

March 2016



BULLETIN



Fremont County FSA Updates

Fremont County FSA Office

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Next County Committee Meeting: 6/10/2016

NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

The sales closing date to purchase coverage on NAP eligible crops has changed. All perennial hay crops, pasture grass, winter wheat, and spring seeded crops now have a sales closing date of April 1st. NAP offers a "buy-up" coverage on all eligible crops harvested for forage (hay). Through the "buy-up" option, coverage can be purchased for levels of 50, 55, 60 and 65 % of the yield, at 100% of the crop price. Premiums are minimal and are paid in addition to the \$250 per crop service fee for the NAP policy. Call the office to see how "buy-up" coverage can work for you.

If you do not currently have a 2016 NAP basic policy you can still purchase buy up coverage by paying the \$250 service fee per crop and then select the level of buy up coverage and sign all necessary forms.

FSA has a great tool to calculate premiums and loss payments at www.fsa.usapas.com/NAP. Remember, the **deadline to purchase NAP coverage is April 1, 2016**.

USDA Sees Strong Demand for Conservation Reserve Program

Deadline to Submit Offers for Competitive Enrollment is Feb. 26

USDA reminds farmers and ranchers that the competitive sign-up deadline for its most popular voluntary conservation program, the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), is Feb. 26, 2016. This will be one of the most competitive general sign-up periods in history, in part due a statutory limit on the number of acres that can be enrolled in the program. The most competitive applications will be those that combine multiple conservation benefits, such as water quality and wildlife habitat.

For the past thirty years, CRP has provided financial incentives to farmers and ranchers to remove environmentally sensitive agricultural land from production to be planted with certain grasses, shrubs and trees that improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and increase wildlife habitat. Since 1985, CRP has sequestered an annual average of 49 million tons of greenhouse gases, equal to

taking 9 million cars off the road; prevented 9 billion tons of soil from erosion, enough to fill 600 million dump trucks; and reduced nitrogen and phosphorous runoff by 95 and 85 percent, respectively. CRP also protects more than 170,000 stream miles with forests and grasses, enough to go around the world seven times. The program has allowed for the restoration of 2.7 million acres of wetland.

As of January 2016, 23.6 million acres were enrolled in CRP, with contracts for more than 1.6 million acres set to expire this fall. The statutory cap on acres that can be enrolled is 24 million acres. Submissions will be ranked according to environmental benefits in comparison to all other offers nationwide. USDA will announce accepted offers after the enrollment period ends and offers are reviewed. For an interactive tour of CRP success stories from across the U.S., visit www.fsa.usda.gov/CRPis30, or follow on Twitter at #CRPis30.

For an interactive look at USDA's work in conservation and forestry over the course of this Administration, visit <http://medium.com/usda-results>.

Loan Servicing

There are options for Farm Service Agency loan customers during financial stress. If you are a borrower who is unable to make payments on a loan, contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager to learn about the options available to you.

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).