

September 2019



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# BULLETIN

GovDelivery

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## Fremont County FSA Updates

### Fremont County FSA Office

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Sydney Hoffman

### Monthly Message From Your Local County Office

**Marketing Facilitation Program (MFP)**, is here and we are taking applications. We have called all eligible producers if they reported both 2018 and 2019 eligible crops. Alfalfa has some exceptions and you may be eligible for payment, even if you do not normally report acreage to us. Please stop in and see us if you think you might be eligible and we have not called you. Spread the word to your neighbors who might also have eligible crops but do not receive our monthly newsletter. The signup deadline for this program is **December 6th**. Wyoming is paying \$15.00 an acre on eligible crops.

2019 and 2020 **Agriculture Risk Program/Price Loss Coverage Program (ARC/PLC)** signup is also currently open. The 2019 has a deadline of **March 15, 2020**. When you come in to sign up for MFP, we will try to enroll you in both programs if you have eligible base acres.

Producers with grass hay **Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)** coverage, need to remember to turn in their production on the 2019 harvest. We will start taking 2020 NAP Applications for Coverage in October. It is also a great time to file your 2020 crop report on fall seeded crops which have a **November 15, 2019** deadline.

County Committee Election ballots will be mailed **November 4, 2019**. This year's Local Administrative Area (LAA) up for election is the Lander and

**County Committee:**  
Jim Hellyer - Chairman  
Stan Horton - Vice- Chairman  
Will O'Neal- Member:

**Next County Committee Meeting: October 10, 2019**

Dubois area. The incumbent is Jim Hellyer. He was the only nomination received for this year's election. Jim has been a partner in his family ranch for over 15 years. He is a member of the Fremont County Cattleman's Association and the Wyoming Stock Growers Association. He is a life long resident of Lander. Ballots must be returned to the office by **December 2, 2019**.

Winter is around the corner. I believe we are expecting our first dusting of snow this week. I would like to remind all livestock producers to let us know immediately if you experience an abnormal weather event or livestock loss for our **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)**. Pictures stay a thousand words; moreover, are a great way to document your cause of loss.

We look forward to seeing you! Thank you for your business!

## **USDA Announces Buy-Up Coverage Availability and New Service Fees for Noninsured Crop Coverage Policies**

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USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that higher levels of coverage will be offered through the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), a popular safety net program, beginning April 8, 2019. The 2018 Farm Bill also increased service fees and made other changes to the program, including service fee waivers for qualified military veterans interested in obtaining NAP coverage.

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of commercial crops for which insurance coverage is not available in order to protect against natural disasters that result in lower yields or crop losses, or prevent crop planting.

### **NAP Buy-Up Coverage Option**

The 2018 Farm Bill reinstates higher levels of coverage, from 50 to 65 percent of expected production in 5 percent increments, at 100 percent of the average market price. Producers of organics and crops marketed directly to consumers also may exercise the "buy-up" option to obtain NAP coverage of 100 percent of the average market price at the coverage levels of between 50 and 65 percent of expected production. NAP basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production.

Buy-up coverage is not available for crops intended for grazing.

### **NAP Service Fees**

For all coverage levels, the new NAP service fee is the lesser of \$325 per crop or \$825 per producer per county, not to exceed a total of \$1,950 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. These amounts reflect a \$75 service fee increase for crop, county or multi-county coverage. The fee increases apply to obtaining NAP coverage on crops on or after April 8, 2019.

### **NAP Enhancements for Qualified Military Veterans**

The 2018 Farm Bill NAP amendments specify that qualified veteran farmers or ranchers are now eligible for a service fee waiver and premium reduction, if the NAP applicant meets certain eligibility criteria.

Beginning, limited resource and targeted underserved farmers or ranchers remain eligible for a waiver of NAP service fees and premium reduction when they file form CCC-860, "*Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource and Beginning Farmer or Rancher Certification.*"

For NAP application, eligibility and related program information, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/nap](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nap) or contact your local USDA Service Center. To locate your local FSA office, visit [www.farmers.gov](http://www.farmers.gov).

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## New Farmers.gov Feature Helps Producers Find Farm Loans that Fit Their Operation

A new online tool can help farmers and ranchers find information on U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) farm loans that may best fit their operations. USDA has launched the new *Farm Loan Discovery Tool* as the newest feature on farmers.gov, the Department's self-service website for farmers.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers a variety of loan options to help farmers finance their operations. From buying land to financing the purchase of equipment, FSA loans can help. Compared to this time last year, FSA has seen an 18 percent increase in the amount it has obligated for direct farm ownership loans, and through the 2018 Farm Bill, has [increased the limits](#) for several loan products.

USDA conducted field research in eight states, gathering input from farmers and FSA farm loan staff to better understand their needs and challenges.

### How the Tool Works

Farmers who are looking for financing options to operate a farm or buy land can answer a few simple questions about what they are looking to fund and how much money they need to borrow. After submitting their answers, farmers will be provided information on farm loans that best fit their specific needs. The loan application and additional resources also will be provided.

Farmers can download application quick guides that outline what to expect from preparing an application to receiving a loan decision. There are four guides that cover loans to individuals, entities, and youth, as well as information on microloans. The guides include general eligibility requirements and a list of required forms and documentation for each type of loan. These guides can help farmers prepare before their first USDA service center visit with a loan officer.

Farmers can access the *Farm Loan Discovery Tool* by visiting [farmers.gov/fund](http://farmers.gov/fund) and clicking the "Start" button. Follow the prompts and answer five simple questions to receive loan information that is applicable to your agricultural operation. The tool is built to run on any modern browser like Chrome, Edge, Firefox, or the Safari browser, and is fully functional on mobile devices. It does not work in Internet Explorer.

### About Farmers.gov

In 2018, USDA unveiled farmers.gov, a dynamic, mobile-friendly public website combined with an authenticated portal where farmers will be able to apply for programs, process transactions, and manage accounts.

The *Farm Loan Discovery Tool* is one of many resources on farmers.gov to help connect farmers to information that can help their operations. Earlier this year, USDA launched the *My Financial Information* feature, which enables farmers to view their loan information, history, payments, and alerts by logging into the website.

USDA is building farmers.gov for farmers, by farmers. In addition to the interactive farm loan features, the site also offers a Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool. Farmers can visit [farmers.gov/recover/disaster-assistance-tool/#step-1](https://farmers.gov/recover/disaster-assistance-tool/#step-1) to find disaster assistance programs that can help their operation recover from natural disasters.

With feedback from customers and field employees who serve those customers, farmers.gov delivers farmer-focused features through an agile, iterative process to deliver the greatest immediate value to America's agricultural producers – helping farmers and ranchers do right, and feed everyone.

For more information or to locate your USDA Service Center, visit [farmers.gov](https://farmers.gov).

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Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact [Annie Bryce](#) at 307-856-7524 extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

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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).