

October 2016



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## Platte County FSA October Updates

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**Platte County FSA Office**  
1502 Progress Ct  
Wheatland, WY 82201  
Phone: 307-322-4050  
Fax: 855-415-3444

**County Executive Director:**  
Pamela Metz

**Farm Loan Officer:**  
Dixie Mount  
Echo Koger, FLO trainee

**Program Technicians:**  
Mitzi Mudgett  
Heidi Platt  
Kayla Mantle, FLP

**County Committee:**  
John Watson, Chairperson  
Ruth Cundall, Vice Chairperson  
Amy Miller, Member

**Next County Committee Meeting: Dec. 8 @ 10am**

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Pam Metz at 307-322-4050 extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

### Farm Bill Safety-Net and CRP Payments Being Issued

The office has been issuing Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC), Price Loss Coverage (PLC), and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) payments during the month of October.

The ARC county program is designed to provide benefits when the county average revenue for a crop in a specific year falls below 86 percent of the county expected revenue for that crop. The PLC program is designed to provide benefits when the national average market price for a crop is below the reference price. The ARC/PLC payments are figured by using the base acres on your FSA farm and not the actual planted acres.

ARC county payment rates for Platte County:

Corn	\$1.11/payment acre
Oats	\$29.58/payment acre
Grain Sorghum	\$0.00/payment acre
Wheat	\$16.08/payment acre

PLC payment rates for Platte County:

Corn	\$.09/bu
Oats	\$.28/bu
Grain Sorghum	\$.64/bu
Wheat	\$.61/bu

All 2015 ARC/PLC payments will be reduced by a 6.8% sequestration rate, as mandated by the Budget Control Act of 2011. There is no sequestration rate applied to CRP payments.

If you have not received your ARC/PLC or CRP payment by November 1, please contact the office so we can determine why payment has not been issued.

## Upcoming Acreage Reporting Dates

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

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Platte County:

November 15, 2016: Fall Seeded Wheat, Oats, Rye, Triticale, Barley; all grass and all forage certification (2017 acreage reporting deadline)

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 acquiring 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 date 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 Platte County FSA office at 307-322-4050, ext 2.

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## USDA Expands Microloans to Help Farmers Purchase Farmland and Improve Property

*Producers, Including Beginning and Underserved Farmers, Have a New Option to Gain Access to Land*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is offering farm ownership microloans, creating a new financing avenue for farmers to buy and improve property. These microloans are especially helpful to beginning or underserved farmers, U.S. veterans looking for a career in farming, and those who have small and mid-sized farming operations.

The microloan program, which celebrates its third anniversary this week, has been hugely successful, providing more than 16,800 low-interest loans, totaling over \$373 million to producers across the country. Microloans have helped farmers and ranchers with operating costs, such as feed, fertilizer, tools, fencing, equipment, and living expenses since 2013. Seventy percent of loans have gone to new farmers.

Now, microloans will be available to also help with farm land and building purchases, and soil and water conservation improvements. FSA designed the expanded program to simplify the application process, expand eligibility requirements and expedite smaller real estate loans to help farmers strengthen their operations. Microloans provide up to \$50,000 to qualified producers, and can be issued to the applicant directly from the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).

This microloan announcement is another USDA resource for America's farmers and ranchers to utilize, especially as [new and beginning farmers and ranchers](#) look for the assistance they need to get started. To learn more about the FSA microloan program visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans), or contact your local FSA office. To find your nearest office location, please visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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