

MARCH 2023

Platte County FSA Office

1502 Progress Ct
Wheatland, WY 82201

Phone: 307-322-4050, Ext. 2
Fax: 855-415-3444

Office Hours

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

Office Staff

Pamela Metz, County Director
Rob Weppner, Loan Manager
Heid Platt, Loan Analyst
Kelly Brown, Program Tech
Jeannette Kaufman, Program Tech
Anna Troupe, Loan Program Tech

County Committee

Amy Miller, Chairperson
Dareth Smialek, Vice Chairperson
Charles Maike, Member

Next Committee Meeting:

TBD

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

April 3rd - NAP Sales Closing Date
for spring-seeded crops

April 7th - Final date to make
General CRP offer

May 29th - OFFICE CLOSED -
Memorial Day Holiday

June 2nd - ERP/PARP Deadline

July 15th - Acreage Report Deadline
for perennial & spring-seeded crops

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

PLATTE COUNTY NOTES

Greetings Platte County Farmers and Ranchers!

There are a variety of programs to assist with problems relating to our ever-changing winter weather, so if you are encountering some difficulties with livestock losses and other impacts due to the snow, wind, cold, and other extreme weather conditions, please contact the office to visit about the possible programs that could assist you.

Also, please remember that Platte County and many surrounding counties are eligible for additional feed and livestock transportation mileage from January 1 through April 30, 2023 due to the drought conditions in 2022. If you are still incurring additional transportation, please contact the office to submit a notice of loss, and once you are finished transporting everything you will be for this spring, make an appointment to complete your application.

There is currently a General CRP signup going on. The signup period runs through April 7th. If you are interested in enrolling ground into the CRP program, please contact the office to make an appointment. We do anticipate a Grasslands CRP signup sometime after the General CRP signup is finished. The dates have not been released yet so if you are interested in Grasslands CRP, please contact the office after April 7th to find out when that signup period is.

There are a couple of new revenue based programs available for 2020 and 2021 farm revenue losses. The Emergency Relief Program (ERP) is for crop losses in 2020 or 2021 and Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP) is for overall revenue losses in 2020. There is an article included in this newsletter with more information on both programs. Please contact the office for more information or go to Farmers.gov

The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Platte County Resource District invite the public and any agencies with an interest in conservation issues to participate in a Local Work Group Meeting to be held at the Platte County Resource District office located at 504C Schroeder Drive in Wheatland. The meeting will be held on **April 20th** from 9:00am-noon. The purpose of this meeting is to allow a broad range of local stakeholders with an interest in natural resource issues and Farm Bill funding programs to provide feedback on these topics to the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The Farm Bill stipulates that conservation programs must continue to be locally led. Through these meetings, the public is given an opportunity to help local conservation leaders set priorities such as ranking resource concerns and identifying priority watersheds and other local needs. For more information, contact Chris Campton in the NRCS office at 307-269-3122 or Brady Irvine at the Platte County Resource District at 307-322-8145.

-Pam Metz

ROLLING OUT REVENUE BASED DISASTER and PANDEMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Beginning January 23, 2023, agricultural producers can begin to apply for two new important programs for revenue losses, from 2020 and 2021 natural disasters or the COVID-19 pandemic. Both programs equitably fill gaps in earlier assistance.

First, you may be eligible for assistance through the Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Phase Two if you experienced revenue losses from eligible natural disasters in 2020 and 2021.

You may also be eligible for the Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP) if you experienced revenue losses in calendar year 2020. PARP is addressing gaps in previous pandemic assistance, which was targeted at price loss or lack of market access, rather than overall revenue losses.

Applications for both new programs are due June 2, 2023, and you can apply for both programs during your same appointment with USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Historically, FSA programs have been designed to make direct payments to producers based on a single disaster event or for a single commodity loss. For many of you, this may be the first revenue-based program that you've applied for with FSA.

Why revenue-based programs?

ERP Phase Two and PARP take a much more holistic approach to disaster assistance, ensuring that producers not just make it through a single growing season but have the financial stability to invest in the long-term well-being of their operations and employees.

In general, ERP Phase Two payments are based on the difference in allowable gross revenue between a benchmark year, representing a typical year of revenue for the producer and the disaster year – designed to target the remaining needs of producers impacted by qualifying natural disasters and avoid duplicative payments. ERP Phase Two revenue loss is based on tax years.

