

MAY 2019



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# BULLETIN

**GovDelivery**

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## Sheridan~Johnson County FSA Updates

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### Sheridan~Johnson County **From the Desk of Linda Benzel, CED** FSA Office

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**County Committee:**  
Raymon Turk, Chairman  
John Buyok, Vice Chairman  
Thad Stoltz, Member  
Ray Daly, Member  
Gerry Miller, Member  
Susan Moyes, SD Advisor

We hope your busy spring is running smoothly with branding, docking and planting underway!

It's time once again for the Crop Acreage Reporting for ALL Spring planted crops. Crop reporting is a requirement for participation in the many FSA programs such as CRP, NAP (Non-insured Crop Assistance Program), ARC/PLC and LIP, ELAP, & LFP Disaster programs.

**Acreage Reporting/Crop Certification deadline for all 2019 crops, including native pasture is Monday, July 15, 2019.**

We look forward to serving you. As always, please don't hesitate to call our office with any questions.

Sincerely,

Linda Benzel, CED

Next County Committee  
Meeting:  
Wednesday, June 19, 2019

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

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.

Producers have a **one-time opportunity until May 24, 2019**, to obtain buy-up coverage for 2019 or 2020 eligible crops for which the NAP application closing date has passed.

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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## Guaranteed Conservation Loans

Guaranteed Conservation Loans are available for applicants to install a conservation practice. These funds may be used for any conservation activities included in a conservation plan or Forest Stewardship Management plan. A copy of the conservation plan is required to complete the application. These loans are

not limited to just family farmers. In some cases, applicants can operate non-eligible enterprises. Loan funds are issued by a participating commercial lender and guaranteed up to 80 percent by FSA or up to 90 percent for beginning and historically underserved producers.

The goal of FSA's Conservation Loan (CL) program is to provide access to credit for farmers who need and want to implement conservation measures on their land, but do not have the "up front" funds available to implement these practices.

Unlike FSA's traditional farm ownership and operating loan programs that are targeted toward smaller and less financially established farmers, eligibility requirements for the CL program are expanded to permit FSA to provide assistance to some applicants who may be large and financially strong.

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Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Linda Benzel at (307) 683-4202 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

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