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Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

BULLETIN

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- [Important Information Reminders](#)
- [FSA Encourages Farmers and Ranchers to Vote in County Committee Elections](#)
- [MAL and LDP Policy](#)
- [USDA Offers Targeted Farm Loan Funding for Underserved Groups and Beginning Farmers](#)

Crook County FSA Updates

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
Colter Ellsbury

Important Information Reminders

Hi, Everyone!

It is a busy fall in the FSA office, and as such, it will be a fairly lengthy update from me. Please stay with me and read to the end, as I do not want you to miss important opportunities for your operation! Many of you received letters from us reminding you to come see us about MFP, ARCPLC, Acreage Reporting, and NAP. These are all time sensitive items, many of which have deadlines coming up soon! Please, schedule a time to come see us. I will be reviewing deadlines and other important information for these, and other items below. Also, we have begun issuing ARC/PLC payments for the 2018 crop year. If you have any questions regarding these payments, please contact the office.

Wool producers - there is currently a small Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) available on ungraded wool. Since livestock are not reported to us annually, like crops are, *please contact the office if you are a wool producer!* The amount of the LDP changes on a weekly basis, and may not be available for long. To be eligible for the LDP, the producer must have beneficial interest in the commodity, defined as having title, possession, and control of the commodity; and responsible for loss or damage to the commodity. All related application forms must be completed at the local FSA office **prior** to loss of beneficial interest. The deadline to apply for 2019 wool LDP is January 31, 2020. There is also an LDP available currently on

Next County Committee Meeting:

November 19 @ 11:00 AM

chickpeas (garbanzo beans) and lentils, in case we have missed producers of these crops in the county.

While on the subject of **price support programs**, this is a good time to remind you about Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) that we have available through our office. These are nine-month loans at a low interest rate that allow you to market your commodity later but get the money now that will help your cash flow. It's a fairly easy process that is a good marketing tool for you. If you are interested in a MAL stop by our office for more information.

Please see the article below to learn more about both MALs and LDPs as well as the list of eligible commodities for both programs. Also, remember we offer Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL) on both fixed and portable commodity storage and handling equipment as part of our price support offerings.

Our 2nd Annual Holiday Eat and Greet will be **Monday, December 9th from 12:30pm - 2:30pm**, here at the Sundance USDA Service Center 117 S 21st Street in Sundance. In addition to the light snacks and holiday goodies we had last year, members of both your Crook County FSA Committee and the Crook County Natural Resource District Board will be here. So, please come and see us, learn about what the office has to offer, have a snack, and meet your local board members!

With new programs and always changing deadlines, we are working to improve how we share information with you. Beginning in January 2020 we will be holding **Workshop Wednesdays**. The first will be Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 4:00pm, location to be determined soon.

Ballots for County Committee elections will be going out soon for LAA 1. Please take the time to complete and return these.

Important Dates and Deadlines:

- November 1 - Deadline to complete application for payment on Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)
- November 15 - 2020 Acreage reporting deadline for fall seeded crops and honey. This is also the deadline to submit 2019 production evidence for these crops for NAP!
- December 2 - 2020 NAP application for coverage deadline for perennial forage (hay and grazing), fall seeded crops, and honey.
- December 2 - County Committee Election ballots must be postmarked or received in the office.
- December 6 - Market Facilitation Program (MFP) application deadline.
- December 9 - Holiday Eat & Greet, 12:30 - 2:30pm, Sundance Service Center.

As always, please remember to contact the office as soon as possible to report any crop or livestock losses. Notice of Loss deadlines are 15 days for NAP and 30 days for many other programs.

Making appointments is always appreciated, it ensures we can be fully prepared for your visit, and make the most of your time!

FSA Encourages Farmers and Ranchers to Vote in County Committee Elections

The 2019 Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections began on Nov. 4, when ballots were mailed to eligible voters. The deadline to return the ballots to local FSA offices, or to be postmarked, is Dec. 2, 2019.

County committee members are an important component of the operations of FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and USDA. Farmers and ranchers elected to county committees help deliver FSA programs at the local level, applying their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on commodity price support programs; conservation programs; incentive indemnity and disaster programs for some commodities; emergency programs and eligibility. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws.

