

July 2019



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

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Niobrara County FSA Updates

Niobrara County FSA Office

905 South Main Street
PO Box 720
Lusk, WY 82225

Phone: (307) 334-2953, Ext. 2
Fax: (855) 415-3433

County Executive

Director: Laura Kessler

Program Technician:

Kimberly Nusbaum

Farm Loan Manager:

Dixie Mount (307) 322-4050

County Committee:

Jason ZumBrunnen
Joe Kruse
Kurt Gaukel

Niobrara County Notes

Greetings Niobrara County Farmers and Ranchers!

We know it has been a year of challenges due to adverse weather. Starting off with icy, extremely cold weather to blizzards to cool, wet spring weather and now hail season is upon us. With all these adverse weather events occurring we would like to remind producers we do have programs to help with livestock and crop losses. If you ever have an adverse weather event occur of any kind, please call us and share so we can help fit you into a program for the type of event you have suffered. Most of our programs have a 15 to 30-day window to take a notice of loss. Currently we are seeing a lot of Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) applications. ELAP offers help with grazing day losses due to hail. It covers many other adverse weather losses as well, but hail seems to be the common culprit this year. So please call the office at 307-334-2953 if you have had pasture losses due to hail so we can get a Notice of Loss on file for you in a timely manner. You only have 30 days from the event to put this on file. All it takes is a phone call to meet your 30-day requirement. We can get into the in-depth particulars and requirements of the program when it is a convenient time for you.

I would also like to remind individuals that we are taking nominations for County Committee candidates for LAA #3, Southeast Niobrara County, until August 1st. We will be having an informational meeting at the office on July 31st if anyone is interested in learning more about the County Committee, see article below for more details. As always, if you have any operational

Carol Geisinger, COC Advisor

Next County Committee Meeting:
August 15, 2019

changes, new ground, including deeding your land into a revocable trust, release of ground, new members or shares in entities, different bank accounts etc., please let us know so we can keep our records as accurate as possible.

Happy Summer!

Please note the following important dates and deadlines:

August 1, 2019 – Deadline to nominate a candidate for County Committee Election

Within 15 days of noticing crop loss – File NAP Notice of Loss

Within 30 days of adverse weather losses - File ELAP Notice of Loss

Within 30 days of noticing livestock loss – File LIP Notice of Loss

Niobrara County Farm Service Agency Holds County Committee Election Informational Meeting

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director Laura Kessler in Niobrara County reminds farmers and landowners that FSA is hosting an informational meeting regarding the 2019 County Committee Election process on July 31, 2019, at 10:00 am at the Niobrara County USDA Service Center located at 905 South Main St in Lusk. Producers, including minority, women and new farmers, are encouraged to attend the meeting and participate in the 2019 election.

The county committee nomination period began on June 14, 2019. Nomination forms must be postmarked or received in the Niobrara County FSA office by close of business on Aug. 1, 2019.

For election purposes, counties are divided into local administrative areas (LAA). Each LAA nominates and elects one producer to serve a three-year term on the FSA county committee.

Each year, an election is held in an LAA where a committee member's three-year term is expiring. For 2019, an election will be held in LAA 3, which includes the southeast portion of Niobrara County, from the corner of T34N R63W and those south and east of there.

To be eligible to serve on an FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate.

Farmers and ranchers may nominate themselves or others. Organizations representing minorities and women also may nominate candidates. To become a candidate, an eligible individual must sign an FSA-669A nomination form. The form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Nationwide, there are approximately 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. These individuals make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other agricultural issues. Committees consist of three to 11 members who are elected by eligible producers.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Laura Kessler at 307-334-2953, ext. 2, or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339, by July 30, 2019.

USDA Offers Producers Options to Re-enroll or Extend Expiring CRP Contracts

Farmers and ranchers with expiring [Conservation Reserve Program](#) (CRP) contracts may now re-enroll in certain CRP continuous signup practices or, if eligible, select a one-year contract extension. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is also accepting offers from landowners who want to enroll for the first time in one of the country's largest conservation programs. FSA's 52nd signup for CRP runs from June 3 to August 23.

This year's CRP continuous signup includes practices such as grass waterways, filter strips, riparian buffers, wetland restoration and others. [View a full list of practices approved for this signup](#). Continuous signup contracts last for 10 to 15 years. Soil rental rates are set at 90 percent of 2018 rates. Incentive payments are not offered for these practices.

Producers interested in applying for CRP continuous practices, including those under existing CREP agreements, or who want to extend their contract, should contact their USDA service center by August 23.

To locate your local FSA office, visit www.farmers.gov. More information on CRP can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov/crp.

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 [Laura Kessler](#) at [307-334-2953](tel:307-334-2953) 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).