• From Darla’s Desk


• USDA Announces June 2021 Lending Rates for Agricultural Producers

• Manage Your USDA Business Online, Conservation Client Gateway Retiring

From Darla’s Desk

Greetings Park County farmers and ranchers! The Park County USDA Service Center is now open to limited visitors by appointment only. Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff also continue to work with agricultural producers via phone, email, and other digital tools. To make an in-person appointment please call (307) 754-9411.

Remember to notify the office within 30 days of knowing you have a loss for:

• any livestock lost above normal mortality due to eligible weather events
• water hauling due to drought conditions
• additional feed purchases due to eligible weather events (drought is not an eligible weather event for additional feed)

Please remember that you will need to report your spring seeded crops, CRP, and perennial grasses to us by July 15th. Please call the office to make an appointment as soon as you are done planting.


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, produces 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/](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/](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/)

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**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 or by contacting your local USDA Service Center.

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**Manage Your USDA Business Online, Conservation Client Gateway Retiring**

You can now manage your conservation activities and request assistance from USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) by logging into your farmers.gov account. These conservation features join several others already available through the farmers.gov portal, including the ability to view farm loan information. As more content and capabilities are added, farmers.gov is quickly becoming the online hub for producers to find resources, submit applications, and request assistance.

Previously, self-service conservation activities were available through Conservation Client Gateway, but that portal was retired on Oct. 15.

But those functionalities are now available through farmers.gov. It was designed and built with the valuable input of USDA customers like you and ready to use for your conservation needs.

Through farmers.gov, you can:

- View, upload, download and e-sign documents;
- Request conservation assistance;
- Request financial assistance, including submitting a program application;
- View and request application details;
- Reference technical terms and submit questions;
- Access information on current and past conservation practices;
- Report practice completion and request practice certification;
- View detailed information on all previous and ongoing contracts, including the amount of cost share assistance received and anticipated; and
- Have authority for FSA and NRCS customers to work in the portal and act on behalf of their active power-of-attorney entitlements and their current authorities for business entities.

Current Conservation Client Gateway Users
If you are a current Conservation Client Gateway user, your information and data will continue to be available through farmers.gov. To access your information, visit farmers.gov and sign into the site’s authenticated portal via the “Sign In / Sign Up” link at the top right of the website. You’ll sign in using your existing CCG account login information.

**New Farmers.gov Users**

If you do not have login information for farmers.gov, you can create your login profile, or eAuthentication by following the instructions at farmers.gov/sign-in.

Help and Support The Conservation Features User Guide gives you step-by-step instructions on how to navigate farmers.gov and the how-to video instructions explain some of the popular features. If you need additional help, personal assistance is available at the farmers.gov Service Desk by selecting the “Help” link located at the top of the all authenticated portal pages and submitting a “Contact Us” request. NRCS field office staff are always available to assist you with your conservation questions and other needs.

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**Park County USDA Service Center**

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**County Committee**  
Emily Karst - Chairperson  
Tim Acord - Vice-Chairperson  
Lynn George - Regular Member

**Next County Committee Meeting:** TBD