



# NEWSLETTER



**Big Horn County**

**408 Greybull Ave - Greybull, WY 82426**

**October 2012**

**Farm Service Agency**

307-765-2689 phone  
307-765-9243 fax  
www.fsa.usda.gov  
Charles Land, acting CED  
Brenda Miller, PT  
Connie Werbelow, PT

**Office Hours:**

Monday - Friday  
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

**County Committee**

Shawn Bullinger, Chairman  
Jan Barnett, Vice-Chairman  
Wilford Tippetts, Member

**NRCS Staff**

Monte Bush- Greybull, DC  
John Richards- Lovell, DC  
(307)548-7422

**Conservation District**

Janet Hallsted, Greybull  
Kristen Tilley, Lovell

**Farm Loan Staff**

Bill Morrison, FLM  
Worland (307)247-2456  
Kathy Palazollo, FLO  
Powell (307)754-9411

## NEW Crop Reporting Deadline November 15, 2012

2013 acreage reporting deadlines are:

**November 15, 2012** – Perennial Forage, Fall Wheat, and other fall seeded small grains

**January 15, 2013** – Established stand alfalfa seed and fall alfalfa seed

**July 15, 2013** – Spring alfalfa seed, spring barley, corn, beans, oats, sugar beets, sunflowers, spring wheat, and all other spring crops.

**This means your 2013 perennial hay crops, winter wheat, and range reporting deadline is Nov. 15, 2012!**

If it is inconvenient for you to come to the office, please give us a call and we will email the reports to you for signature. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs.

## NAP Coverage Deadline for 2013

The deadline to purchase 2013 Non-Insurable Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for biennial and perennial forage crops, regardless of intended use, is **December 1, 2012**. This includes the following crops; mixed forage hay, grass for grazing, grass for hay, and rangeland. The application fee is \$250.00 per crop/pay type. Crops eligible for NAP coverage are those crops for which RMA crop insurance is not offered. Lack of meeting deadlines doesn't warrant a not offered status. This coverage is only for losses in excess of 50% if the normal yield. Since 2012 was a pretty bad year for grazing crops, you may want to consider whether purchasing NAP coverage on your grazing would be beneficial to your operation.

## COC Election

Producers in LAA3 which includes the communities of Shell and Hyattville watch your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters on Nov. 5, 2012. If for some reason you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office.

Completed and signed ballots must be returned to the county office by close of business on Dec.3, 2012.

## 2011 SURE Signup Announced

Signup for the SURE Program for 2011 crop losses will begin **October 22, 2012** and will end **June 7, 2013**. This program was authorized beginning with the 2008 crop year and will be ending with losses occurring because of weather events through September 30, 2011. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

- 1) farms in counties with a Secretarial disaster declaration, including contiguous counties, that have incurred at least a 10 percent crop production or quality loss, or both, for at least one crop of economic significance except grazing crops.
- 2) Farms on which the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the farm's normal production.

Big Horn County did have a Secretarial disaster declaration for 2011, so if you feel you qualify for the 2011 SURE program, please stop by our office during the signup period and complete the necessary paperwork. If you have any questions, please contact us.

## IRS 1099 Changes

Calendar year 2012 has brought changes to the way FSA reports farm program payments to the producer and to the IRS. In past years, IRS Forms 1099-G would be issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount.

Starting with calendar year 2012, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA are less than \$600 will not receive IRS Form 1099-G. Also, producers who receive payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more.

The same changes will apply to producers and vendors who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

## Livestock Producers Affected by Disasters Urged to Keep Good Records

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Juan M. Garcia has urged livestock producers affected by natural disasters, such as Hurricane Isaac, to keep thorough records of their livestock and feed losses, including additional expenses for such things as feed purchases because of lost supplies.

"There are extraordinary circumstances caused by a variety of disasters from fires in the west, floods in Florida, Hurricane Isaac in the Gulf region, storms in the Mid-Atlantic and drought and heat affecting the heartland," Garcia said. "Each of these events is causing economic consequences for ranchers and producers including cattle, sheep and dairy operations, bee keepers and farm-raised fish, and poultry producers."

FSA recommends that owners and producers record all pertinent information of natural disaster consequences, including:

- Documentation of the number and kind of livestock that have died, supplemented if possible by photographs or video records of ownership and losses
- Dates of death supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts
- Costs of transporting livestock to safer grounds or to move animals to new pastures
- Feed purchases if supplies or grazing pastures are destroyed.

Secretary Vilsack also reminds producers that the department's authority to operate the five disaster assistance programs authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill expired on Sept. 30, 2011. This includes SURE; the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP); the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP); the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP); and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). Production losses due to disasters occurring after Sept. 30, 2011, are not eligible for disaster program coverage.

## USDA Announces Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period Now Open

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between September 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their applications for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000.

As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

The Department will continue reaching out to potential Hispanic and female claimants, around the country to get the word out to individuals who may be eligible for this program so they have the opportunity to participate.

Call center representatives can be reached at 1-888-508-4429. Claimants must register for a claims package (by calling the number or visiting the website) and the claims package will be mailed to claimants. All those interested in learning more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages are encouraged to attend meetings in your communities about the claims process and contact the website or claims telephone number.

**Website:** [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

**Phone:** 1-888-508-4429

**Claims Period: September 24, 2012 - March 25, 2013.**

Independent legal services companies will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. Although there are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

## 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 holder's 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 (307) 777-7311.

## Commodity Loans Available

We remind you of the availability of the commodity loan program. Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans. October rates are:

Corn – 2.10    Barley – 1.90    Oats – 1.32    HR Spring Wheat – 2.72

Interest rates are minimal and the term of the loan will be end of the 9th month following disbursement. 2012 loans on small grains can be requested through March 31, 2013 and 2012 corn/sunflower loans can be requested through May 31, 2013. The grower must maintain title and control of the commodity (beneficial interest) while the grain is under loan.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans. The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification. For more information, contact this office.

# Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the U.S.

Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, oats, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities.

For more information about FSFL visit your FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## Dates to Remember

November 12, 2012 – County Office closed – Veteran’s Day Holiday

November 15, 2012 – Reporting date for 2013 Perennial Forage crops, Native Range, Fall Wheat

November 22, 2012 – County Office closed – Thanksgiving Day Holiday

December 3, 2012 – Deadline for voted ballots to be returned or postmarked

December 6, 2012 – County Committee Meeting, ballots counted at 2:00pm

**Big Horn County FSA Office**  
408 Greybull Ave  
Greybull, WY 82426



**PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Farm Service Agency  
PERMIT #G-96**