



- [FSA Encourages Farmers and Ranchers to Vote in County Committee Elections](#)
- [NAP SIGN UP 2024](#)
- [NRCS is Now Accepting Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\) Applications for the Inflation Reduction Act Climate Smart Effort](#)
- [Attention all Buyers of Agricultural Products](#)

FSA Encourages Farmers and Ranchers to Vote in County Committee Elections

The 2023 Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections will begin on Nov. 6, 2023, when ballots are mailed to eligible voters. The deadline to return ballots to local FSA offices, or to be postmarked, is Dec. 4, 2023.

County committee members are an important component of the operations of FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and USDA. Farmers and ranchers elected to county committees help deliver FSA programs at the local level, applying their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on commodity price support programs; conservation programs; incentive indemnity and disaster programs for some commodities; emergency programs and eligibility. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws.

To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm, may also be eligible to vote. A cooperating producer is someone who has provided information about their farming or ranching operation(s) but may not have applied or received FSA program benefits.

Eligible voters in local administrative area LAA 3 and LAA 4, who do not receive a ballot can obtain one from their local USDA Service Center.

Newly elected committee members will take office Jan. 1, 2024.

The candidates in this year's election are:

Laura J Miles is nominated in LLA 3, to serve as a COC member for a 3-year term beginning January 2024. Laura Miles was born and raised in the Bates Hole area of Natrona County. She is the only daughter of Pete and Ethel Garrett. She has been active and instrumental to the Garrett Ranch Company cow/calf operation for 40 years. She received her associate degree in Agribusiness from Casper College and is a member of RCalf. She would be honored to serve LLA 3 and the ag community as a County Committee Member if selected.

Dick Lisco is nominated in LAA 4, to serve as COC member for a 3-year term beginning January 2024. He resides in Converse County and has produced Registered and Commercial Angus cattle along with alfalfa, corn, and small grains. He is an active member of the American Angus Association, Wyoming Angus Association Serving as Vice President, National Cattleman's Beef Association, and the Wyoming Stock Growers. Dick is willing to serve if elected.

Donald Blackburn is nominated in LAA 4, to serve as a COC member for a 3-year term beginning January 2024. He has lived in Converse County for his entire life, growing up on a small ranch/farm and

supporting the agriculture industry through used equipment sales and trucking services. Donald and his wife Sheri purchased their ranch in Converse County where they raised their family and have mother cows with extra hay ground to produce feed to winter and sell. They own Blackburn Cattle Co Inc which is a trucking company that supports the local ranchers needs. They also own 307 Disposal LLC and 307 Homestead Properties LLC. For 6 years Donald served on the Converse County Fair board as the Board Chairman and helped to develop the county fair into a community event. He actively supports the youth in the area, as well as the Wyoming State Fair. He donates hay and trucking to the local rodeos. Donald is willing to serve if elected.

More information on county committees, such as the new 2022 fact sheet, can be found on the FSA website at fsa.usda.gov/elections or at a local USDA Service Center.

NAP SIGN UP 2024

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers to review available USDA crop risk protection options, including federal crop insurance and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage before the crop deadline of **December 1, 2023**.

Federal crop insurance covers crop losses from natural adversities such as drought, hail and excessive moisture. NAP covers losses from natural disasters on crops for which no permanent federal crop insurance program is available, including perennial grass forage and grazing crops.

Producers can determine if crops are eligible for federal crop insurance or NAP by visiting <https://webapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/ActuarialInformationBrowser2018/CropCriteria.aspx>.

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. Beginning, underserved, veterans and limited resource farmers are now eligible for free catastrophic level coverage.

Federal crop insurance coverage is sold and delivered solely through private insurance agents. Agent lists are available at all USDA Service Centers or at USDA's online Agent Locator:

<http://prodwebnlb.rma.usda.gov/apps/AgentLocator/#>. Producers can use the USDA Cost Estimator, <https://ewebapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/costestimator/Default.aspx>, to predict insurance premium costs.

For more information on NAP, service fees, sales deadlines, contact the Natrona/Converse County FSA office at 307-261-5436 or visit the web at www.fsa.usda.gov/nap.

NRCS is Now Accepting Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Applications for the Inflation Reduction Act Climate Smart Effort

(EQIP) Applications Must be received by November 29, 2023

CASPER, Wyo. – USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Wyoming is currently accepting applications for enrollment into the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for the Inflation Reduction Act.

