From Pam's Desk

Happy harvest Platte County farmers and ranchers! I know many of you are wrapping up harvest and livestock shipping but don't forget to take care of some important items in our office.

The Fall acreage reporting deadline is near and if you have fall seeded crops such as winter wheat or triticale, you need to report your acres to the office. The deadline is November 15th.

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 2021 drought conditions. LFP requires that you have livestock AND either own or lease pasture physically located in a disaster affected county AND that you suffered grazing losses due to the drought. Pasture leases and livestock inventory records are needed for program application. Neighboring counties of Goshen, Albany, Niobrara and Converse are also eligible. Please contact the office the ground is carried in to set-up an appointment.

COC elections are coming up and this year Local Administrative Area (LAA) #2 is up for election. Amy Miller is nominated in LAA2 to serve as a committee member for a 3-year term. Miller reside sin Wheatland and has produced sugar beets, corn, beans, hay and cattle for several years. Amy is an active member of the Farm Bureau and is currently completing her second term as a member of the Platte County FSA Committee.

The 2022 Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) application deadline for fall seeded crops, grass and forage crops is December 1st. Please make sure to purchase your policies early.

Upcoming dates to remember:
- 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
- December 6th final date to mail in your COC election ballot
- December 9-COC ballot counting at 10:00am in the office.

Thank you!

~Pam Metz, CED
Platte County Producers Urged to Consider NAP Risk Protection Coverage Before Crop Sales Deadlines

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages you to review available USDA crop risk protection options, including federal crop insurance and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, before the crop deadline of December 1, 2021.

Federal crop insurance covers crop losses from natural adversities such as drought, hail and excessive moisture. NAP covers losses from natural disasters on crops for which no permanent federal crop insurance program is available.

The following crops in Platte County have a NAP application deadline of December 1:
- Fall Seeded Crops
- Perennial Crops, such as grass

You can determine if crops are eligible for federal crop insurance or NAP by visiting the RMA website.

NAP offers higher levels of coverage, from 50 to 65 percent of expected production in 5 percent increments, at 100 percent of the average market price. Producers of organics and crops marketed directly to consumers also may exercise the “buy-up” option to obtain NAP coverage of 100 percent of the average market price at the coverage levels of between 50 and 65 percent of expected production. NAP basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production.

For all coverage levels, the NAP service fee is the lesser of $325 per crop or $825 per producer per county, not to exceed a total of $1,950 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

Beginning, underserved, veterans and limited resource farmers are now eligible for free catastrophic level coverage.

Federal crop insurance coverage is sold and delivered solely through private insurance agents. Agent lists are available at all USDA Service Centers or at USDA’s online Agent Locator. You can use the USDA Cost Estimator to predict insurance premium costs.

For more information on NAP, service fees, sales deadlines, contact your Platte County USDA Service Center at 307-322-4050, Ext. 2 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

Qualified veteran farmers or ranchers are eligible for a service fee waiver and premium reduction, if the NAP applicant meets certain eligibility criteria.

Apply for Livestock Forage Losses

Producers in Platte County are eligible to apply for 2021 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) benefits on native and improved pasture.

LFP provides compensation if you suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land.

County committees can only accept LFP applications after notification is received by the National Office of qualifying drought or if a federal agency prohibits producers from grazing normal permitted livestock on federally managed lands due to qualifying fire. You must complete a CCC-853 and the required supporting documentation no later than January 31, 2022, for 2021 losses.

For additional Information about LFP, including eligible livestock and fire criteria, contact your Platte County USDA Service Center at 307-322-4050, Ext. 2 or visit fsa.usda.gov.
FSA Encourages Farmers and Ranchers to Vote in County Committee Elections

The 2021 Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections will begin on Nov. 1, 2021, when ballots are 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 #2, 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:

Amy Miller is nominated in LAA #2, of Platte County, to serve as a COC Member for a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2022. Amy resides east of Wheatland and has produced sugar beets, corn, beans, hay and livestock, but has been active in her family’s operation for her entire life.

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.

Applying for Beginning Farmer Loans

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) assists beginning farmers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county’s average size farm.

For more information contact, contact the Platte County USDA Service Center at 307-322-4050 or visit fsa.usda.gov.
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