

NOVEMBER 2022

Niobrara County FSA Office

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Office Hours

8:00 am - 4:30 pm
Monday - Friday

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County Committee

Kurt Gaukel, Chairman
Joe Kruse, Vice Chairman
Jason ZumBrunnen, Member
Carol Geisinger, Minority Advisor

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov 11th - OFFICE CLOSED -

Veteran's Day Holiday

Nov 15th - Acreage Report Deadline

for fall-seeded crops

Nov 24th - OFFICE CLOSED -

Thanksgiving Day Holiday

Dec 1st - NAP Sales Closing Date

30 Days - Contact the office to report adverse weather conditions & livestock losses within 30 days of realizing the loss

15 Days - File notice of loss on NAP covered crops 15 days after realizing loss

NIOBRARA COUNTY NOTES

Greetings Niobrara County Farmers and Ranchers!

As we enter the fall season, we want to remind everyone of upcoming deadlines and programs we have available at this time.

To start, on the topic of yearly deadlines that are coming up, the deadline to report any fall-seeded crops is rapidly approaching. Please make contact with the county office to report anything you planted this fall by November 15, 2022.

The other deadline that is approaching is the deadline to obtain NAP (Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) coverage on any perennial or fall-seeded crops, including pasture, for 2023 is December 1, 2022.

Secondly, based on our status on the drought monitor, Niobrara County and many surrounding counties are eligible for LFP (Livestock Forage Program) and ELAP (Emergency Livestock Assistance Program) for additional water, feed and livestock transportation. If you sustained grazing losses due to drought conditions, please visit with the office about the requirements of the program and what all you need to provide. If you are hauling feed or livestock and will likely have additional miles of transportation for 2022, please contact the office to visit with our staff about the process of applying for benefits and the requirements of the program.

Please help reduce the burden on FSA staff by making an appointment prior to visiting the office, so that you can be prepared for your visit and we can be prepared for you as well. Thank you!

- Niobrara County FSA Staff

FARM and OPERATION CHANGES

FSA needs to keep records updated at all times. If you have had any of the following changes, please report them to our office so we can update our records accordingly:

Individual or business names, phone numbers or addresses, shares or membership changes to entities, deeding land into a trust, sold or purchased property, added or dropped leased land.

USDA REMINDS PRODUCERS TO FILE CROP ACREAGE REPORTS

Agricultural producers who have not yet completed their [crop acreage reports](#) after spring planting should make an appointment with the Niobrara County Farm Service Agency (FSA) before the applicable deadline.

An acreage report documents a crop grown on a farm or ranch and its intended uses. Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planted acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Niobrara County:

November 15, 2022 **All fall seeded crops**

Contact the Niobrara County FSA office to set up an in-person or phone appointment.

To file a crop acreage report, you will need to provide:

- Crop and crop type or variety.
- Intended use of the crop.
- Number of acres of the crop.
- Planting date(s).
- Producer shares.
- Irrigation practice(s).

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

If a producer acquires additional acreage after the acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

Producers should also report crop acreage they intended to plant, but due to natural disaster, were unable to plant. Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and USDA's Risk Management Agency.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP-covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions, please contact the Niobrara County FSA office at 307-334-2953, Ext. 2.

NONINSURED CROP COVERAGE HELPS PRODUCERS MANAGE RISKS

The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) helps you manage risk through coverage for both crop losses and crop planting that was prevented due to natural disasters. The eligible or "noninsured" crops include agricultural commodities not covered by federal crop insurance.

You must be enrolled in the program and have purchased coverage for the eligible crop in the crop year in which the loss incurred to receive program benefits following a qualifying natural disaster.

NAP Buy-Up Coverage Option

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. Buy-up levels of NAP coverage are available if the producer can show at least one year of previously successfully growing the crop for which coverage is being requested.

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.

Buy-up coverage is not available for crops intended for grazing.

NAP Service Fees

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.

NAP Enhancements for Qualified Military Veterans

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

Beginning, limited resource and targeted underserved farmers or ranchers remain eligible for a waiver of NAP service fees and premium reduction when they file form CCC-860, "*Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource and Beginning Farmer or Rancher Certification.*"

For NAP application, eligibility and related program information, contact your Niobrara County USDA Service Center at 307-334-2953, Ext. 2 or visit fsa.usda.gov/nap.

2022 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Elections for USDA's Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Niobrara County Committee is underway.

It is important that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the USDA. The 2022 election in Niobrara County will be conducted for the representative Local Administrative Area (LAA): LAA #3, the southeast portion of Niobrara County.

County committee members are a critical component of FSA operations. Committees should be comprised of members who reflect the diversity of producers involved in production agriculture in Niobrara County. This means that producers representing underserved groups or communities should be on the committee to speak on behalf of their constituency.

Underserved producers are beginning, women and other minority farmers and ranchers and land owners and/or operators who have limited resources. Other minority groups including Native American and Alaska Natives; persons under the poverty level, and persons that have disabilities are also considered underserved.

County committee election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 7, 2022. The last day to return completed ballots to the Niobrara County USDA service center is Dec. 5, 2022.

There are three nominees for the upcoming County Committee Election: Nancy Harsy, Jack Miskimins, and Carson Wurdeman

Nancy Harsy has been a Niobrara County resident for 9 years, residing south of Lusk where she has a yearling and hay operation. She moved here from Illinois, where she raised registered angus breeding stock. She is a strong believer in USDA and FSA programs and their ability to benefit and improve the land and farm and ranch operations. She considers herself a progressive thinker and utilizes advanced grazing management techniques on her operation. Her involvement in agricultural organizations includes serving as a board member of the Illinois Angus Association, Farm Bureau, American Quarter Horse Association, and Niobrara County Cattlewomen.

Jack Miskimins is a 36 year old rancher, residing between Van Tassell and Prairie Center on the Niobrara/Goshen County line, where he has a cow/calf operation. He was born and raised in Goshen County, graduating from Southeast High School. He earned a B.S. in Rangeland Ecology and Watershed Management from the University of Wyoming in 2009. Since then, he has resided in Niobrara County with his wife and children.

Carson Wurdeman is a member of several family operations, Wurdeman Brothers LLC, where he and his brother raise high quality hay, and also have a cow/calf operation. He is also a member of 5W Livestock with his father and brother in their custom feeding and farming operation in the Node and Van Tassell area. Carson attended Casper College and then went on to the University of Wyoming where he studied animal science and also was a member of the livestock judging team at both schools. Upon graduation, he returned to Lusk to be part of his family's many agricultural endeavors.

For more information on eligibility to serve on FSA county committees, visit: www.fsa.usda.gov/elections.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE 2022 LIVESTOCK FORAGE LOSSES

Producers in Niobrara County are eligible to apply for 2022 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.

You must complete a CCC-853 and the required supporting documentation no later than January 30, 2023, for 2022 losses.

For additional information about LFP, including eligible livestock and fire criteria, contact the Niobrara County USDA Service Center at 307-334-2953, Ext. 2 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

NIOBRARA COUNTY FSA OFFICE
PO BOX 720
LUSK, WY 82225-0720

GOV-DELIVERY – ELECTRONIC COUNTY OFFICE BULLETINS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) announces that farmers and ranchers in Wyoming now can receive notifications thru email. To receive GovDelivery email notifications, subscribe online at www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe or contact the Niobrara County FSA office for subscription assistance. Producers can establish subscriber preferences by choosing to receive federal farm program information by topic, by state or by county. Producers can select as many subscriber options as they want, which allows producers who farm in multiple counties or across state lines to receive updates from each county in which they operate or have an interest.

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 of Federal Relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay Voice).