May 2021

Crook County FSA Updates

Crook County Farm Service Agency

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County Office Notes

Hello Everyone!

We have been working through our annual file updates and Spring Acreage Reporting here in the office. Since we are open by appointment only, we are mailing out postcards with an appointment date and time to all of our producers. If you cannot come in at the date and time scheduled, please call us right away to reschedule, as there are not many spots left open before the July 15th reporting deadline. It’s just the two of us in the office, so we appreciate everyone’s patience as we work through all these programs and updates.

Important Reminders for NAP Participants

1. File a notice of loss! If you know, or even suspect you have a loss, report it to the office as soon as you notice, no later than 15 days after you notice. When in doubt, call the office.

2. Do Not spray, or otherwise destroy the acreage until a final appraisal has been completed, or representative samples have been established according to direction.

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from the loss adjuster hay crops before talking to the office! Whether or not you have a loss, an appraisal MUST be done on any acres reported as hay BEFORE you graze them. Not getting an appraisal means those acres will count for 0 production for your APH, which can significantly impact your yield guarantees for the next 10 years. Also, unharvested hay acres that are not appraised will not be paid on if you have a loss.

3. **DO get unharvested hay fields appraised!** Even if you are leaving a hayfield unharvested and ungrazed, an appraisal is still needed. Crops left standing without an appraisal also results in 0 production counted. This will negatively impact your coverage in the same way as grazing your hayfields.

According the April 29, 2021 US Drought Monitor parts of Crook County range from abnormally dry to severely dry. Conditions throughout WY mirror those of Crook County. Unless we experience a dramatic increase in precipitation, it is likely that the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) will once again be offered. The link between LFP eligibility, NAP coverage and acreage reporting remains key to program eligibility and timely payment. Producers are urged to file 2021 crop reports with this office no later than **July 15, 2021**. Future newsletters will contain information about LFP eligibility.

If you feel that the drought monitor does not match the conditions you are seeing, this year or in the future, I would recommend you take the time to file an impact report, [https://droughtimpacts.unl.edu/Home.aspx](https://droughtimpacts.unl.edu/Home.aspx) This is likely the best way to contribute information to assist the folks who compile this information.

USDA Service Centers in Wyoming are beginning to reopen to limited visitors by appointment only. Staff continues to serve producers electronically, by phone, and other digital tools. If you have questions about a specific program, please don’t hesitate to contact the office.

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- **May 31, 2021** – County Office Closed Memorial Day Holiday
- **July 5, 2021** – County Office Closed – Independence Day Holiday Observed
- **July 15, 2021** – Deadline for Acreage Reporting Spring Planted Crops
American Rescue Plan Socially Disadvantaged Farmer Debt Payments

FSA offers direct farm ownership and direct farm operating loans to producers who want to establish, maintain, or strengthen their farm or ranch. Direct loans are processed, approved and serviced by FSA loan officers.

Direct farm operating loans can be used to purchase livestock and feed, farm equipment, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance, and other costs including family living expenses. Operating loans can also be used to finance minor improvements or repairs to buildings and to refinance some farm-related debts, excluding real estate.

Direct farm ownership loans can be used to purchase farmland, enlarge an existing farm, construct and repair buildings, and to make farm improvements.

The maximum loan amount for direct farm ownership loans is $600,000 and the maximum loan amount for direct operating loans is $400,000 and a down payment is not required. Repayment terms vary depending on the type of loan, collateral and the producer's ability to repay the loan. Operating loans are normally repaid within seven years and farm ownership loans are not to exceed 40 years.

Please contact your local FSA office for more information or to apply for a direct farm ownership or operating loan.

To learn more about the FSA loan programs, contact the USDA Service Center at (307) 682-8843 Ext 2 or visit www.farmers.gov/fund.

USDA Encourages Completion of Cash Rents and Leases Survey

You may have received a Cash Rents and Leases survey from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). This survey provides the basis for estimates of the current year's cash rents paid for irrigated cropland, non-irrigated cropland, and permanent pasture. Please complete your Cash Rents and Leases survey by June 21. This survey can be completed and returned by mail, over the phone, or at agcounts.usda.gov.

Information from this survey is used in the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) as an alternative soil rental rate prior to finalizing new rates each year. Survey responses from as many localities as possible help calculate more accurate rental rates. Completion of the survey ensures cash rental rates accurately represent your locality. Survey results will also give you a useful tool in negotiating your rental agreements, and financial planning for your agricultural operation.

In accordance with federal law, survey responses are kept confidential. Survey results will be available in aggregate form only to ensure that no individual producer or operation can be identified. NASS will publish the survey results on August 27 at quickstats.nass.usda.gov.

If you have any questions about this survey, please call 888-424-7828, or visit https://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide_to_NASS_Surveys/Cash_Rents_by_County/index.php.
USDA Offers Targeted Farm Loan Funding for Underserved Groups and Beginning Farmers

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers that FSA offers targeted farm ownership and farm operating loans to assist underserved applicants and beginning farmers and ranchers.

USDA defines underserved applicants as a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For farm loan program purposes, targeted underserved groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics and Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Underserved or beginning farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank can apply for either FSA direct loans or guaranteed loans. Direct loans are made to applicants by FSA. Guaranteed loans are made by lending institutions who arrange for FSA to guarantee the loan. FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. The FSA guarantee allows lenders to make agricultural credit available to producers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria.

The direct and guaranteed loan program provides for two types of loans: farm ownership loans and farm operating loans. In addition to customary farm operating and ownership loans, FSA offers Microloans through the direct loan program. Microloans focus on the financing needs of small, beginning farmer, niche, and non-traditional farm operations. Microloans are available for both ownership and operating finance needs. To learn more about microloans, visit fsa.usda.gov/microloans.

To qualify as a beginning producer, the individual or entity must meet the eligibility requirements outlined for direct or guaranteed loans. Individuals and all entity members must have operated a farm for less than 10 years. Applicants must materially or substantially participate in the operation.

For more information on FSA’s farm loan programs and targeted underserved and beginning farmer guidelines, contact your USDA Service Center at (307 682-8843 Ext 2 or visit fsa.usda.gov/farmloans.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Pam or Tiffany at 307-283-2870 Ex #2 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).