County office news

We are already in full gear on acreage reporting. If you have not reported your acres yet, please contact the office to set-up an appointment time. The deadline is July 15, 2021 (that's only 2 weeks away).

CRP signup for General CRP is underway. The last day to make a General CRP offer is July 23rd. If you have not signed a new offer since rates were adjusted in the middle of June, please contact the office to get yours signed.

CRP Grasslands signup will begin July 12 and run through August 20. Grasslands is a working land program which allows the land to be utilized every year while keeping it from being developed or broken out to farmland. Acreage eligible to be enrolled in grasslands includes both cropland and pasture that are currently planted to grass. Participants can hay or graze annually or can lease the haying or grazing rights. CRP Grasslands rates increased to $15/acre and contracts are set at either 10 or 15 years in length.

Be patient with our office as we are short staffed right now. Please call ahead and schedule a time to come in. You will notice that our doors are still locked but we are allowing producers to come into the office to complete signups and reporting.

Thank you!

~Platte County FSA staff

Nominations Open for the 2021 County Committee Elections

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages all farmers, ranchers, and FSA program participants to take part in the Platte County Committee election nomination process.

FSA's county committees are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA and allow grassroots input and local administration of federal farm programs.

Committees are comprised of locally elected agricultural producers responsible for the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties. Committee members are accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture. If elected, members become part of a local decision making and farm program delivery process.

A county committee is composed of three to 11 elected members from local administrative areas (LAA). Each member serves a three-year term.

County committees may have an appointed advisor to further represent the local interests of underserved farmers and ranchers. Underserved producers are beginning, women and other minority farmers and ranchers and landowners and/or operators who have limited resources.

All nomination forms for the 2021 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by Aug. 2, 2021. For more information on FSA county committee elections and appointments, refer to the FSA fact sheet: Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a COC Member available online at: fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Dalmatian Toadflax: Be on the lookout in your CRP!
Dalmatian toadflax is a perennial state noxious weed. The plant is able to spread with underground rootstocks and seed, producing up to half a million seeds per year. Since the seeds do not require dormancy prior to germination they get an early start, sometimes germinating in the fall of the same year they were produced.

Due to the aggressive nature of this plant, early detection is helpful in controlling it. Digging up the plant can be an effective control measure if you have small isolated bunches. However, for more prolific communities a chemical treatment is a more manageable option. If this is your case, please consult with the Platte County Weed & Pest to determine the best treatment option. Note, annual retreatment within the areas may be necessary due to the long viability of the seed in the soil.

If you have acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), please remember your contract requires weed control, including compliance with noxious weed laws. If you do spray your CRP, or portions of the acres, please retain your receipts. If your field is spot checked by the local Farm Service Agency (FSA), then you can provide this documentation to show your efforts.

Identification:

Leaves are broad, spade-shaped, smooth on the edge, and feel waxy. The base of the leaf wraps around the stem of the plant.

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**Farmers.gov Feature Helps Producers Find Farm Loans that Fit Their Operation**

Farmers and ranchers can use the *Farm Loan Discovery Tool* on farmers.gov to find information on USDA farm loans that may best fit their operations. USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers a variety of loan options to help farmers finance their operations. From buying land to financing the purchase of equipment, FSA loans can help. USDA conducted field research in eight states, gathering input from farmers and FSA farm loan staff to better understand their needs and challenges. **How the Tool Works** Farmers who are looking for financing options to operate a farm or buy land can answer a few simple questions about what they are looking to fund and how much money they need to borrow. After submitting their answers, farmers will receive information on farm loans that best fit their specific needs. The loan application and additional resources also will be provided. Farmers can download application quick guides that outline what to expect from preparing an application to receiving a loan decision. There are four guides that cover loans to individuals, entities, and youth, as well as information on microloans. The guides include general eligibility requirements and a list of required forms and documentation for each type of loan. These guides can help farmers prepare before their first USDA service center visit with a loan officer. Farmers can access the *Farm Loan Discovery Tool* by visiting farmers.gov/fund and clicking the “Start” button. Follow the prompts and answer five simple questions to receive loan information that is applicable to your agricultural operation. The tool is built to run on any modern browser like Chrome, Edge, Firefox, or the Safari browser, and is fully functional on mobile devices. It does not work in Internet Explorer.