

August 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# BULLETIN

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## Weston County FSA Updates

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**Weston County FSA Office**  
1225 Washington Blvd, Ste. 2  
Newcastle, WY 82701  
Phone: 307-746-2701, ext. 2  
Fax: 307-746-2870 or  
855-415-3437

**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:**  
TBD

### Weston County FSA Needs Your Help - A Note from Peggy Livingston, CED

You may not be aware; the US Drought Monitor downgraded a large portion of Weston County from D1 Moderate Drought to D0 Abnormally Dry. While not all of our disaster programs are driven by the Drought Monitor, several are. I am enlisting your assistance to report directly to the US Drought Monitor at the following website <https://droughtreporter.unl.edu/submitreport> to describe your current conditions and how it is impacting you. The report allows producers to:

- Provide a written description of drought impacts on livelihood, pasture conditions, purchasing livestock feed above normal, livestock water issues, sickness in livestock, selling livestock, etc.
- Select categories to show losses and gains as a result of the drought such as significant decrease in hay production or grain producer losses
- Report on the duration of drought event
- Select *Affected Places* – geographic areas ranging from an entire state to a small area within a state
- Submit images that document the drought and its impact
- Provide contact information (with the option to keep information confidential)

Without a rating of at least a D2 Severe Drought or above for an extended period of time, disaster programs, such as the Livestock Forage Program (LFP), cannot be implemented. LFP assists with loss of livestock forage based on grazed acre carrying capacity versus feed equivalent for current livestock inventory.

More information, including state specific drought impact maps, can be found at [droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home.aspx](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home.aspx).

## **Please remember the following deadlines and requirements:**

### CORONAVIRUS FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) deadline has been extended to **September 11, 2020**. If you have not applied for this program, we encourage you to stop by and let us explain the program to you.

### FALL SEEDED CROPS

- Fall seeded crops need to be reported no later than **November 15, 2020**.

### NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- Producers need to submit hay production for the 2020 crop season even if you had the crops appraised this summer/fall. We cannot use the appraisals worksheets as production evidence.
- Reminder for those producers who purchased 2020 NAP coverage for hay crops, do not forget to file a Notice of Loss within 15 days of when the loss becomes apparent.
- We are currently accepting Notices of Loss for grazing; however, the assessment of grazing crops are not determined until after October 15.
- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) deadline for applying for 2021 coverage of NAP crops, including planned 2021 spring seeded crops is **December 1, 2020**.

### KEEPING RECORDS CURRENT

- The last date to report changes in your operation for PY2020 was **August 1, 2020**.
- If you have or are planning to lease or purchase additional land, please contact our office within 30 days of when you acquire the property. We will need a copy of the lease and/or deed.
- If you have leases which are up for renewal and you are continuing to lease the property, please bring us copies of the updated version. This includes all private, State and Federal leases.
- If you have been operating as an individual and change your operation to an entity [Trust, LLP, LLC, Corp. General Partnership, etc.] please bring copies of your Certification of Organization or other legal form(s) identifying the entity, listing the members, their shares, who has signature authority, address, and tax identification number assigned by the Secretary of State.
- USDA FSA requires all participating producers to file an CCC-941 Adjusted Gross Income Certification every fiscal year.
- Keep direct deposit information current with our office.
- Please report any changes of address, zip code, phone number, email address or an incorrect name or business name on file to our office.

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## **Additional Commodities Eligible for Coronavirus Food Assistance Program**

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced additional commodities are eligible for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) as well as other adjustments to the program based on comments received from agricultural producers and organizations and review of market data. Also, producers with approved applications will receive their final payment.

With these changes and updates, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is extending the deadline to apply for the program to **September 11, 2020**.

Among the added eligible products are Non-Specialty Crops and Livestock commodities - liquid eggs, frozen eggs and all sheep. Only lambs and yearlings (sheep less than two years old) were previously eligible.

Additionally, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) will automatically issue the remaining 20 percent of the calculated payment to eligible producers. Going forward, producers who apply for CFAP will receive 100 percent of their total payment, not to exceed the payment limit, when their applications are approved.

If you need to apply for any of the added commodities or you want to sign-up for the first time, please contact our office at (307)746-2701 extension 2 to set up an appointment.

Additional details can be found in the Federal Register in the [Notice of Funding Availability \(NOFA\)](#) and [Final Rule Correction](#) and at [www.farmers.gov/cfap](http://www.farmers.gov/cfap).

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## FSA Offers Joint Financing Option on Direct Farm Ownership Loans

The USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) [Direct Farm Ownership loans](#) can 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.

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.

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 farm loans, contact Rob Weppner, Farm Loan Manager at 307-682-8843 Ext 2 or visit [fsa.usda.gov](http://fsa.usda.gov).

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## Save Time – Make an Appointment with FSA and NRCS

Producers are encouraged to call their local FSA and NRCS offices to schedule an appointment and to discuss any records or documentation that might be needed during your appointment. To find your local FSA or NRCS office, visit: [offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app](http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app).

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the USDA facility located in Newcastle, WY is still closed to walk-in traffic. Be sure to call ahead to make sure we are available to tend to your important business needs and ensure maximum use of your time.

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## Dates to Remember

September 7	Office closed for Labor Day
September 11	Final date to apply for assistance with the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program
September 30	Deadline to request a PLC yield update
October 1	Election and enrollment opens for ARC/PLC crop year 2021, continuing through March 15
October 12	Office closed for Columbus Day
November 11	Office closed for Veterans Day
November 15	Acre/Crop Report deadline for Apiculture (bees) and fall-seeded small grains
December 1	Deadline for applying for 2021 coverage of Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) crops, including planned 2021 spring seeded crops

- **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

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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.

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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).