



NEWSLETTER



Weston County Newsletter

October 2019

Weston County FSA Office
1225 Washington Blvd., Ste. 2
Newcastle, WY 82701

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Office Hours

8:00 am – 4:30 pm
Monday – Friday

County Executive Director

Peggy Livingston
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Farm Loan Manager

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Program Technician

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County Committee

Tim Tysdal, Chariman
Chuck Grieves, Vice Chariman
Randy Oleson, Member
Robin Riesland, Minority
Advisor

Next County Committee Meeting:

June 26, 2019 at 10:00 am

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

With fall in full swing, many of you are very busy with livestock work, but I would like to remind everyone of some **very important deadlines** that are just around the corner. **PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ THIS NEWSLETTER! IT HAS SOME VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION THAT MAY DETERMINE FUTURE ELIGIBILITY.** If you have any questions about these programs or if you are unsure about your eligibility, please call or stop into our office.

- **2019 HAY PRODUCTION FOR NAP CROPS**-the deadline for turning in 2019 production records for 2019 NAP covered crops is **November 15, 2019**. This will require bale counts and bale weight on individual fields or if the same crop was produced on multiple fields, a total count will be acceptable. Co-mingling production for multiple crop types is not acceptable for production history. If you are producing crops covered by NAP, maintaining production history with FSA is particularly important-one year of missing production history penalizes you at a rate of 65% of the average county yield.
- **2020 NAP**-the deadline for obtaining Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program coverage is rapidly approaching. **December 1, 2019** is the final day producers can sign up for coverage. The rates for coverage have changed from previous years, the new rate is \$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. Basic coverage is available at 55% of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50% of expected production. Buy-up coverage will continue to be offered for hay crops from 50% to 65% of expected production in 5% increments, at 100% of the average market price. Buy-up coverage is not available for crops intended for grazing.
- **2019 and 2020 ARC/PLC**-the county office is currently accepting signup for the Agricultural Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Program for both 2019 and 2020. The deadline for 2019 is **March 15, 2020** and the deadline for 2020 is **June 30, 2020**. Producers must signup for the same program, either ARC-County or PLC, for both 2019 and 2020 program years. Years 2021-2023 will allow producers to select either program annually or one program for years 2021-2023. Producers enrolled in ARC or PLC must protect all cropland and noncropland acres on the farm from wind and water erosion, additionally, they agree to effectively control noxious weeds on the farm according to sound agricultural practices. If a producer fails to take necessary actions to correct a maintenance problem on an ARC or PLC enrolled farm, the County Committee may elect to terminate the contract for that program year.
- **2019 MFP**-the county office is currently accepting application for the 2019 Marketing Facilitation Program through **December 6, 2019**. MFP is a USDA program to assist producers who have been affected by unwarranted retaliatory tariffs on U.S. farm goods. Weston County producers of alfalfa hay, barley, corn, dry peas, millet, oats, sorghum, triticale, and wheat may be eligible for MFP payments. Assistance is based on a single county payment rate multiplied by a farm's total reported eligible crop acres in aggregate in 2019. A producer's total payment-eligible plantings cannot exceed total 2018 plantings.
- **2019 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION**-producers in the Northeast Area (LAA #1) of the county will soon be receiving ballots for election of a new county committee member. Tim Tysdal will be stepping down as county committeeman for this area, having served the maximum 3 consecutive terms. I really appreciated Tim's dedication to the committee and his input was invaluable to the committee and myself. Please thank Tim when you see him for a job well done. There are two individuals who have expressed interest in serving on the county committee going forward-Harry Tavegia and Justin Mills. Both Harry and Justin ranch in the LAA #1. It is important that every eligible producer participate in this election as the county committee is the link between the agricultural community and USDA. The County Committee members are a critical component of FSA operations. Ballots should be mailed to eligible voters on November 4, 2019 and the last day to return completed ballots to the county office is **December 2, 2019**.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about any information shared in this newsletter, please do not hesitate to call the county office.

Best Regards,

Peggy Livingston, CED

JUSTIN MILLS



Justin Mills has lived in LAA#1 for 6.5 years. He grew up on a ranch near Devil's Tower where they raised cow-calf pairs and farmed. He graduated from the University of Wyoming with a degree in Agriculture Education. He now raises cow-calf pairs locally and does custom grazing for beef and sheep. He currently serves on the Farm Bureau Board and with the Wyoming Stock Growers Association. He has worked as CEO and General Manager of the Norther International Livestock Exposition (NILE) and served on the Billings Ag Chamber Committee. Justin is willing to serve if elected.

