

**June
2023**



**Park County Farm
Service Agency**

1017 Highway 14A
Powell, WY 82435

Phone: 307-754-9411
Fax: 855-415-3438

Office Hours:
8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
Monday—Friday

County Executive Director:

Darla Rhodes

CED Trainee:

Charlton Bennett

Program Technicians:

Alyssa Stanley

Farm Loan:

Jolene Beiswenger, FLM
Tanya Butz, FLA

County Committee:

Emily Karst—Chairperson
Tim Acord —Vice-chairperson
Lynn George —Member

Next Committee Meeting:

To Be Determined

County Office Message

From Darla's Desk...

Greetings Park County farmers and ranchers! I hope this finds you doing well and having a great spring/summer!

Acreage reports—Please remember acreage reports are due by July 15th, 2023 to maintain eligibility for many programs. I highly encourage you to make an appointment to ensure timeliness of assisting you. Once completing your acreage reports, we can share your information with your crop insurance agent so all records match.

Notices of Loss—If you incur crop losses, grazing losses, or livestock losses please contact the office to file a Notice of Loss as soon as the loss is apparent.

County Committee Election—The office is now accepting nomination forms for LAA #2 which includes Cody, Heart Mountain, Southfork, and Northfork. All nomination forms for the 2023 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA office by August 1, 2023. Agricultural producers may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee if they participate or cooperate in a USDA program and reside in the LAA that is up for election.

I'd like to take this time to thank the Park County FSA Committee including Emily Karst—Chairperson; Lynn George—Vice-Chairperson; and Tim Acord—Regular Member. They are doing a fantastic job for the producers of Park County! If you get a chance, please tell them thank you for representing our county!

The office will be closed on July 4th, 2023 for Independence Day!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the office at 307-754-9411 ext. 2.

Darla

Conservation Compliance on Highly Erodible Land and Wetlands

Highly erodible land (HEL) and wetland conservation (WC) provisions aim to reduce soil loss on erosion-prone lands and to protect wetlands for the multiple benefits they provide. HEL and WC provisions apply to all land that is considered highly erodible or a wetland, and that is owned or farmed by persons voluntarily participating in USDA programs.

To comply with HEL and WC provisions, agricultural producers and affiliated persons must fill out and sign for AD-1026 certifying they will not:

- Plant or produce and agricultural commodity on highly erodible land without following an NRCS-approved conservation plan or system
- Plant or produce an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland; or
- Convert a wetland that makes the production of an agricultural commodity possible.

In addition, producers planning to conduct activities that may affect their HEL or WC compliance; for example land clearing, conducting drainage activities, land leveling, filling, dredging, or excavation, including the clearing of woody vegetation; must notify FSA by filing form ad-1026. FSA will notify NRCS, and they will then provide highly erodible land or wetland technical evaluations and issue determinations if needed.

It is extremely important that producers comply with the HEL and WC provisions to continue receiving USDA program benefits. Please contact your local USDA Service Center for more information.

Applying for Beginning Farmer Loans

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) assists beginning farmers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- O Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- O Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- O Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA

Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size farm.

For more information contact, contact your Park County USDA Service Center at 307-754-9411 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

USDA Fruit, Vegetable, and Wild Rice Planting Rules Unchanged in 2018 Farm Bill

Fruit, vegetable, and wild rice producers will continue to follow the same rules for certain Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs.

If you participate in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, you are subject to an acre-for-acre payment reduction when fruits and nuts, vegetables, or wild rice are planted on payments acres of a farm. Payment reductions do not apply to mung beans, dry peas, lentils, or chickpeas. Planting fruits, vegetables, or wild rice on acres not considered payment acres will not result in a payment reduction. Farms that are eligible to participate in ARC/PLC but are not enrolled for a particular year may plant unlimited fruits, vegetables, and wild rice for that year but will not receive ARC/PLC payments. Eligibility for succeeding years will not be affected.

Planting and harvesting fruits, vegetables, and wild rice on ARC/PLC acreage is subject to the acre-for-acre payment reduction when those crops are planted on more than 15 percent of the base acres of an ARC enrolled farm using the county coverage or PLC, or more than 35 percent of the base acres of an ARC enrolled farm using the individual coverage.