To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm, may also be eligible to vote.

Eligible voters in local administrative area one (Northern portion of the county), who do not receive a ballot can obtain one from their local USDA Service Center.

Newly elected committee members will take office Jan. 1, 2020.

The candidate in this year's election is:

Alan Ista is nominated in LAA #1, Crook County, to serve as a committee member for a 3-year term. Alan has had a cow/calf and hay operation for 20 years.

Alan is an active member of Crook County Committee and serves as Chairperson.

More information on county committees, such as the new 2019 fact sheet, can be found on the FSA website at fsa.usda.gov/elections or at a local USDA Service Center.

MAL and LDP Policy

The 2018 Farm Bill extends loan authority through 2023 for Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs).

MALs and LDPs provide financing and marketing assistance for wheat, feed grains, soybeans, and other oilseeds, pulse crops, rice, peanuts, cotton, wool and honey. MALs provide producers interim financing after harvest to help them meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. A producer who is eligible to obtain a loan, but agrees to forgo the loan, may obtain an LDP if such a payment is available. Marketing loan provisions and LDPs are not available for sugar and extra-long staple cotton.

FSA is now accepting requests for 2019 MALs and LDPs for all eligible commodities after harvest. Requests for loans and LDPs shall be made on or before the final availability date for the respective commodities.

Commodity certificates are available to loan holders who have outstanding nonrecourse loans for wheat, upland cotton, rice, feed grains, pulse crops (dry peas, lentils, large and small chickpeas), peanuts, wool, soybeans and designated minor oilseeds. These certificates can be purchased at the posted county price (or adjusted world price or national posted price) for the quantity of commodity under loan, and must be

immediately exchanged for the collateral, satisfying the loan. MALs redeemed with commodity certificates are not subject to Adjusted Gross Income provisions.

To be considered eligible for an LDP, producers must have form [CCC-633EZ, Page 1](#) on file at their local FSA Office before losing beneficial interest in the crop. Pages 2, 3 or 4 of the form must be submitted when payment is requested.

Marketing loan gains (MLGs) and loan deficiency payments (LDPs) are no longer subject to payment limitations, actively engaged in farming and cash-rent tenant rules.

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) provisions state that a producer whose total applicable three-year average AGI exceeds \$900,000 is not eligible to receive an MLG or LDP. Producers must have a valid CCC-941 on file to earn a market gain of LDP. The AGI does not apply to MALs redeemed with commodity certificate exchange.

For more information and additional eligibility requirements, please visit a nearby USDA Service Center or FSA's website fsa.usda.gov.

USDA Offers Targeted Farm Loan Funding for Underserved Groups and Beginning Farmers

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers that FSA offers targeted farm ownership and farm operating loans to assist underserved applicants as well as beginning farmers and ranchers.

USDA defines underserved applicants as a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For farm loan program purposes, targeted underserved groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics and Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Underserved or beginning farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank can apply for either FSA direct loans or guaranteed loans. Direct loans are made to applicants by FSA. Guaranteed loans are made by lending institutions who arrange for FSA to guarantee the loan. FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. The FSA guarantee allows lenders to make agricultural credit available to producers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria.

The direct and guaranteed loan program provides for two types of loans: farm ownership loans and farm operating loans. In addition to customary farm operating and ownership loans, FSA now offers Microloans through the direct loan program. The focus of Microloans is on the financing needs of small, beginning farmer, niche and non-traditional farm operations. Microloans are available for both ownership and operating finance needs. To learn more about microloans, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans.

To qualify as a beginning producer, the individual or entity must meet the eligibility requirements outlined for direct or guaranteed loans. Additionally, individuals and all entity members must have operated a farm for less than 10 years. Applicants must materially or substantially participate in the operation.

For more information on FSA's farm loan programs and targeted underserved and beginning farmer guidelines, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans or contact Rob Weppner, Farm Loan Manager at 307-682-8843 Ext 2.

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.

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).