

February 2016



Fremont County FSA Updates

Fremont County FSA Office

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County Executive Director:

Annie Bryce

Farm Loan Manager:

Brian Harrell

Program Technicians:

Lauren Evans
Carol Zogata

County Committee:

Bill Jennings, Chairman
Bryan Hamilton, Vice-Chairman
Will O'Neal, Member

Next County Committee Meeting:

March 2016

Election Results

Congratulations to Will O'Neal. Will was elected to his second 3-year term as representative for LAA#1, representing the Wind River Reservation. Bill Jennings was reelected as Chairman of the board and Bryan Hamilton was reelected as the Vice Chairman.

Thank you Will, Bill, and Bryan for your willingness to represent the farmers and ranchers of Fremont County, and thank you to all the producers who participated by voting for your area representatives.

Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC) Program

Signup for the ARC/PLC program started December 7th and runs through **August 1, 2016**. It is your responsibility to enroll your farm each year (2016, 2017, and 2018) during the signup period.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

As calving and lambing begins, livestock tends to be more vulnerable, please keep in mind the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) for any death losses with your livestock.

The Livestock Indemnity Program provides assistance to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses due to adverse weather, including but not limited to losses due to floods, blizzards, extreme cold with precipitation, lightening, tornados, and wildfires. For 2016, eligible losses must occur on or after January 1, 2016, and before December 31, 2016. A notice of loss must be filed with FSA within **30**

days of when the loss of livestock is apparent.

****Keep Records of Livestock and Events****

Both LIP and Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) require producers to keep good records! Producers need to document both beginning and end inventories, normal mortality losses, and cause of claimed losses. We will require your personal records and outside records such as vet bills, trucking receipts, brand inspections, vaccination receipts, etc. We will need something to prove the cause of loss when the loss is outside your normal mortality and is either weather related or caused by another eligible cause of loss. Pictures are great proof of losses; take pictures if at all possible! Pictures should be of the lost animals and the cause of their loss.

Sign-up is ongoing. Additional details on the types of information required for an application will be provided as part of the sign-up process. Some eligibility restrictions may apply.

Keep Your Farm Records Updated

FSA needs to keep records updated at all times. If you have any of the following changes, please report them to our office. If any of the following have changed: Name, address, phone number, bank account, sold property, purchased property, leased property, relinquished leases, please contact our office as soon as possible.

Failing to report changes to the County Office can significantly impact the timeliness of processing program application and benefits.

Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The sales closing date to purchase coverage on NAP eligible crops has changed. All perennial hay crops, pasture grass, winter wheat, and all spring seeded crops now have a sales closing date of April 1st. NAP offers a "buy-up" coverage on all eligible crops harvested for forage (hay). Through the "buy-up" option, coverage can be purchased for levels of 50, 55, 60 and 65 % of the yield, at 100% of the crop price. Premiums are minimal and are paid in addition to the \$250 per crop service fee for the NAP policy. Call the office to see how "buy-up" coverage can work for you.

If you currently have a 2016 NAP basic coverage policy you simply come to the office, select which level of buy-up coverage you want and sign the policy. If you do not currently have a 2016 NAP basic policy you can still purchase buy up coverage by paying the \$250 service fee per crop and then select the level of buy up coverage and sign all necessary forms.

FSA has a great tool to calculate premiums and loss payments at www.fsa.usapas.com/NAP. Remember, the **deadline to purchase NAP coverage is April 1, 2016**.

USDA to Provide Agricultural Credit Training, Expand Opportunities for Farmer Veterans and Beginning Farmers

USDA announced a partnership with the Farmer Veteran Coalition (FVC) to conduct agricultural credit training sessions in the Midwest for military veterans and beginning farmers and ranchers. States under consideration to host the workshops include Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Nebraska.

These workshops will provide individuals interested in farming as a career, with methods to improve business planning, financial skills, and improve to the understanding of risk management tools that can help small farming operations.

Other partners include Niman Ranch a community network of more than 700 independent family farmers and ranchers, the Farm Credit Council, and the Farm Credit System which provides loans, leases and financial services to farmers, ranchers and rural businesses across the United States. The workshops will include assistance with credit applications and introductions to local or regional food markets.

To learn more about veterans in agriculture, visit www.usda.gov/veterans. Visit www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans or your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office to learn more about FSA's farm loan programs. To find your local FSA office, visit

<http://offices.usda.gov>. More information also is available from the Farmer Veteran Coalition at www.farmvetco.org.

Dates to Remember

April 1 NAP Sales Closing Date

July 15 Spring Acreage Reporting Deadline

Now - August 1 ARC/PLC Signup for 2016

Anytime- Report eligible losses within 30 days of loss event for all disaster programs

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).