Fruits, vegetables, and wild rice that are planted in a double-cropping practice will not cause a payment reduction if the farm is in a double-cropping region as designated by the USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation.

Acreage Reporting

In order to maintain program eligibility and benefits, you must timely file acreage reports. Failure to file an acreage report by the crop acreage reporting deadline may result in ineligibility for future program benefits. FSA will not accept acreage reports provided more than one year after the acreage reporting deadline. The reporting deadline for spring planted crops in **July 15, 2023**.

Reporting Grazing Allotments—FSA offices can now accept acreage reports for grazing allotments in AUM's. Your local FSA office will need the grazing period start and end date and the percent of public land. The office is currently working on converting acres to AUM's, but will need producers need to certify the AUM's to be eligible for forage programs.

Permitted Revision of Intended use After Acreage Reporting Date—New operators or owners who pick up a farm after the acreage reporting deadline has passed and the crop has already been reported on the farm, have 30 calendar days from the date when the new operator or owner acquired the lease on land, control of the land or ownership and new producer crop share interest in the previously reported crop acreage. Under this policy, appropriate documentation must be provided to the County Committee's satisfaction to determine that a legitimate operator or ownership and producer crop share interest change occurred to permit the revision.

Nominations Open for the 2023 Park County Committee Elections

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages all farmers, ranchers, and FSA program participants to take part in the Park County Committee election nomination process. FSA's county committee's are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA and allow grassroots input and local administration of federal farm programs.

Committees are comprised of locally elected agricultural producers responsible for the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties. Committee members are accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture. If elected, members become part of the local decision making and farm program delivery process. A County Committee is composed of three to eleven elected members from local administrative areas (LAA). Each member serves a three-year term. One-third of the seats on these committees are open for election each year. County Committees may have an appointed advisor to further represent the local interests of underserved farmers and ranchers. Underserved producers are beginning, women and other minority farmers and ranchers and landowners and/or operators who have limited resources.

The area up for election this year is LAA #3, currently held by Tim Acord. For more information, or to determine your LAA, please contact the office. All nomination forms for the 2022 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by August 1, 2023.

NRCS is Now Accepting Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) Applications Applications Must be received by June 1, 2023

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Wyoming is currently accepting applications for enrollment into the Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) program. This enrollment is specifically for the AMA - Risk Management Agency (RMA). AMA-RMA is a voluntary Farm Bill program which provides financial assistance for High tunnels and facilitating practices. **Producers interested in implementing conservation practices to improve natural resources on their private agricultural land have until June 1, 2023 to submit applications.**

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

When visiting with NRCS staff about the AMA 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.

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 you if you've suffered excessive livestock death losses and grazing or feed losses due to eligible natural disasters.

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.

For more information on documentation requirements, contact your Park County USDA Service Center at 307-754-9411 ext. 2 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

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Park County FSA Office
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Submit Loan Requests for Financing Early

Farm Service Agency is already working on operating loans for spring 2021 and asks potential borrowers to submit their requests early so they can be timely processed. The farm loan team can help determine which loan programs are best for applicants.

FSA offers a wide range of low-interest loans that can meet the financial needs of any farm operation for just about any purpose. The traditional farm operating and farm ownership loans can help large and small farm operations take advantage of early purchasing discounts for spring inputs as well expenses throughout the year.

Microloans are a simplified loan program that will provide up to \$50,000 for both Farm Ownership and Operating Microloans to eligible applicants. These loans, targeted for smaller and non-traditional operations, can be used for operating expenses, starting a new operation, purchasing equipment, and other needs associated with a farming operation. Loans to beginning farmers and members of under-served groups are a priority.

Other types of loans available include:

Marketing Assistance Loans allow producers to use eligible commodities as loan collateral and obtain a 9-month loan while the crop is in storage. These loans provide cash flow to the producer and allow them to market the crop when prices may be more advantageous.

Farm Storage Facility Loans can be used to build permanent structures used to store eligible commodities, for storage and handling trucks, or portable or permanent handling equipment. A variety of structures are eligible under this loan, including bunker silos, grain bins, hay storage structures, and refrigerated structures for vegetables and fruit. A producer may borrow up to \$500,000 per loan.

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).

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Darla Rhodes at 307-754-9411 extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.