HARRY TAVEGIA



Harry Tavegia has lived in LAA#1 for 58 years. He has operated his ranch for 40 years, producing cattle, forage and grain. He has served on the Inyan Kara Gazing Association Board, served as Chairman of the Soil Conservation Board as well as being a former Chairman of the Weston County Committee. Harry will fairly and equitably represent the producers if he is elected and will support the farmers and rancher to get the most out of each program. Harry is willing to serve if elected.

County committee members are an important component of the operations of FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and USDA. Farmers and ranchers elected to county committees help deliver FSA programs at the local level, applying their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on commodity price support programs; conservation programs; incentive indemnity and disaster programs for some commodities; emergency programs and eligibility. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws.

To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm, may also be eligible to vote. Eligible voters in local administrative area 1, who do not receive a ballot can obtain one from the Weston County FSA Office.

Newly elected committee members will take office Jan. 1, 2020.

COVER CROP GUIDELINES

Recently the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Risk Management Agency (RMA) worked together to develop consistent, simple and a flexible policy for cover crop practices. The termination and reporting guidelines were updated for cover crops.

Termination:

The cover crop termination guidelines provide the timeline for terminating cover crops, are based on zones and apply to non-irrigated cropland. To view the zones and additional guidelines visit <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/landuse/crops/> and click "Cover Crop Termination Guidelines."

Reporting:

The intended use of cover only will be used to report cover crops. This includes crops that were terminated by tillage and reported with an intended use code of green manure. An FSA policy change allowS cover crops to be hayed and grazed. Program eligibility for the cover crop that is being hayed or grazed will be determined by each specific program.

If the crop reported as cover only is harvested for any use other than forage or grazing and is not terminated properly, then that crop will no longer be considered a cover crop.

Crops reported with an intended use of cover only will not count toward the total cropland on the farm. In these situations a subsequent crop will be reported to account for all cropland on the farm.

Cover crops include grasses, legumes, and forbs, for seasonal cover and other conservation purposes. Cover crops are primarily used for erosion control, soil health improvement, and water quality improvement. The cover crop may be terminated by natural causes, such as frost, or intentionally terminated through chemical application, crimping, rolling, tillage or cutting. A cover crop managed and terminated according to NRCS Cover Crop Termination Guidelines is **not** considered a crop for crop insurance purposes.

Cover crops can be planted: with no subsequent crop planted, before a subsequent crop, after prevented planting acreage, after a planted crop, or into a standing crop.



CHANGING BANK ACCOUNTS

FSA program payments are issued electronically into your bank account. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify your FSA servicing office if you close your account or if your bank information is changed for whatever reason (such as your financial institution merging or being purchased). Payments can be delayed if FSA is not notified of changes to account and bank routing numbers.

For some programs, payments are not made until the following year. For example, payments for crop year 2018 through the Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage program aren't paid until 2019. If the bank account was closed due to the death of an individual or dissolution of an entity or partnership before the payment was issued, please notify your local FSA office as soon as possible to claim your payment.

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. To apply for a loan, please contact Farm Loan Manager Rob Weppner at 307-682-8843.

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 4, 2019	Ballots for LAA#1 election will be sent to eligible voters.
November 15, 2019	Acreage Reporting deadline for 2019 Fall Planted Crops – please call for an appointment
November 15, 2019	2019 Hay Production for NAP Crops submission deadline.
December 1, 2019	NAP signup deadline for 2020 Crop Year.
December 2, 2019	LAA#1 Ballots must be returned to the county office.
December 31, 2019	ELAP Application for Payment submission deadline.
December 6, 2019	2019 Marketing Facilitation Program signup deadline.
March 1, 2019	2019 LIP Application for Payment filing deadline.
March 15, 2020	Enrollment deadline for 2019 ARC/PLC .
June 30, 2020	Enrollment deadline for 2020 ARC/PLC .
NAP Notice of Loss must be filed the earlier of <u>15 days</u> of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent, or 15 days of the final harvest date. LIP Notice of Loss must be filed <u>30 calendar days</u> of when the loss is first apparent. Leases and/or Land Ownership including operational changes must be reported within <u>30 calendar days</u> of change to avoid late fees, repayment of funds issued and/or ineligibility for program participation.	



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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact Peggy Livingston at 307-746-2701 extension 2 or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html (How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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