

June 2019



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# BULLETIN

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## Crook County FSA Updates

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**Crook County FSA Office:**  
PO Box 1070  
117 South 21st Street  
Sundance, WY 82729

Phone: 307-283-2870  
Fax: 855-415-3442

**County Executive Director:**  
Sarah Hanlon

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
Rob Weppner, 307-682-8843

**Program Technicians:**  
Susan Johnson  
Pam Schurman

**County Committee:**  
Ivan Cranston  
Jeanne Habeck  
Alan Ista  
Chase Williams

**Next County Committee Meeting:**

### County Office Notes

Hi everybody!

Please remember to attend your crop reporting appointments. All 2019 crops must be reported by July 15, 2019 or fees will apply to complete your report. If you have not been to see us yet, or still have items to report please schedule an appointment soon!

If you have damage or losses to crops, including grazing, or livestock due to hail, flooding, snow, lightning or many other causes please remember to report these losses timely. The NAP program only has a 15 day window in which to file these losses. Many others such as LIP and ELAP are 30 days.

Nominations are now open for COC candidates for LAA #1 in the northern third of the county. Please see the article below for more details.

Our national office would like to remind everybody that **Every Season is #scamseason**: Remember to discuss your USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) account information only with people you recognize and trust. If you have questions about your FSA accounts, contact the Crook County FSA office at 307-283-2870.

June 18, 2019 @ 9:00AM

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## 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 Name 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.

The area up for election this year is LAA#1, which is that area north of the following: Highway 24 (from South Dakota border) to Hulett, at Hulett along highway 112 to New Haven Road, along new Haven Road to Mule Creek Road, following Mule Creek Road to Grazing Association Road and along Grazing Association Road to the Campbell County line.

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](https://fsa.usda.gov/elections).

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## 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](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) or contact your [local USDA service center](#).

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Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact [Sarah Hanlon](#) at [307-283-2870](tel:307-283-2870) extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

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