Laramie County Service Center Updates - November 2021

Farm Service Agency  |  Natural Resources Conservation Service  |  Risk Management Agency

- FSA Encourages Farmers and Ranchers to Vote in County Committee Elections
- Applying for FSA Direct Loans
- Conservation Agricultural Mentoring Program (CAMP)

Laramie County Service Center Comments

Happy November Laramie County farmers and ranchers!

Just a reminder that signup for the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for perennial forage and fall-seeded crops is December 1st. Please call the office ASAP if you would like to have this coverage.

The Agricultural Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage (ARCPLC) program is open for signups at present and will run through March 15th.

Also the brand new Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program (OTECP) is now open for signup. If you have expenses for transitioning to or certifying organic; you may be eligible for some reimbursement through this program. Please give the office a call for more information. Program signup runs until January 7th.

-Laramie County FSA

Please note we will be closed on Thanksgiving Day (November 25th). We will resume normal business hours on Friday, November 26th. Happy Thanksgiving!

-Laramie County FSA & NRCS

FSA Encourages Farmers and Ranchers to Vote in County Committee Elections

The 2021 Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections began on Nov. 1, 2021, when ballots were mailed to eligible voters. The deadline to return ballots to local FSA offices, or to be postmarked, is Dec. 6, 2021.

County committee members are an important component of the operations of FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and USDA. Farmers and ranchers elected to county committees help deliver FSA programs at the local level, applying their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on commodity price support programs; conservation programs; incentive indemnity and disaster programs for some commodities; emergency programs and eligibility. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws.

To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm, may also be eligible to vote. A cooperating producer is someone who has provided information about their farming or ranching operation(s) but may not have applied or received FSA program benefits.

Eligible voters in local administrative area 1, who do not receive a ballot can obtain one from their local USDA Service Center.

Newly elected committee members will take office Jan. 1, 2022.
The candidates in this year’s election are:

Theron Anderson is nominated in LAA 1, Laramie County, to serve as a committee member for a 3-year term. Anderson resides in Albin and has produced wheat, sunflowers, millet, and corn for many years.

He is an active member of the Wyoming Wheat Growers Association and serves as Director.

More information on county committees, such as the new 2021 fact sheet, can be found on the FSA website at fsa.usda.gov/elections or at a local USDA Service Center.

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**Applying for FSA Direct Loans**

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 the Platte County FSA office at 307-322-4050 for more information or to apply for a direct farm ownership or operating loan.

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**Conservation Agricultural Mentoring Program (CAMP)**

The Conservation Agricultural Mentoring Program is a state-driven program that matches an experienced producer who is passionate about conservation with an NRCS field employee that is new to the job or new to the area.

Our goal through the program is to grow critical relationships with the producers we serve, while at the same time advancing employee knowledge of production agriculture and natural resources in their local area, ultimately enhancing our ability to provide excellent customer service.

Once matched with a producer mentor, the employee will go out on the land with them 6-12 times per year for a period of 12-18 months – always during agreed upon times that are convenient for the producer.

Producer mentors provide a safe, low-risk learning environment for employees to advance their knowledge of:

- Common agricultural practices, equipment, inputs and other topics.
- The types of daily challenges and decisions producers face.
- Local resource problems and concerns.
- How producers use conservation practices to address resource concerns. For more information on the CAMP program, check out our Fact Sheet and Frequently Asked Questions. Contact your local CAMP Coordinator to speak with someone directly or to sign-up to become a mentor.
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307-258-9516

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FSA Program Technicians:
Sarah Marquardt
Karla Warren
Catelyn Cornils

NRCS Staff:
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Thomas Tjepkes

Dixie Mount
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307-269-3110

FSA County Committee:
Theron Anderson
Dave Bowman
T.J. Hollingsworth
Heidi Romsa

Next County Committee Meeting:
December 9, 2021