CED Comments- Random Thoughts, Upcoming Deadlines, and a Joke

Summer is here and it is officially time to start putting up hay, getting pivots going, fixing equipment that broke, branding new calves, avoiding starting a grass fire while branding or cutting hay, and get very little sleep in between.

We continue to be busy in the Torrington FSA office. Acreage Reporting season is upon us. The deadline to report any spring crops or grazing crops is July 15, 2021. Please call the office before coming in if possible, so we can pull your folders and be prepared for you.

The signup for CRP Sign-Up 56 will end on July 23, 2021. We will be contacting everyone who previously put in an offer as we will need to rerun these offers to reflect the increase in rental rates. Most new rates are coming in at about $20 per acre. If you would like to submit any cropland for that sign-up, please contact the office.

Producers with NAP- If you have any conditions that you feel have affected your NAP covered crops, please contact the office so we can get a Notice of Loss filed. Just like your car insurance, if you don’t let us know that there was damage, we cannot begin the process of filing a claim.

The primary nesting season ends July 15, 2021. We are closely watching the drought monitor to see if we will qualify for emergency haying or grazing as well as LFP again this year. Please keep an eye on future bulletins for more information on these programs.

The County Committee seat that is up for election this year is LAA 3. This LAA includes all ground south of Township 24. All nomination forms are due to the office by August 2, 2021. If you are unsure which LAA you are in, please contact the office.

Thank you for all of the hours you put in, stress you live with, and hard work you do to continue to feed America and the World.

Joke
I’ve recently started a dating app for chickens. It’s not my normal day job… it’s just to make hens meet.

Upcoming Deadlines
July 5- Office Closed- Independence Day (Observed)
**July 15- Spring Crop Reporting Deadline & End of Primary Nesting Season**
July 23- General CRP Signup Deadline
Aug 2- Deadline to receive COC Nomination Forms for LAA 3
Sept 6- Office Closed- Labor Day

The U.S. Drought Monitor's reporting feature offers producers an opportunity to submit drought impact and condition reports.

The USDA, in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, produced the U.S. Drought Monitor to include a reporting feature that allows producers to report local drought impacts and conditions.

The report allows producers to:

- Provide a written description of drought impacts on livelihood, activities, etc.;
- Select categories to show losses and gains as a result of the drought;
- Report on the duration of drought event;
- Select Affected Places- geographic areas ranging from an entire state to a small area within the state;
- Submit images that document the drought and its impacts;
- Provide contact information (include an option to keep information confidential).

The reporting took for producers to record the effects of the drought can be accessed at the following link: https://droughtreporter.unl.edu/submitreport/, click on "Access the Report Form Here" then "Open in Browser".

More information including state specific drought impact maps can be found on the U.S. Drought Monitor homepage: https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

USDA Announces June 2021 Lending Rates for Agricultural Producers

USDA announced loan interest rates for June 2021, which are effective June 1. USDA's FSA loans provide important access to capital to help agricultural producers start or expand their farming operation, purchase equipment and storage structures, or meet cash flow needs.

FSA offers farm ownership and operating loans with favorable interest rates and terms to help eligible agricultural producers, whether multi-generational, long-time or new to the industry, obtain financing needed to start, expand or maintain a family agricultural operation. For many loan options, FSA sets aside funding for historically disadvantaged producers, including beginning, women, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and Hispanic farmers and ranchers.

Interest rates for Operating and Ownership loans for June 2021 are as follows:

- Farm Operating Loans (Direct): 1.875%
- Farm Ownership Loans (Direct): 3.250%
- Farm Ownership Loans (Direct, Joint Financing): 2.500%
- Farm Ownership Loans (Down Payment): 1.500%
- Emergency Loan (Amount of Actual Loss): 2.875%

FSA also offers guaranteed loans through commercial lenders at rates set by those lenders.

You can find out which of these loans may be right for you by using our Farm Loan Discovery Tool.
Commodity and Storage Facility Loans

Additionally, FSA provides low-interest financing to producers to build or upgrade on-farm storage facilities and purchase handling equipment and loans that provide interim financing to help producers meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are low. Funds for these loans are provided through the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and are administered by FSA.

- **Commodity Loans** (less than one year disbursed): 1.125%
- **Farm Storage Facility Loans**:
  - Three-year loan terms: 0.375%
  - Five-year loan terms: 0.875%
  - Seven-year loan terms: 1.250%
  - Ten-year loan terms: 1.625%
  - Twelve-year loan terms: 1.750%
- **Sugar Storage Facility Loans** (15 years): 2.000%

Disaster Support

FSA also reminds rural communities, farmers and ranchers, families and small businesses affected by the year’s winter storms, drought, and other natural disasters that USDA has programs that provide assistance. USDA staff in the regional, state and county offices are prepared with a variety of program flexibilities and other assistance to residents, agricultural producers and impacted communities. Many programs are available without an official disaster designation, including several risk management and disaster assistance options.

Pandemic Support

Through September 1, 2021, FSA’s Disaster Set-Aside provision is available to direct loan borrowers who have been impacted by the pandemic. This enables an upcoming annual installment to be set aside for the year and added to the final installment. For annual operating loans, the loan maturity date may be extended up to twelve months in order to set aside the installment. This provision is normally used in the wake of natural disasters, and a second Disaster Set-Aside may be available for direct loan borrowers who already have a DSA in place on a loan due to another designated natural disaster.

Producers can explore available options on all FSA loan options at [fsa.usda.gov](http://fsa.usda.gov) or by contacting your local USDA Service Center.

Maintaining Good Credit History

Farm Service Agency (FSA) loans require applicants to have a satisfactory credit history. A credit report is requested for all FSA direct farm loan applicants. These reports are reviewed to verify outstanding debts, see if bills are paid timely and to determine the impact on cash flow.

Information on your credit report is strictly confidential and is used only as an aid in conducting FSA business.

Our farm loan staff will discuss options with you if you have an unfavorable credit report and will provide a copy of your report. If you dispute the accuracy of the information on the credit report, it is up to you to contact the issuing credit report company to resolve any errors or inaccuracies.

There are multiple ways to remedy an unfavorable credit score:

- Make sure to pay bills on time
  - Setting up automatic payments or automated reminders can be an effective way to remember payment due dates.
- Pay down existing debt
• Keep your credit card balances low
• Avoid suddenly opening or closing existing credit accounts

FSA's farm loan staff will guide you through the process, which may require you to reapply for a loan after improving or correcting your credit report.

For more information on FSA farm loan programs, contact your Goshen County USDA Service Center at 307-532-4880 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

Conservation Efforts Continue on America's Farms, Ranches Amid Challenging Year

The USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service continued its conservation work across the country despite a tough 2020 marked with a pandemic and several natural disasters. The agency helped farmers, ranchers and forest landowners implement conservation practices on their working lands, which help conserve natural resource such as soil, water and wildlife as well as boost producers’ bottom lines. Additionally, NRCS launched new online tools that increased the efficiency, effectiveness and delivery of crucial programs.

This year, NRCS worked with producers and communities to:

• Develop more than 100,000 conservation plans.
• Co-invest $1.32 billion through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to put conservation practices on 10 million acres, as well as $507 million through the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) to put conservation enhancements on 9.3 million acres.
• Enroll more than 430 new easements, totaling 230,000 acres, into the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP).
• Enter into over 420 agreements with local sponsors to cooperatively implement emergency recovery measures through the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) and obligated more than $251 million in EWP funds in FY 2020.
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