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A Message from the CED

With wheat and barley harvest upon us, the county FSA office is reminding producers of the importance of contacting our office if you have the misfortune of experiencing ag-related damages due to tornadoes, hail, wind, excessive heat or other conditions.

This is important for a couple of reasons. First, loss information is aggregated into a report that can be used to gain a Secretarial Disaster Designation for our county, should the losses be widespread and severe enough to garner such designation. Second, some FSA programs have an eligibility requirement that producers file a Notice of Loss within a certain time period of discovering the damaged or destroyed commodity. This would include assistance programs such as the Livestock Indemnity Program, the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) or the Emergency Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program. We hope you avoid the impact of severe weather this summer season, but if not, and you think you have a potential loss, please contact us immediately to make sure you timely file your Notice of Loss.

August 1 is the deadline to submit your nomination to serve on the Platte County FSA Committee. Please consider representing your fellow farmers and ranchers by nominating yourself to serve. Contact our office if you would like to learn more about the roles and responsibilities of committee members.

Thank you to everyone for working with our office to complete your acreage certification for 2023 spring-planted crops, perennial grasses and Conservation Reserve Program acres. It's always an extremely busy time of year for us, so we appreciate your patience.

Finally we would like to welcome our newest employee Terri Skiba. Next time you are in the office please introduce yourself to her. That's all for this month.

--Pam

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 Platte County USDA Service Center at 307-322-4050 ext 2 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

Dalmatian Toadflax: Be on the lookout in your CRP!

Dalmatian toadflax is a perennial state noxious weed. The plant is able to spread with underground rootstocks and seed, producing up to half a million seeds per year. Since the seeds do not require dormancy prior to germination they get an early start, sometimes germinating in the fall of the same year they were produced.

Due to the aggressive nature of this plant, early detection is helpful in controlling it. Digging up the plant can be an effective control measure if you have small isolated bunches. However, for more prolific communities a chemical treatment is a more manageable option. If this is your case, please consult with the Platte County Weed & Pest to determine the best treatment option. Note, annual retreatment within the areas may be necessary due to the long viability of the seed in the soil.

If you have acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), please remember your contract **requires** weed control, including compliance with noxious weed laws. If you do spray your CRP, or portions of the acres, please retain your receipts. If your field is spot checked by the local Farm Service Agency (FSA), then you can provide this documentation to show your efforts.

Identification:

Leaves are broad, spade-shaped, smooth on the edge, and feel waxy. The base of the leaf wraps around the stem of the plant.



USDA Develops Simplified Direct Loan Application to Improve Customer Service

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has developed a simplified direct loan application to provide improved customer experience for producers applying for loans from the Farm Service Agency (FSA). The simplified direct loan application enables producers to complete a more streamlined application, reduced from 29 to 13 pages. Producers will also have the option to complete an electronic fillable form or prepare a traditional, paper application for submission to their local FSA farm loan office. The paper and electronic versions of the form will be available starting March 1, 2023.

Approximately 26,000 producers submit a direct loan application to the FSA annually, but there is a high rate of incomplete or withdrawn applications, due in part to a challenging and lengthy paper-based application process. Coupled with the Loan Assistance Tool released in October 2022, the simplified application will provide all loan applicants access to information regarding the application process and assist them with gathering the correct documents before they begin the process. This new application will help farmers and ranchers submit complete loan applications and reduce the number of incomplete, rejected, or withdrawn applications.

In October 2022, USDA launched the Loan Assistance Tool, an online step-by-step guide that provides materials to help an applicant prepare their farm loan application in one tool. Farmers can access the Loan

Assistance Tool by visiting farmers.gov/farm-loan-assistance-tool and clicking the 'Get Started' button. The tool is built to run on any modern browser like Chrome, Edge, Firefox, or the Safari browser. A version compatible with mobile devices is expected to be available by the summer. It does not work in Internet Explorer.

The simplified direct loan application and Loan Assistance Tool are the first of multiple farm loan process improvements that will be available to USDA customers on farmers.gov in the future. Other improvements that are anticipated to launch in 2023 include:

- An interactive online direct loan application that gives customers a paperless and electronic signature option, along with the ability to attach supporting documents such as tax returns.
- An online direct loan repayment feature that relieves borrowers from the necessity of calling, mailing, or visiting a local Service Center to pay a loan installment.

USDA provides access to credit to approximately 115,000 producers who cannot obtain sufficient commercial credit through direct and guaranteed farm loans. With the funds and direction Congress provided in Section 22006 of the Inflation Reduction Act, USDA took action in October 2022 to [provide relief to qualifying distressed borrowers](#) while working on making transformational changes to loan servicing so that borrowers are provided the flexibility and opportunities needed to address the inherent risks and unpredictability associated with agricultural operations.

Soon, all direct loan borrowers will receive a letter from USDA describing the circumstances under which additional payments will be made to distressed borrowers and how they can work with their FSA local office to discuss these options. Producers can explore all available options on all FSA loan options at fsa.usda.gov or by contacting their [local USDA Service Center](#).

Dates To Remember

August 1, 2023 -- Deadline to file nomination forms for the 2023 County Committee election. Follow the link in the article above for nomination forms.

September 4, 2023 -- Office Closed for Labor Day Holiday

September 29, 2023 -- Final date to submit succession ARC-PLC contracts



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Heather Ferguson-Ultima

County Committee:

Amy Miller
Dareth Smialek
Chuck Maike

Next County Committee Meeting:
TBD