

August 2019



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

BULLETIN

GovDelivery

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

- [Niobrara County Notes](#)
- [USDA Opens Signup for Market Facilitation Program](#)
- [Attention all Buyers of Agricultural Products](#)

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

Carol Geisinger, COC Advisor

Niobrara County Notes

Greeting Farmers and Ranchers!

Where has the year gone? We are quickly approaching fall and with that will come a few new sign-ups.

We will soon be starting to do elections for the ARC/PLC program. This farm bill you will need to make an election for 2019/2020 and will be able to change your election from year to year through 2023. You will have the option to update your base yields with this farm bill. Please be preparing to gather information for updating yields and start researching what options you may want to choose for your farm(s).

We also have a new Market Facilitation Program to help compensate for low commodity prices due to the current tariff situation. Anyone who had alfalfa, corn, oats, wheat, barley, millet, rye, sorghum, and triticale in crop year 2019 may want to check with the office to see if you qualify for the \$15/acre payment, please see article below.

We also want to remind everyone that has filed an application for LIP for livestock losses, NAP for commodity losses or ELAP for grazing losses that you will need to start working on finalizing the documentation you need to finish your application. If you are unaware of what you still need to finalize your application, please contact the office and we will be happy to share that with you.

Next County Committee Meeting: September 23, 2019

Finally we want to encourage those of you in LAA #3 to vote in the upcoming election. LAA #3 is the southeast corner of Niobrara County. Ballots will be mailed November 4th.

Please note the following important dates and deadlines:

September 2, 2019 – OFFICE CLOSED – Labor Day

October 14, 2019 – OFFICE CLOSED – Columbus Day

November 15, 2019 – Fall seeded crop reporting deadline

December 2, 2019 – Deadline to purchase 2020 NAP Coverage

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

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

USDA Opens Signup for Market Facilitation Program

Enrollment Now Open through Dec. 6

Signup opens today for the Market Facilitation Program (MFP), a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program to assist farmers who continue to suffer from damages because of unjustified trade retaliation from foreign nations. Through MFP, USDA will provide up to \$14.5 billion in direct payments to impacted producers, part of a broader trade relief package announced in late July. The sign-up period runs through Dec. 6.

MFP payments will be made to producers of certain non-specialty and specialty crops as well as dairy and hog producers.

Non-Specialty Crops

MFP payments will be made to producers of alfalfa hay, barley, canola, corn, crambe, dried beans, dry peas, extra-long staple cotton, flaxseed, lentils, long grain and medium grain rice, millet, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, rapeseed, rye, safflower, sesame seed, small and large chickpeas, sorghum, soybeans, sunflower seed, temperate japonica rice, triticale, upland cotton, and wheat.

MFP assistance for 2019 crops is based on a single county payment rate multiplied by a farm's total plantings to the MFP-eligible crops in aggregate in 2019. Those per acre payments are not dependent on which of those crops are planted in 2019. A producer's total payment-eligible plantings cannot exceed total 2018 plantings. [View payment rates by county.](#)

Dairy and Hogs

Dairy producers who were in business as of June 1, 2019, will receive a per hundredweight payment on production history, and hog producers will receive a payment based on the number of live hogs owned on a day selected by the producer between April 1 and May 15, 2019.

Specialty Crops

MFP payments will also be made to producers of almonds, cranberries, cultivated ginseng, fresh grapes, fresh sweet cherries, hazelnuts, macadamia nuts, pecans, pistachios, and walnuts. Each specialty crop will receive a payment based on 2019 acres of fruit or nut bearing plants, or in the case of ginseng, based on harvested acres in 2019.

More Information

Payments will be made in up to three tranches, with the second and third tranches evaluated as market conditions and trade opportunities dictate. If conditions warrant, the second and third tranches will be made in November and early January.

MFP payments are limited to a combined \$250,000 for non-specialty crops per person or legal entity. MFP payments are also limited to a combined \$250,000 for dairy and hog producers and a combined \$250,000 for specialty crop producers. However, no applicant can receive more than \$500,000. Eligible applicants must also have an average adjusted gross income (AGI) for tax years 2015, 2016, and 2017 of less than \$900,000, or 75 percent of the person's or legal entity's average AGI for those tax years must have been derived from farming and ranching. Applicants must also comply with the provisions of the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation regulations.

More information can be found on farmers.gov/mfp, including payment information and a program application.

Attention all Buyers of Agricultural Products

It is required that buyers of agricultural products check or register with the Secretary of State's Office to determine if there are liens against the Seller of the product. If a lien is found you are required to place the lien holders name on the check as well as that of the Seller. Ag Products include but are not limited to: livestock (including horses), crops used for feed (hay, silage, oats, etc.), machinery, equipment and all other crops. Failure to place the lien holder's name on the check may result in civil legal action being taken against the Buyer of the product. Protect yourself as a Buyer! You may contact the Secretary of State's Office at 1-307-777-7311.

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).