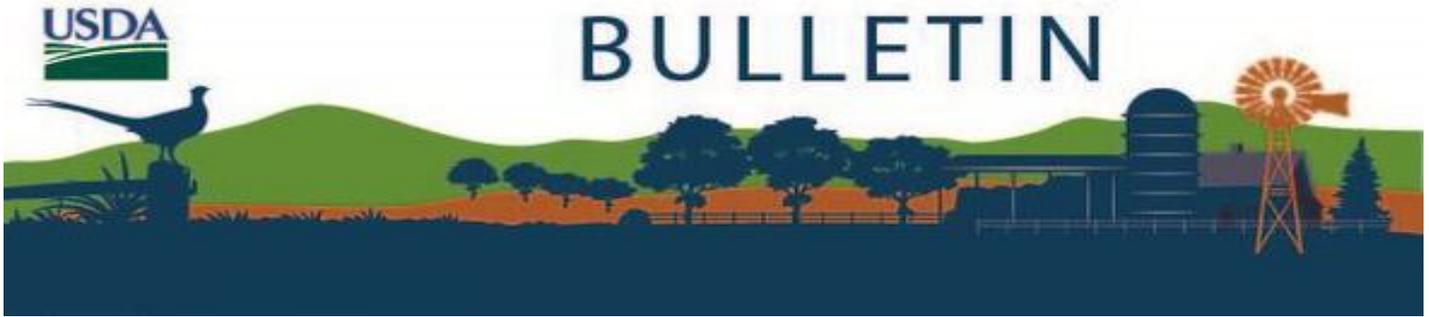


February 2016



---

## Weston County FSA Updates

---

- [What's Happening in Weston County](#)
- [Loans for Beginning Farmers](#)
- [USDA Sees Strong Demand for Conservation Reserve Program](#)
- [USDA To Offer Certificates for Farm Commodities Pledged to Marketing Loans](#)

---

### Weston County FSA Office

1225 Washington Blvd. Ste. 2  
Newcastle, WY 82701

Phone: 307-746-2701  
Fax: 855-415-3437

**County Executive Director:**  
Peggy Livingston

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
Rob Weppner

**Program Technician:**  
Kati LeQuia

**County Committee:**  
Tim Tysdal  
Chuck Grieves  
Randy Oleson  
Edye Ready, Minority Advisor

**Next County Committee Meeting:** April 27 @ 1:00 p.m.

### What's Happening in Weston County

The final date to purchase Non-Insurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage is April 1st. NAP covers most grazed crops and grass and/or small grain hay. For those producers who are looking to cover hay crops not eligible for coverage by FCIC, keep in mind that NAP now offers buy up coverage. If you are interested stop by and we will run a scenario for you.

The final date to report spring planted crops is July 1st.

---

### Loans for Beginning Farmers

The FSA makes and guarantees loans to beginning farmers who are unable to obtain financing from commercial lenders. A beginning farmer is an individual or entity who has not operated a farm for more than 10 years.

Maximum Loan Amounts:

Direct Farm Ownership (FO) Loan: \$300,000

Direct Operating Loan (OL): \$300,000

Microloan: \$50,000

Guaranteed Farm Ownership or Operating Loan: \$1,399,000

(Amount varies annually based on inflation)

To learn more about farm loan programs, visit your local FSA office.

---

## USDA Sees Strong Demand for Conservation Reserve Program

Deadline to Submit Offers for Competitive Enrollment is Feb. 26

USDA reminds farmers and ranchers that the competitive sign-up deadline for its most popular voluntary conservation program, the

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), is Feb. 26, 2016. This will be one of the most competitive general sign-up periods in history, in part due a statutory limit on the number of acres that can be enrolled in the program. The most competitive applications will be those that combine multiple conservation benefits, such as water quality and wildlife habitat.

For the past thirty years, CRP has provided financial incentives to farmers and ranchers to remove environmentally sensitive agricultural land from production to be planted with certain grasses, shrubs and trees that improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and increase wildlife habitat. Since 1985, CRP has sequestered an annual average of 49 million tons of greenhouse gases, equal to taking 9 million cars off the road; prevented 9 billion tons of soil from erosion, enough to fill 600 million dump trucks; and reduced nitrogen and phosphorous runoff by 95 and 85 percent, respectively. CRP also protects more than 170,000 stream miles with forests and grasses, enough to go around the world seven times. The program has allowed for the restoration of 2.7 million acres of wetland.

As of January 2016, 23.6 million acres were enrolled in CRP, with contracts for more than 1.6 million acres set to expire this fall. The statutory cap on acres that can be enrolled is 24 million acres. Submissions will be ranked according to environmental benefits in comparison to all other offers nationwide. USDA will announce accepted offers after the enrollment period ends and offers are reviewed. For an interactive tour of CRP success stories from across the U.S., visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/CRPis30](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/CRPis30), or follow on Twitter at #CRPis30.

For an interactive look at USDA's work in conservation and forestry over the course of this Administration, visit <http://medium.com/usda-results>

---

## USDA To Offer Certificates for Farm Commodities Pledged to Marketing Loans

Producers who have crops pledged as collateral for a marketing assistance loan can now purchase a commodity certificate that may be exchanged for the outstanding loan collateral. The authority is provided by the 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act, legislation enacted by Congress in December. Commodity certificates are available beginning with the 2015 crop in situations where the applicable marketing assistance loan rate exceeds the exchange rate. Currently, the only eligible commodity is cotton.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) routinely provides agricultural producers with marketing assistance loans that provide interim cash flow without having to sell the commodities when market prices are at harvest time lows. The loans allow the producer to store and delay the sale of the commodity until more favorable market conditions emerge, while also providing for a more orderly marketing of commodities throughout the marketing year.

These loans are considered "nonrecourse" because the loan can be redeemed by delivering the commodity pledged as collateral to the government as full payment for the loan upon maturity. Commodity certificates are available to loan holders having outstanding nonrecourse loans for wheat, upland cotton, rice, feed grains, pulse crops (dry peas, lentils, large and small chickpeas), peanuts, wool, soybeans and designated minor oilseeds. These certificates can be purchased at the posted county price (or adjusted world price or national posted price) for the quantity of commodity under loan, and must be immediately exchanged for the collateral, satisfying the loan.

Producers may contact their FSA office that maintains their loan or their loan service agent for additional information. Producers who do business with Cooperative Marketing Associations (CMA) or Designated Marketing Associations (DMA) may contact their respective associations for additional information. To learn more about commodity certificates, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport).

---

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).