Laramie County Comments

Happy New Year Laramie County Farmers and Ranchers!

Many counties surrounding Laramie County (but not including Laramie County) are eligible for the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) and for the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). The deadline to apply for these programs is January 31, 2022.

January 31, 2022 is also the deadline to apply for a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) on wool. Give us a call for more information!

The application deadline for the new Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program (OTEC) and for late-filed Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) has been extended to February 4, 2022.

The Agricultural Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage (ARCPLC) program signup deadline is coming up on March 15, 2022.

-Laramie County FSA

A local workgroup meeting is going to be held on Saturday, January 22, from 8:00 a.m. to noon at the Archer Fairgrounds Complex in Building M. This meeting will be used to identify natural resource priorities for conservation projects in Laramie County. Meteorologist Don Day will be there to present and for a question/answer session. For more information, please call Mason at 307-274-9397.

-Laramie County NRCS

The Service Center will be closed on January 17, 2022, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr’s birthday Holiday.

-Laramie County FSA & NRCS

Laramie County Farm Service Agency Announces County Committee Election Results

Laramie County U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that Theron Anderson of Albin was elected to represent his local administrative area (LAA) during the recent county committee election.

"County Committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA," said Sherri Harvey, District Director. "They help deliver programs at the county level and work to serve the needs of local producers. All recently elected county committee members will take office in January 2022 and will be joining the existing committee."
Every FSA office is served by a county committee made up of local farmers, ranchers and foresters who are elected by local producers. Other members currently serving on the FSA County Committee include Dave Bowman, T.J. Hollingsworth and Heidi Romsa.

County committee members impact the administration of FSA within a community by applying their knowledge and judgment to help FSA make important decisions on its commodity support programs, conservation programs, indemnity and disaster programs, emergency programs and eligibility.

County committee members provide a service to local producers through their decision making and ensure the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties. They are accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture. Members conduct hearings and reviews as requested by the state committee, ensure that underserved farmers, ranchers and foresters are fairly represented, make recommendations to the state committee on existing programs, monitor changes in farm programs and inform farmers of the purpose and provisions of FSA programs. They also assist with outreach and inform underserved producers such as beginning farmers, ranchers and foresters about FSA opportunities.

For more information, visit the FSA website at fsa.usda.gov/elections or contact the Laramie County FSA office at 307-772-2314 ext. 2.

---

**Applying for FSA Guaranteed Loans**

FSA guaranteed loans allow lenders to provide agricultural credit to farmers who do not meet the lender’s normal underwriting criteria. Farmers and ranchers apply for a guaranteed loan through a lender, and the lender arranges for the guarantee. FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. Guaranteed loans can be used for both farm ownership and operating purposes.

Guaranteed farm ownership loans can be used to purchase farmland, construct or repair buildings, develop farmland to promote soil and water conservation or to refinance debt.

Guaranteed operating loans can be used to purchase livestock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance and other operating expenses.

FSA can guarantee farm ownership and operating loans up to $1,825,000. 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.

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

---

**Farmers Help America Keep Soil Healthy**

Our lives are dependent on healthy soil. Healthy soil gives us clean air and water, bountiful crops and forests, productive grazing lands, diverse wildlife and beautiful landscapes. It’s the reason why USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service experts are in your community and across the nation.

Soil is composed of air, water, organic matter and minerals. A community of organisms – functioning as a soil food web – lives all or parts of their lives in soil. More individual organisms are in a teaspoon of soil than there are people on earth. Increasing soil organic matter typically improves soil health, since organic matter improves several critical functions of soil.

To improve the health of their soil, more and more farmers and ranchers are keeping soil covered, reducing disturbance activities such as tilling, keeping plants growing throughout the year, and diversifying the crops they’re planting in a rotation. Taking these steps allow farmers and ranchers to help reduce erosion while increasing the soil’s ability to provide nutrients and water to the plant at critical times during the growing season.
When producers focus on improving soil health, they often have larger harvests, lower input costs, optimized nutrient use, and improved crop resilience during drought years like last year. In heavy rainfall years, healthy soil holds more water, reducing runoff that helps avert flooding downstream.

And because healthy soil allows for greater water infiltration and less erosion, nutrients and pesticides stay on the farm where they benefit crops, and are far less likely to be carried off the farm into streams and lakes where they can cause harm.

NRCS helps farmers install conservation practices such as cover crops to maintain and improve soil health – all of which can lead to productive, profitable and sustainable farming and ranching operations for generations to come. For more information, contact your Laramie County USDA Service Center at 307-772-2314 or visit nrcs.usda.gov.