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Crook County Corner

I hope this finds everyone enjoying the beautiful fall colors that are spreading across the County! Warm days and cooler nights are here but the rain that is still coming is still a much-needed blessing. A lot of changes have been happening in the office. We are excited to announce that the CED position that was recently vacated has been filled. I would like to announce that our very own Bailey Middleton has accepted this position. She will soon be starting her 52 weeks of training for this position and will be out of the office during this time. In the meantime, District Director, Dixie Mount will be the Acting County Executive Director (CED). If you have any questions or need help, please reach out to Dixie at 307-322-4050 or via email dixie.mount@usda.gov. We are so very excited for Bailey, and she will be missed while she is in training. Here are a few words from Bailey.



Thank you for the opportunity to serve all of you for the last year and a half! It has been such an amazing experience! I have gotten to meet so many new and amazing producers, as well as reintroduce myself to those who knew me long before I had this opportunity! I am extremely excited for this new adventure with all of you! Thank you for believing in my abilities to serve you. 52 weeks may sound like a very long time, but it will be over before you know it! In no time, I will be back in the office with new experiences and skills to better serve Crook County producers. Until I am back in the office, please reach out to Acting CED, Dixie Mount, or you may call the County Office if you have any questions. Thank you again for believing in me!

Important Deadlines:

Acreage Report:

November 15 – Apiculture (bees), fall -seeded small grains.

NAP:

December 1- All perennial grasses, alfalfa, clover, mixed forage, and honey

- Within 15 days of crop loss – Submit Notice of Loss

November 15 - (varies by crop) – Final day to submit Application for Payment

Days USDA Offices Are Closed

Oct. 9- Columbus Day

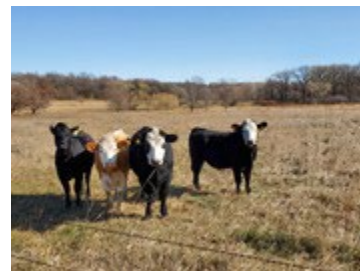
Nov. 10 - Observation of Veterans Day

Nov. 23 - Thanksgiving Day

Dec. 25 - Christmas Holiday

Keeping Livestock Inventory Records

Livestock inventory records are necessary in the event of a natural disaster, so remember to keep them updated. When disasters strike, the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) can help if you've suffered excessive livestock death losses and grazing, or feed losses due to eligible natural disasters, but eligibility requires good records on your behalf. To participate in livestock disaster assistance programs, you'll be required to provide verifiable documentation of death losses resulting from an eligible adverse weather event and must submit a notice of loss to your local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent. For grazing or feed losses, you must submit a notice of loss to your local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent and should maintain documentation and receipts. You should record all pertinent information regarding livestock inventory records including:



- Documentation of the number, kind, type, and weight range of livestock
- Beginning inventory supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts
- Dated photographs of livestock losses.

For more information on documentation requirements, contact your Crook County USDA Service Center at 307 283 2870 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

Applying for Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes loans to youth to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.



Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing, and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the youth loan applicant, along with providing adequate supervision.

For help preparing the application forms, contact your Campbell County USDA Service Center at 307-682-8843 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

USDA Reminds Producers of Spring/Fall Application Deadlines for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

USDA Crook County Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers of approaching application deadlines for purchasing risk coverage for some crops through the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). NAP provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops impacted by natural disasters that result in lower yields, crop losses, or prevented crop planting.



NAP covers losses from natural disasters on crops for which no permanent federal crop insurance program is available, including forage and grazing crops, fruits, vegetables, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass and more.

Upcoming application deadlines for NAP coverage in Crook County for the 2024 production season include:

- **Crop: December 1, 2023**

NAP basic coverage is available at 55% of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50% of expected production. Buy-up coverage is available in some cases. NAP offers higher levels of coverage, ranging from 50% to 65% of expected production in 5% increments, at 100% of the average market price. Producers of organic crops and crops marketed directly to consumers also may exercise the “buy-up” option to obtain NAP coverage of 100% of the average market price at coverage levels ranging between 50% and 65% of expected production. Buy-up coverage is not available for crops intended for grazing.

For all coverage levels, the NAP service fee is the lesser of \$325 per crop or \$825 per producer per county, not to exceed a total of \$1,950 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Premiums apply for buy-up coverage.

If a producer has a Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification (form CCC-860) on file with FSA, it may serve as an application for basic coverage for all eligible crops beginning with crop year 2022. These producers will have all NAP-related service fees for basic coverage waived. These producers may also receive a 50% premium reduction if higher levels of coverage are elected on form CCC-471, prior to the application closing date for each crop.

To learn more about NAP visit fsa.usda.gov/nap or contact your local USDA Service Center at 307-283-2870.

USDA Reminds Producers to File Crop Acreage Reports

Agricultural producers who have not yet completed their [crop acreage reports](#) after fall planting should make an appointment with the Crook County Farm Service Agency (FSA) before the applicable deadline.

An acreage report documents a crop grown on a farm or ranch and its intended uses. Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planted acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits.



How to File a Report

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Crook County:

November 15th, 2023 All Fall Seeded crops

To file a crop acreage report, producers need to provide:

- Crop and crop type or variety.

- Intended use of the crop.
- Number of acres of the crop.
- Map with approximate boundaries for the crop.
- Planting date(s).
- Planting pattern, when applicable.
- Producer shares.
- Irrigation practice(s).
- Acreage prevented from planting, when applicable.
- Other information as required.

Acreage Reporting Details

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the 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 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 crops are covered by the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, acreage reports should be submitted by the applicable state, county, or crop-specific reporting deadline or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

Producers should also report crop acreage they intended to plant, but due to natural disaster, were unable to because of a natural disaster.

Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and USDA's Risk Management Agency.

FSA offers continuous certification for perennial forage. This means after perennial forage is reported once and the producer elects continuous certification, the certification remains in effect until a change is made. Check with FSA at the local USDA Service Center for more information on continuous certification.



Crook County USDA Service Center

117 South 21st Street
P.O. Box 1070
Sundance, Wyoming 82729

Phone: 307-283-2870
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