For PARP, an agricultural producer must have been in the business of farming during at least part of the 2020 calendar year and had a decrease in revenue for the 2020 calendar year, as compared to a typical year. PARP revenue loss is based on calendar years.

How to Apply

In preparation for enrollment, producers should gather supporting documentation including:

Schedule F (Form 1040); and

Profit or Loss from Farming or similar tax documents for tax years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 for ERP and for calendar years 2018, 2019 and 2020 for PARP.

Producers should also have, or be prepared to have, the following forms on file for both ERP and PARP program participation:

Form AD-2047, *Customer Data Worksheet* (as applicable to the program participant);

Form CCC-902, *Farm Operating Plan* for an individual or legal entity;

Form CCC-901, *Member Information for Legal Entities* (if applicable); and

Form AD-1026 *Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification*.

Form CCC-860, *Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification*, as certain existing permanent and ad-hoc disaster programs provide increased benefits or reduced fees and premiums.

Most producers, especially those who have previously participated in FSA programs, will likely have these required forms on file. However, those who are uncertain or want to confirm should contact FSA at their local [USDA Service Center](#).

Yes, FSA is stepping outside of the box.

FSA is a big proponent of agricultural producers having a say in the design, implementation and delivery of the programs that directly impact their livelihoods. We also believe that some of the most creative and useful ideas for program and process improvements come from the FSA employees who administer this assistance through our network of more than 2,100 county offices. We want to thank producers across the country, along with the entire FSA workforce, for not just thinking outside of the box but also providing their input to make sure that we can improve and enhance our programs and our approach to assistance to better and more efficiently serve all producers who need our help.

Please visit your local USDA Service Center for more information on ERP Phase Two, PARP and our full portfolio of conservation, prices support, safety-net, credit and disaster assistance programs.

USDA ANNOUNCES CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM SIGNUPS FOR 2023

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that agricultural producers and private landowners can begin applying for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General signup starting **February 27 through April 7, 2023**. CRP is a cornerstone voluntary conservation program offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and a key tool in the Biden-Harris administration's effort to address climate change and help agricultural communities invest in the long-term well-being of their land and natural resources.

General CRP

General CRP helps producers and landowners establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees, to control soil erosion, improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat on cropland. Additionally, General CRP includes a Climate-Smart Practice Incentive to help increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by helping producers and landowners establish trees and permanent grasses, enhance wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands.

Continuous CRP

Under continuous CRP signup, environmentally sensitive land devoted to certain conservation practices can be enrolled in CRP at any time. Offers are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements and the enrollment levels do not exceed the statutory cap. Unlike CRP enrollments under general CRP signups or CRP Grasslands, offers for continuous enrollment are not subject to competitive bidding during specific periods.

Grassland CRP

FSA will announce the dates for Grassland CRP signup in the coming weeks. Grassland CRP is a working lands program, helping landowners and operators protect grassland, including rangeland and pastureland and certain other lands, while maintaining the areas as working grazing lands.

Protecting grasslands contributes positively to the economy of many regions, provides biodiversity of plant and animal populations, and provides important carbon sequestration benefits to deliver lasting climate outcomes.

How to Sign Up

Landowners and producers interested in CRP should contact their local [USDA Service Center](#) to learn more or to apply for the program before their deadlines.

KEEPING LIVESTOCK INVENTORY RECORDS

Livestock inventory records are necessary in the event of a natural disaster, so remember to keep them updated.

When disasters strike, the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) can help you if you've suffered excessive livestock death losses and grazing or feed losses due to eligible natural disasters.

To participate in livestock disaster assistance programs, you'll be required to provide verifiable documentation of death losses resulting from an eligible adverse weather event and must submit a notice of loss to your local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent. For grazing or feed losses, you must submit a notice of loss to your local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent and should maintain documentation and receipts.

You should record all pertinent information regarding livestock inventory records including:

- Documentation of the number, kind, type, and weight range of livestock
- Beginning inventory supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts;
- Records of deaths, due to weather or normal causes, including date and cause

For more information on documentation requirements, contact your Platte County USDA Service Center at 307-322-4050, Ext. 2 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

FSA SIGNATURE POLICY

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse. There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that allows producers to designate another person to conduct business at the office. If interested, contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office for more information.

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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 Platte 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).