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Farm Service Agency Electronic News Service

BULLETIN

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Weston County FSA Updates

Weston County Farm Service Agency

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County Committee: Chuck Grieves, Chairman
Randy Oleson, Vice Chairman

Message from the County Executive Director

Our office continues to receive phone calls regarding the Pandemic Assistance for Producers Initiative and the American Rescue Plan Act. There are a number of parts to each of these, and not all parts are being implemented by Farm Service Agency. To learn more about each of these, please click on these links: Pandemic Assistance for Producers and American Rescue Plan Act.

A big part of FSA’s role in the Pandemic Assistance for Producers is the reopening of applications for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2). If you did not apply or know someone who did not apply for CFAP2 benefits and wish to, please contact the Weston County FSA Office.

For our producers who applied for CFAP1 or CFAP2 benefits, additional funds were made available for these programs. Both cattle producers with approved CFAP1 applications and crop producers with approved CFAP2 applications are or have already received additional payments. Producers do not need to re-apply for these benefits. The additional funds were automatically deposited into our producers’ accounts.
As you prepare for this planting season, landowners and operators are reminded to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting breaking new ground, land clearing, or drainage projects to insure compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) eligibility provisions.

Also, please remember acreage reporting is an eligibility requirement to receive most FSA program benefits, and with that reporting, we need to know details such as what you planted, where you planted it and when you planted it. Keeping track of this information while you are in the field is critical to helping us help you through the acreage certification process once you are done planting for the season. Please use something to record your actions so we can better assist you for your acreage reporting.

Always remember to keep your FSA records updated. If you made any of the following changes, please report them to our office so we can update our records accordingly: individual or business names, phones numbers, mailing addresses, e-mail addresses, deeding land into a trust, land sold, purchased property, added leased land, dropped leased land, bank account changes, business membership changes, producer share changes, and/or other operational changes.

As we continue to endure restrictions due to COVID, the Weston County FSA Office is open to limited visitors by appointment only. Our doors are still locked, so calling ahead for an appointment is necessary. We will also continue to work with our producer via phone, email, and other digital tools.

Happy Spring and stay safe this planting and calving season.

Peggy Livingston, County Executive Director

Wool Triggers Loan Deficiency Payment in Weston County

If you raise sheep in Weston County, you may be eligible for loan deficiency payments (LDPs) from the USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA). LDPs and marketing assistance loans (MALs) are marketing tools that are available during or after shearing. MALs help producers meet cash flow needs without selling commodities when market prices are at harvest-time lows. Producers who are eligible for marketing loans, but choose to forgo the loan, are eligible for LDPs if the posted county price falls below the county loan rate. Producers can purchase a commodity certificate that may be exchanged for the outstanding loan collateral. Daily LDP rates are available online at
Rules related to payment limitations, actively engaged in farming and cash-rent tenant no longer apply to LDPs.

For more information, contact your Weston County USDA Service Center at 307-746-2701 ext. 2 or visit fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport.

**American Rescue Plan Socially Disadvantaged Farmer Debt Payments**

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 your local FSA office for more information or to apply for a direct farm ownership or operating loan.

To learn more about the FSA loan programs, contact the USDA Service Center at (307) 682-8843 Ext 2 or visit www.farmers.gov/fund.

**Applying for FSA Direct Loans**

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Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Peggy Livingston at 1-307-746-2701 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).