



- [Niobrara County Updates](#)
- [USDA Reminds Producers to File Crop Acreage Reports](#)
- [2023 County Committee Elections](#)
- [Attention all Buyers of Agricultural Products](#)

Niobrara County Updates

Niobrara County Notes

Greetings Niobrara County Farmers and Ranchers!

A few deadlines are rapidly approaching – one is the deadline to report any fall-seeded crops, which needs to be completed by November 15, 2023. The other major fall deadline to have on your radar is the deadline to obtain 2024 NAP coverage, which is December 1, 2023.



Many of you may have noticed some additional deposits in your bank account. The last week of September, FSA released an additional top up of 2021 Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP) payments, which were originally made in the spring of 2022, based off of livestock entered on 2021 Livestock Forage Program (LFP) applications. There was also an additional payment made for 2022 ELRP, which are payments made using 2022 LFP applications on file with FSA. If you have any additional questions, please give the office a call.

Please bear in mind, as we enter winter weather season, that if you have any weather related livestock losses, please notify the office within 30 days of becoming aware of your loss. Losses can be reported to the office in person, and also via phone or email!

As always, please be sure to let the office know about any changes to your operation!

Please help reduce the burden on FSA staff by making an appointment prior to visiting the office, so that you can be prepared for your visit and we can be prepared for you as well. Thank you!

-Niobrara County FSA Staff

Please note the following important dates and deadlines:

October 9, 2023 – OFFICE CLOSED – Columbus Day Holiday

November 10, 2023 – OFFICE CLOSED – Observed Veteran’s Day Holiday

November 15, 2023 – Fall-seeded acreage reporting deadline

November 23, 2023 – OFFICE CLOSED – Thanksgiving Holiday

December 1, 2023 – NAP Sales Closing Date for 2023 perennial and fall-seeded crops

Within 15 days of noticing crop loss – File NAP Notice of Loss

Within 30 days of noticing livestock, pasture, or feed loss, or beginning additional feed, livestock, or water transportation due to drought – File LIP/ELAP Notice of Loss

USDA Reminds Producers to File Crop Acreage Reports

Agricultural producers who have not yet completed their [crop acreage reports](#) after spring planting should make an appointment with the Niobrara 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 Niobrara County:

November 15, 2023 Fall-Seeded Crops

Service Center staff continue to work with agricultural producers via phone, email, and other digital tools. Because of the pandemic, some [USDA Service Centers](#) are open to limited visitors. Contact the Niobrara County FSA office to set up an in-person or phone appointment.

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.

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

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.

More Information

For questions, please contact the Niobrara County FSA office at 307-334-2953, Ext. 2.

2023 County Committee Elections

Elections for USDA's Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Niobrara County Committee is underway.

It is important that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the USDA. The 2023 election in Niobrara County will be conducted for the representative Local Administrative Area (LAA): LAA #1, the southwest portion of Niobrara County.

County committee members are a critical component of FSA operations. Committees should be comprised of members who reflect the diversity of producers involved in production agriculture in Niobrara County. This means that producers representing underserved groups or communities should be on the committee to speak on behalf of their constituency.

Underserved producers are beginning, women and other minority farmers and ranchers and land owners and/or operators who have limited resources. Other minority groups including Native American and Alaska Natives; persons under the poverty level, and persons that have disabilities are also considered underserved.

County committee election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 6, 2023. The last day to return or postmark completed ballots to the Niobrara County USDA service center is Dec. 4, 2023.

Kurt Gaukel is nominated in LAA #1, Niobrara County, to serve as a committee member. Gaukel resides in Keeline and has produced wheat, hay, oats, and livestock for 30+ years.

For more information on eligibility to serve on FSA county committees, visit: www.fsa.usda.gov/elections.

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.



Niobrara County USDA Service Center

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FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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Niobrara FSA County Committee

Joe Kruse, Chairman

Kurt Gaukel, Vice Chairman

Carson Wurdeman, Member

Ronda Pfister, SDA Voting Member

Next Meeting: TBD