October 2019

United States Department of Agriculture

Farm Service Agency Electronic News Service

BULLETIN

GovDelivery

Sheridan~Johnson County FSA Updates

Sheridan-Johnson County FSA Office

1949 Sugarland Drive, Ste. 126
Sheridan, WY 82801

Phone: 307-683-4202
Fax: 866-574-1670

County Executive Director:
Linda Benzel

Farm Loan Manager:
Rob Weppner
rob.weppner@usda.gov
(307) 682-8843 ext. 2

Program Technicians:
Staci L Steiner
Justine Scheeler

County Committee:
Raymon Turk, Chairman
John Buyok, Vice Chairman
Thad Stoltz, Member
Ray Daly, Member

From the Desk of Linda Benzel, CED

Hello Producers,

Deadlines – a common word in our agency! Please be mindful of the dates below. Fast approaching….with November knocking on our door.

We are busy with MFP, fall acreage reporting and NAP fee processing. Please schedule an appointment if you plan to file an MFP application, report fall planted crops or filing a NAP application for coverage. Trips to Kaycee and Buffalo are also planned to accommodate our producers.

- **Fall Planted crops reporting deadline, Friday, November 15, 2019**
- **Ballots for LAA3 due in office by Monday, December 2, 2019**
- **NAP for 2020 signup deadline is Monday, December 2, 2019**
- **MFP deadline signup Friday, December 6, 2019**

Producers are encouraged to call their local FSA office to schedule an appointment to ensure maximum use of their time and to make sure FSA staff is available to tend to their important business needs. Please call your local FSA office ahead of your visit to set an appointment and to discuss any records or documentation that might be needed during your appointment.

We hope your fall gathering and shipping is all going well.

Gerry Miller, Member
Susan Moyes, SD Advisor

Next County Committee Meeting: TBA

Best Regards,

Linda Benzel, CED

USDA Announces Buy-Up Coverage Availability and New Service Fees for Noninsured Crop Coverage Policies (NAP)

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 or contact your local USDA Service Center. To locate your local FSA office, visit www.farmers.gov.

USDA Offers Targeted Farm Loan Funding for Underserved Groups and Beginning Farmers

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers that FSA offers targeted farm ownership and farm operating loans to assist underserved applicants as well as beginning farmers and ranchers.

USDA defines underserved applicants as a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For farm loan program purposes, targeted underserved groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics and Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Underserved or beginning farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank can apply for either FSA direct loans or guaranteed loans. Direct loans are made to applicants by FSA. Guaranteed loans are made by lending institutions who arrange for FSA to guarantee the loan. FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. The FSA guarantee allows lenders to make agricultural credit available to producers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria.

The direct and guaranteed loan program provides for two types of loans: farm ownership loans and farm operating loans. In addition to customary farm operating and ownership loans, FSA now offers Microloans through the direct loan program. The focus of Microloans is on the financing needs of small, beginning farmer, niche and non-traditional farm operations. Microloans are available for both ownership and operating finance needs. To learn more about microloans, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans.

To qualify as a beginning producer, the individual or entity must meet the eligibility requirements outlined for direct or guaranteed loans. Additionally, individuals and all entity members must have operated a farm for less than 10 years. Applicants must materially or substantially participate in the operation.

For more information on FSA's farm loan programs and targeted underserved and beginning farmer guidelines, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans or contact Rob Weppner, Farm Loan Manager at 307-682-8843 Ext 2.

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.
