, the only pasture type and acres affected by hail will be claimed. Wildfire on non-Federally managed land may be eligible,

as well. Purchased livestock feed and/or produced and harvested livestock feed destroyed may be eligible. **Harvested forage must be baled.** Cut, raked, or windrowed hay is not eligible. If you purchase additional feed for your livestock or farm-raised fish above the average of the previous 2 years, you may be eligible for assistance. For those producers raising farm-raised fish, please contact our office for specific qualifications. In all situations, it is very important for you to timely (**30 days** of when the loss is first apparent) contact the county office and report your situation and file a Notice of Loss. Honeybee producers may also be eligible for loss of colonies, hives and feed. Honeybee producers must report losses within **15 days** of when the loss is first apparent.

- **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 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.

Weston County Committee is composed of three 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. This year Local Administrative Area #3 (all land that lays south of Township 45 North). The current Committeeman serving this area is Charles Grieves. If you are unsure what LAA you a located in, please contact the County 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 August 1, 2020 (or next business day). FSA-669A Nomination Form for County FSA Committee Election has been attached for you convenience.

- **Spring Planted Crops Need to be Reported no later than July 15th** - We would like to remind you that if you have not reported all of your spring planted crops and have no received an acre report package from us, that you call and make an appointment as soon as possible.

Also, if you have acquired additional land, either through purchase or lease, please notify us within 30 days of when the acquisition became affective. It is very important to keep your record updated, in the event you wish to participate in any of our programs. Acreage reporting is key to nearly every program we administer as well as programs for NRCS.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about any information shared in this newsletter, please do not hesitate to call the county office.

Best Regards,

Peggy Livingston, CED



FSA Offers Joint Financing Option on Direct Farm Ownership Loans

The USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Direct Farm Ownership loans are a resource to help farmers and ranchers become owner-operators of family farms, improve and expand current operations, increase agricultural productivity, and assist with land tenure to save farmland for future generations.

Depending on the applicant's needs, there are three types of Direct Farm Ownership Loans: regular, down payment and joint financing. FSA also offers a Direct Farm Ownership Microloan option for smaller financial needs up to \$50,000.

Joint financing allows FSA to provide more farmers and ranchers with access to capital. FSA lends up to 50 percent of the total amount financed. A commercial lender, a State program or the seller of the property being purchased, provides the balance of loan funds, with or without an FSA guarantee. The maximum loan

amount for a Joint Financing loan is \$600,000 and the repayment period for the loan is up to 40 years.

To be eligible, the operation must be an eligible farm enterprise. Farm Ownership loan funds cannot be used to finance nonfarm enterprises and all applicants must be able to meet general eligibility requirements. Loan applicants are also required to have participated in the business operations of a farm or ranch for at least three years out of the 10 years prior to the date the application is submitted. The applicant must show documentation that their participation in the business operation of the farm or ranch was not solely as a laborer.

For more information about FSA Loan programs, contact your local FSA office or contact Rob Weppner, Farm Loan Manager at 307-682-8843 or by email at rob.weppner@usda.gov.

FSA-669A (04-10-20)	U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Farm Service Agency
<h2 style="margin: 0;">NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION</h2>	

1. NAME OF NOMINEE <i>(Type or Print Nominee's Full Name)</i>	TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE	
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE	4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED _____	
	5. COUNTY _____	
	6. LAA _____	7. STATE _____
3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION: <i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</i>	8. NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION: <i>If this nomination is by other than self, the following eligible voter or representative of a community based organization hereby nominates the afore-named person to be a candidate in the next County FSA Committee election for the county.</i>	
3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE _____	3B. DATE _____	8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR _____
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.</i>		8B. DATE _____

9. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE *(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required).*

VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES: The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.

ETHNICITY <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White	GENDER <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
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INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

- Complete the form as follows:
- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| ITEM 1 | Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:

A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
C. Willing to serve if elected. |
| ITEM 2 | Enter the nominee's current address. |
| ITEM 3 | The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes. |
| ITEMS 3A & 3B | The nominee must sign and date. |
| ITEMS 8A & 8B | The nominator must sign and date. <i>(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required.)</i> |
| ITEM 9 | Completing this item is voluntary. |

ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 1, 2020.

NOTE: The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a - as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (16 U.S.C. 380, et. al) and 7 CFR Part 7. The information will be used to obtain nominees for election to the County FSA Committee. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for County Personnel Records, USDA/FSA-S. Providing the nominee name, address, signature/date and nominator signature/date (when applicable) information is voluntary, but necessary for processing the form. Failure to furnish the nominee name, address, signature/date and nominator signature/date (when applicable) information will result in a determination of ineligibility for nomination for election to the County FSA Committee.

Public Burden Statement (Paperwork Reduction Act): According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. **RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.**



Weston County FSA Office
1225 Washington Blvd, Ste. 2
Newcastle, WY 82701

Phone: 307-746-2701
Fax: 307-746-2870

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 30, 2020	Enrollment deadline for 2020 ARC/PLC .
July 4, 2020	Weston County FSA Office is closed for Independence Day
July 15, 2020	Spring planted and perennial forage Acreage Reporting deadline
August 1, 2020	Nomination forms for the 2020 LAA#3 Election due at the County Office
August 28, 2020	Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) application deadline
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NAP Notice of Loss must be filed the earlier of <u>15 days</u> of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent, or 15 days of the final harvest date.• LIP Notice of Loss must be filed <u>30 calendar days</u> of when the loss is first apparent.• Leases and/or Land Ownership including operational changes must be reported within <u>30 calendar days</u> of change to avoid late fees, repayment of funds issued and/or ineligibility for program participation.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

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.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html (How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.