The project focuses on climate-smart agriculture and forestry (CSAF) mitigation practices in Wyoming. Some of the most popular practices in Wyoming will be eligible for this effort. Some of these practices include cover crop, forest stand improvement, nutrient management, and prescribed grazing. **Producers interested in implementing conservation practices to improve natural resources on their private agricultural land have until November 29, 2023 to submit applications.** *Applications are accepted on a continual basis, so*

even if you miss the November 29th deadline, you can still apply. It is possible that there will be more funding opportunities in FY 2024.

The opportunities to participate in EQIP are diverse. In addition to the general EQIP project enrollment, the Program also affords socially disadvantaged, beginning, and limited resource farmers and ranchers specific opportunities to improve or enhance natural resources on their lands.

Producers must have farm records current with the Farm Service Agency and submit a complete program application to NRCS to be considered for financial assistance through EQIP, CSP.

Applications are accepted in all Wyoming NRCS USDA Service Centers for this effort. To find out more information about EQIP please visit the [EQIP webpage](#). To locate an NRCS field office near you, please visit the [USDA Service Center webpage](#).

When visiting with NRCS staff about the EQIP program, landowners are encouraged to inquire about NRCS' comprehensive conservation plans. The Agency continually strives to put conservation planning at the forefront of its programs and initiatives. Conservation plans provide landowners with a comprehensive inventory and assessment of their resources, as well as an appropriate start to improving the quality of soil, water, air, plants, and wildlife on their land.

CSP Applications must be received by November 29, 2023

Agricultural producers and forest landowners looking to build on conservation efforts while strengthening their operation can now apply for technical and financial assistance through the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) for the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). *Applications are accepted on a continual basis, so even if you miss the November 29th deadline, you can still apply. It is possible that there will be more funding opportunities in FY 2024.*

The program focuses on climate-smart agriculture and forestry (CSAF) mitigation practices in Wyoming. Some of these eligible enhancements in Wyoming include soil health, cover crop, forest stand improvement, nutrient management, and prescribed grazing.

Applications are accepted at all Wyoming NRCS offices located in USDA Service Centers across the state. To find out more information about CSP please visit the [CSP webpage](#). To locate an NRCS field office near you, please visit the [USDA Service Center webpage](#).

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Wyoming makes funding selections at specific times during the fiscal year. Additionally, existing CSP participants may have an opportunity to renew their contracts in the first half of the fifth year of their five-year contract. NRCS accepts applications for CSP at any time throughout the year. NRCS sets specific deadlines for ranking and funding opportunities.

USDA's NRCS offers CSP in all 50 states and the Pacific and Caribbean areas through continuous signups. The program provides many benefits, including increased crop yields, decreased inputs, wildlife habitat improvements and increased resilience to adverse weather. CSP is for working lands, including cropland, pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest land and agricultural land under Indian tribe jurisdiction.

Landowners interested in applying for consideration in any of the listed programs should contact their local NRCS office at the USDA Service Center for their county. For more information, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov.

Attention all Buyers of Agricultural Products

It is required that buyers of agricultural products check or register with the Secretary of State's Office to determine if there are liens against the Seller of the product. If a lien is found you are required to place the lien holders name on the check as well as that of the Seller. Ag Products include but are not limited to: livestock (including horses), crops used for feed (hay, silage, oats, etc.), machinery, equipment and all other crops. **Failure to place the lien holder's name on the check may result in civil legal action being taken**

against the Buyer of the product. Protect yourself as a Buyer! You may contact the Secretary of State's Office at 1-307-777-7311.



USDA Service Center

5880 Enterprise Dr. STE 100
Casper, WY 82609

Phone: 307-261-5436
Fax: 855-415-3428

**District Director and
Acting County Executive Director**

Sherri D. Weins
sherri.weins1@usda.gov

District Conservationist

Kenneth Wolfley kenneth.wolfley@usda.gov

Program Technician

Wanda K. McLean wanda.mclean@usda.gov

Rangeland Management Specialist

Morgan Elsom
john.elsom@usda.gov

Full Time Temp
Kim Furnival
kim.furnival@usda.gov

County Committee:
Heather Harlan, Chair
William Kossert, Vice Chair
Mitch Falkenburg Member
Roy Jarrard, Alternate
Brendon Grant, Alternate

Next COC Meeting:
To Be Announced