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Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

BULLETIN

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Natrona/Converse County FSA Updates

Natrona/Converse County FSA Office

5880 Enterprise Drive, Suite 100
Casper, WY 82609 Phone: 307-261-5436 Fax: 855-415-3428

County Executive Director:
Deena R. McDaniels

Farm Loan Manager:
Dixie Mount

Program Technician:
Wanda K. McLean

County Committee:
Phil Johnson, Chairman
Kem C. Nicolaysen,
Vice Chairman
Lee Moore, Member
Josh Moore, Member
Heather Harlan, Member

Next County Committee Meeting: July 30, 2019

Eligibility for Elections for the 2019 County Committee

Elections for USDA's Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Natrona/Converse County Committee are underway.

It is important that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the USDA. The 2019 election in Natrona County will be conducted for the representative Local Administrative Area (LAA 1): The Kendrick Project with the southern boundary between Townships 33N and 32N. The 2019 election in Converse County will be conducted for Local Administrative Area (LAA 5): Everything south of Interstate 25 from the Natrona County line to the Platte County line.

To be eligible to vote in the elections, a person must:

Meet requirement one (see explanation below) **or** meet requirement two, **and** requirement three (see explanation below).

Requirement One: Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either: an individual who meets one or more of the following; (a) is eligible and capable to vote in one's own right, (b) is a partner of a general partnership, (c) is a member of a joint venture **OR** an authorized representative of a legal entity, such as: (a) a corporation, estate, trust, limited partnership or other business enterprise, excluding general

partnership and joint ventures or (b) a state, political subdivision of a state or any state agency (only the designated representative may cast a vote for the entity).

Requirement Two: Not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm.

Requirement Three: Participates or cooperates in an FSA program that is provided by law.

County committee election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 4, 2019. The last day to return completed ballots to the USDA service center is Dec. 2, 2019.

For more information on eligibility to serve on FSA county committees, visit: fsa.usda.gov/elections.

FSA Offers Assistance for Flooding Feed and Grazing Losses

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)

Producers who suffered livestock feed or grazing losses due to recent flooding could be eligible for assistance through the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP).

ELAP provides emergency relief for losses due to feed or water shortages, disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, which are not adequately addressed by other disaster programs.

ELAP covers physically damaged or destroyed livestock feed that was purchased or mechanically harvested forage or feedstuffs intended for use as feed for the **producer's** eligible livestock. In order to be considered eligible, harvested forage must be baled. Forage that is only cut, raked or windrowed is not eligible. Producers must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent.

ELAP also covers up to 180 lost grazing days in instances when a producer has been forced to remove livestock from a grazing pasture due to wildfire.

For beekeepers, ELAP covers beehive losses (the physical structure) in instances where the hive has been destroyed by a natural disaster including flooding, high winds, wildfire and tornadoes.

Producers with a qualifying loss should contact the Natrona/Converse county FSA office to file a notice of loss within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent. Producers should also maintain records and receipts documenting that livestock were removed from the grazing pasture due to flood, costs of transporting livestock feed to eligible livestock, receipts for equipment rental fees for hay lifts, feed purchase receipts and the number of gallons of water transported to livestock due to water shortages.

For more information regarding ELAP, please contact the Natrona/Converse County FSA Office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/disaster.

Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to youth to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the youth loan applicant, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Deena R. McDaniels at 307-261-5436 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).