From Pam's Desk

Greetings Platte County farmers and ranchers! We have 2 new employees in the office. Please help me welcome Kelly Brown and Jeannette Kaufman to our team!

The northern part of the county around Glendo has been in severe drought D2 conditions for 8 consecutive weeks. The Platte County office has been approved to run the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) to help offset grazing losses for livestock producers who suffered grazing losses due to these conditions. LFP requires that you have livestock AND either own or lease pasture physically located in the disaster affected county AND that you suffered grazing losses due to the drought. In order to prepare for signup, please start to gather your information now. Pasture leases and livestock inventory records are needed for program eligibility. Neighboring counties of Goshen, Albany, Niobrara and Converse are also eligible. Please contact the office the ground is carried into set-up an appointment.

General CRP sign-up results have been released. We are hoping to hear results for CRP Grasslands in the next week. If you missed this sign-up period, we will have a new signup in January 2022. Please contact the office if you are interested in the CRP program.

Upcoming dates to remember:
- September 6 - Office closed Labor Day
- September 30 - Last day to late file 2021 ARC PLC contract
- October 11 - Office closed Columbus Day
- November 11 - Office closed Veterans Day
- November 15 - Reporting deadline for Apiculture (bees) and fall-seeded small grains
- November 25 - Office closed Thanksgiving
- December 1 - Deadline for applying for 2022 coverage of Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) crops

Thank you!

~Pam Metz, CED

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.

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**Understanding the U.S. Drought Monitor**

Are drought conditions affecting your agricultural operation? The [U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM)](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/) is a resource producers can use to help determine how to best respond and react to a drought as it develops or lingers. The USDM is an online, weekly map showing the location, extent, and severity of drought across the United States. It categorizes the entire country as being in one of six levels of drought. The map is released on Thursdays and depicts conditions for the week. The USDM provides producers with the latest information about drought conditions where they live, enabling producers to best respond and react to a drought as it develops or lingers. In some cases, the USDM may help a producer make specific decisions about their operation, such as reducing the stocking rate because forage is not growing. For others, it may provide a convenient big-picture snapshot of broader environmental conditions.

The USDM incorporates varying data – rain, snow, temperature, streamflow, reservoir levels, soil moisture, and more – as well as first-hand information submitted from on-the-ground sources such as photos, descriptions, and experiences. The levels of drought are connected to the frequency of occurrence across several different drought indicators. What makes the USDM unique is that it is not a strictly numeric product. The mapmakers rely on their judgment and a nationwide network of 450-plus experts to interpret conditions for each region. They synthesize their discussion and analysis into a single depiction of drought for the entire country.

USDA uses the Drought Monitor to determine a producer’s eligibility for certain drought assistance programs, like the [Livestock Forage Disaster Program](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-programs/livestock-disaster) and [Emergency Haying or Grazing on Conservation Reserve Program acres](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-programs/land/conservation/landowner). Additionally, the Farm Service Agency uses the Drought Monitor to trigger and “fast track” Secretarial Disaster Designations which then provides producers impacted by drought access to emergency loans that can assist with credit needs.

[Learn more about the U.S. Drought Monitor.](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/)

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**New Farmers.gov Conservation Concerns Tool Provides Customized Support for America’s Farmers and Ranchers**

Are you interested in keeping your working land productive for years to come? Use Natural Resources Conservation Service’s new [Conservation Concerns Tool](https://www.farmers.gov/conservation/concerns) to learn about conservation concerns that might impact
your agricultural operation, then work with us on solutions targeted to fit your business needs. This tool is available now on our farmers.gov website, no login or account necessary.

With plain language and illustrative photos, the Conservation Concerns Tool provides a walkthrough of more than 40 conservation concerns related to soil, water, plants, animals, energy and air. Use the tool to create a list of resource concerns specific to your farm, ranch, or working forest lands, then download or print your list to share with NRCS staff at your local USDA Service Center.

We have a video available to walk you through the tool so you can see how it works.

The Conservation Concerns Tool is built to run on any modern browser such as Chrome, Edge, Firefox, or Safari and is fully functional on mobile devices. Whether you work from your desktop at home or your smartphone in the field, this new tool offers personalized conservation insights to meet the needs of 21st century agriculture. Visit farmers.gov/conserve to learn about additional USDA resources available for your working land.

Attention all Buyers of Agricultural Products

It is required that buyers of agricultural products check or register with the Secretary of State's Office to determine if there are liens against the Seller of the product. If a lien is found you are required to place the lien holders name on the check as well as that of the Seller. Ag Products include but are not limited to: livestock (including horses), crops used for feed (hay, silage, oats, etc.), machinery, equipment and all other crops. Failure to place the lien holder's name on the check may result in civil legal action being taken against the Buyer of the product. Protect yourself as a Buyer! You may contact the Secretary of State's Office at 1-307-777-7311.

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