

July 2016



Fremont County FSA Updates

Fremont County FSA FSA County Committee Nomination Office

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Phone: 307-856-7524
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County Executive Director:

Annie Bryce

Farm Loan Manager:

Brian Harrell

Program Technicians:

Lauren Evans

Carol Zogata

County Committee:

Bill Jennings

Bryan Hamilton

Will O'Neal

Next County Committee Meeting: 07/28/2016

County Committees are unique to FSA and allow producers to have a voice on federal farm program implementation at the local level.

To be eligible to serve on a FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in an FSA administered program, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the local administrative area (LAA) where they are nominated.

This year, nominations and elections will be held in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 3, which includes the **Lander and Dubois** area. Bryan Hamilton is the incumbent. He is concluding his 9th and final year on the Fremont County Committee. **Thank you Bryan for all of your hard work and dedication representing the producers in LAA 3!**

Farmers and livestock producers may nominate themselves or others. Organizations representing minorities and women also may nominate candidates. To become a candidate, an eligible individual must sign an FSA-669A nomination form. The form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections. 2016 nomination forms must be postmarked or received in the Fremont County FSA Office by close of business on Aug. 1, 2016.

Elected county committee members serve a three-year term and are responsible for making decisions on FSA disaster, conservation, commodity and price support programs, as well as other important federal farm program issues. Our County Committees consist of three members.

It is important that county committees are comprised of members who fairly represent the diverse demographics of production agriculture for their community. All producers, including women, minority and beginning farmers and ranchers are encouraged to participate in the nomination and election process.

FSA will mail election ballots to eligible voters beginning Nov. 7, 2016. Ballots must be returned to the Fremont County FSA office via mail or in person by Dec. 5, 2016. Newly-elected committee members and alternates will take office on Jan. 1, 2017.

For more information about county committees, please contact the Name County FSA office at Phone or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

Fremont County's request for ECP was approved by the National Office. Funding is still pending. The County Office is currently accepting applications for 2016 flood damages.

In order to participate, applicants must be an agriculture producer. An agriculture producer is defined by someone who harvests a crop and/or raises food and/or fiber livestock animals. Horse, rodeo stock, and 4-H animals do not qualify.

ECP is for emergency practices only. Practices that need to be completed regardless of funding. If you have completed repairs before requesting assistance we might still be able to help.

ECP **does not** help with houses, barns, corrals, arenas, roads, bridges, bank stabilization, nor any repairs that require work in natural bodies of water. ECP might be able to help with projects including but not limited to, fences, pipe, seeding, ditch repair, silt removal, debris removal, and sink holes.

A 75% cost-share has been established by the Fremont County Committee (COC). Applicants must, at a minimum, have incurred a \$1,000 worth of damage. Limited Resource producers are eligible for a 90% cost-share and must, at a minimum, have incurred \$250 worth of damage.

The COC will be establishing a signup period at their July 28th meeting, but producers are encouraged to come into the office as soon as possible.

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

Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds farmers and ranchers that they have until Aug. 1 to enroll in Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and/or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for the 2016 crop year.

Producers have already elected ARC or PLC, but must enroll for the 2016 crop year by signing a contract before the **August 1st** deadline to receive program benefits.

The programs trigger financial protections for participating agricultural producers when market forces cause substantial drops in crop prices or revenues. Nationwide, more than 1.76 million farmers and ranchers are expected to sign contracts to enroll in ARC or PLC. Covered commodities under the programs include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (which includes short grain and sweet rice), safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

For more program information or to schedule an appointment, contact your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Annie Bryce at 307-856-7524 extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

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