

June 2019



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

BULLETIN

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Carbon/Albany County FSA Updates

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Carbon/Albany County FSA Office

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Sheryl Hunter

Farm Loan Manager:
Dixie Mount, 307-322-4050

Program Technician:
Vacant

County Committee: Melinda Sims, Ryan Wilson, Michelle Hall, Cheryl Munroe, Savannah Chant

Next County Committee Meeting: June 21 at 10 AM

From the CED

For everyone participating in the Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) for additional feed needs purchased during the winter/spring; remember to provide your current year receipts along with the previous two (2) years' worth of receipts to the County Office. **The deadline to complete your application for payment is January 30, 2020.** The sooner you provide the receipts and application for payment, the soon we can get you paid.

If you experienced livestock losses due to adverse weather conditions, remember to notify the office within 30 days of the weather event. This will start the Notice of Loss process. Once you are ready to make application for payment on those losses, please contact the office. I will work with you on the required documentation and assist you in completing the application for payment.

Acreage reporting deadline is July 15 for all grass for grazing, hay, alfalfa, wheat, corn, barley and oats. If you are planting any of these commodities, and do not have a continuous certification on file, please contact the office to schedule an appoint to complete the acreage reporting requirement prior to the deadline. Continuous certification is only available on grass for grazing and grass hay. All other commodities require annual certifications.

County Committee Nominations will be opening this month. This year we will be filling LAA 1 -Medicine Bow Conservation District area, in Carbon County and LAA 4 – all land north of Township 19, in Albany County. If you are

interested in, or know of someone that might be, and are they located in these areas please consider nominating for County Committee.

Lastly, please remember that this office is only staffed with one employee. When you call and get the voice mail system, please leave your name, number and brief message. I will return you call as soon as possible. I really do wish to provide your customer service, but without leaving me a message I have no idea who called or what your return number is.

Nominations Open for the 2019 County Committee Elections

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages all farmers, ranchers, and FSA program participants to take part in the Carbon/Albany County Committee election nomination process.

FSA's county committees are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA and allow grassroots input and local administration of federal farm programs.

Committees are comprised of locally elected agricultural producers responsible for the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties. Committee members are accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture. If elected, members become part of a local decision making and farm program delivery process.

A county committee is composed of three to 11 elected members from local administrative areas (LAA). Each member serves a three-year term. One-third of the seats on these committees are open for election each year.

County committees may have an appointed advisor to further represent the local interests of underserved farmers and ranchers. Underserved producers are beginning, women and other minority farmers and ranchers and landowners and/or operators who have limited resources.

All nomination forms for the 2019 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA service center by Aug. 1, 2019. For more information on FSA county committee elections and appointments, refer to the FSA fact sheet: *Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a COC Member* available online at: fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Higher Limits Now Available on USDA Farm Loans

Higher limits are now available for borrowers interested in USDA's farm loans, which help agricultural producers purchase farms or cover operating expenses. The 2018 Farm Bill increased the amount that producers can borrow through direct and guaranteed loans available through USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) and made changes to other loans, such as microloans and emergency loans.

Key changes include:

- The Direct Operating Loan limit increased from \$300,000 to \$400,000, and the Guaranteed Operating Loan limit increased from \$ 1.429 million to \$1.75 million. Operating loans help producers pay for normal operating expenses, including machinery and equipment, seed, livestock feed, and more.
- The Direct Farm Ownership Loan limit increased from \$300,000 to \$600,000, and the Guaranteed Farm Ownership Loan limit increased from \$1.429 million to \$1.75 million. Farm ownership loans

help producers become owner-operators of family farms as well as improve and expand current operations.

- Producers can now receive both a \$50,000 Farm Ownership Microloan and a \$50,000 Operating Microloan. Previously, microloans were limited to a combined \$50,000. Microloans provide flexible access to credit for small, beginning, niche, and non-traditional farm operations.
- Producers who previously received debt forgiveness as part of an approved FSA restructuring plan are now eligible to apply for emergency loans. Previously, these producers were ineligible.
- Beginning and socially disadvantaged producers can now receive up to a 95 percent guarantee against the loss of principal and interest on a loan, up from 90 percent.

About Farm Loans

Direct farm loans, which include microloans and emergency loans, are financed and serviced by FSA, while guaranteed farm loans are financed and serviced by commercial lenders. For guaranteed loans, FSA provides a guarantee against possible financial loss of principal and interest.

For more information on FSA farm loans, visit www.fsa.usda.gov or contact your [local USDA service center](#).

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Sheryl Hunter at 307-326-5657 extension 2 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).