

July 2016



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Park County FSA Updates

Park County FSA Office

1017 Hwy 14A
Powell, WY 82435

Phone: 307-754-9411
Fax: 855-415-3438

County Executive Director:
Darla Rhodes

Farm Loan Officer:
Kathy Palazzolo

Farm Loan Officer Trainee:
Tom Schambow

Program Technicians:
Marcia Shuler
Nicole Rodriguez

County Committee:
Klodette Stroh, Chairperson
Lynn George, Vice Chairperson
Michael Hogg, Regular Member

Next County Committee Meeting:
TBD

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS NOMINATION PERIOD

The nomination period for the Park FSA County Committee began on June 15, 2016. Nomination forms must be postmarked or received in the Park County FSA Office by close of business on August 1, 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 the FSA County Committee, a person must participate or cooperate in an agency administered program, be eligible to vote in a County Committee election and reside in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) where they are nominated. All producers, including women, minority and beginning farmers and ranchers are encouraged to participate in the nomination and election process.

This year, nominations and elections will be held in LAA 3, which includes the Meeteetse area.

Producers may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Organizations representing minority and women farmers and ranchers may also nominate candidates. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A.

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. County Committees consist of three to five members.

FSA will mail election ballots to eligible voters beginning November 7, 2016. Ballots are due back in the Park County FSA Office by mail or in person no later than December 5, 2016. All newly elected County Committee Members and alternates will take office January 1, 2017.

2016 SPRING SESSION CROP REPORTING/2016 AND 2017 ACREAGE REPORTING DATES

The office is currently taking crop reports for "annual crops planted this spring and summer". The deadline to file a crop report is July 15th.

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Park County FSA Office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

November 15, 2016 is the deadline for reporting all 2017 perennial forage crops, pasture grass and winter wheat. It is your responsibility to complete your 2017 crop reports by this deadline. Failure to report by November 15, 2016 will result in a "late-filed" fee being charged per farm.

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquire the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the County Office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only", "green manure", "left standing", or "seed", then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.
- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting data for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact the Park County FSA Office.

FILING A NOTICE OF LOSS FOR CROPS COVERED UNDER NAP (NON-INSURED CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM)

A Notice of Loss (CCC-576) is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by a producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including pasture grass. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), you must file a CCC-576 in the Park County FSA Office the earlier of:

- 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence or date of loss or damage to the crop first becomes apparent.
- 15 days after the normal harvest.

The Notice of Loss notification can be provided by filing a CCC-576, in person, email, fax, or phone. Producers who notify the County Office by any method other than by filing the CCC-576 are still required to file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, within the required 15 calendar days.

USDA Packages Disaster Protection with Loans to Benefit Specialty Crop and Diversified Producers

FSA offers a variety of loan products, including farm ownership loans, operating loans and microloans that have a streamlined application process.

Free basic coverage and discounted premiums available for new and underserved loan applicants.

Producers who apply for FSA farm loans will be offered the opportunity to enroll in new disaster loss protections created by the 2014 Farm Bill. The new coverage, available from the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), is available to FSA loan applicants who grow non-insurable crops, so this is especially important to fruit and vegetable producers and other specialty crop growers.

New, underserved and limited income specialty growers who apply for farm loans could qualify for basic loss coverage at no cost, or higher coverage for a discounted premium.

The basic disaster coverage protects at 55 percent of the market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of production. Covered crops include “specialty” crops, for instance, vegetables, fruits, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, hay, forage, grazing and energy crops. FSA allows beginning, underserved or limited income producers to obtain NAP coverage up to 90 days after the normal application closing date when they also apply for FSA credit.

In addition to free basic coverage, beginning, underserved or limited income producers are eligible for a 50 percent discount on premiums for the higher levels of coverage that protect up to 65 percent of expected production at 100 percent of the average market price. Producers also may work with FSA to protect value-added production, such as organic or direct market crops, at their fair market value in those markets. Targeted underserved groups eligible for free or discounted coverage are American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Asians, Blacks or African Americans, Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, and women.

Growers need not apply for an FSA loan, nor be a beginning, limited resource, or underserved farmer, to be eligible for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program assistance. To learn more, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/nap or www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans, or contact your local FSA office at <https://offices.usda.gov>.

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).