

May - 2008

Laramie County FSA News

Office Hours: 8:00 – 4:30

Phone: (307) 772-2314

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<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

Committee Election

Committee Nominations Open for LAA #3

Nominations of candidates for the Farm Service Agency county committee election representing producers in Local Administrative Area (LAA) number 3 will be accepted from June 15 through August 1, 2008. Producers who are eligible to vote in LAA 3 and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates. Beginning farmers and ranchers are encouraged to nominate themselves and participate in the election process.

Laramie County FSA will be holding an election for a person to represent LAA 3. LAA 3 includes all of Laramie County west of County Road 136. An informal meeting will be held at the Laramie County FSA office on June 11th at 1:00 p.m. to explain the election process.

Nomination form FSA-669 A is attached for you to fill out and submit for LAA #3.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 3, and must be returned to the FSA county office or postmarked by Dec. 1, 2008.

All farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers are encouraged to participate. The county committee provides local input on commodity price support loans and payments; establish allotment and yields; conservation programs; disaster assistance payments and other programs.

LAA's not receiving nominations will have a representative appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. More information on the elections, including nomination forms, is available at the county office or online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.



Farm Program Information

No Farm Program information as of the date of this newsletter.

Crop Reports – **Please file a crop report.** Call for an appointment. The deadline is July 1, 2008, so don't wait until the last minute! Late filed acreage reports will cost \$46 per farm.

Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Reminders

Production History

NAP participants for 2007 must report their crop production by July 1, 2008 to get an approved production history (APH) established. Production not reported gets a 65% T-yield the 1st year and a zero yield the second consecutive year.

Notice of Loss

A Notice of Loss, CCC-576, must be filed for crop losses within 15 days of loss event or whenever the loss became apparent. Losses not reported timely could result in a loss of eligibility for payment.

Acreage Planted

NAP participants for 2008 must report the crop that was insured and all other cropland planted by July 1, 2008.

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

1. NAME OF NOMINEE (Type or Print Nominee's Full Name)		TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE	
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE			
3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot and I will serve if elected and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign accordingly. <input type="checkbox"/> I DO want to witness the sealing of ball votes with another nominee. <input type="checkbox"/> I DO NOT want to witness the sealing of ball votes with another nominee.		5. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)	
4A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE		6A. COUNTY	
4B. DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)		7. STATE	
		DATE OF ELECTION IS 1ST MONDAY OF DECEMBER OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR	

8. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE
 VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES. The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.

ETHNICITY
 Hispanic or Latino
 Not Hispanic or Latino

RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)
 American Indian or Alaska Native
 Asian
 White
 Black or African American
 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

SEX
 Male
 Female

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

- Complete the form as follows:
- ITEM 1 Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:
 - A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
 - B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
 - C. Willing to serve if elected.
 - ITEM 2 Enter the nominee's current address.
 - ITEM 3 The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the sealing of ball votes.
 - ITEM 4 The nominee must sign and date.
 - ITEM 8 Completing this form is voluntary.
- ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 1.**

NOTE: This advisory statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a) and the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as FSA Committee
 FSA Committee
 According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0590-0228. Do not send this information to Washington, DC, unless you are directed to do so. For more information regarding this information collection, contact the Office of Management and Enterprise Services, Paperwork Reduction Project (0590-0228), Washington, DC 20503-6041. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY (FSA) COMMITTEE ELECTION

The County FSA Committee election will be held on the first Monday of December. Ballots will be mailed to voters not less than 4 weeks before the election.
 This form allows individuals to nominate themselves or any other person as a candidate. If additional forms are needed, this one may be copied or may be obtained at the County FSA Office or obtained electronically at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Each form submitted must be:

- A. Limited to one nominee.
- B. Signed and dated by the nominee in Item 4. Nominee must sign if willing to have his/her name placed on the ballot and agrees to serve if elected.
- C. Delivered to the County FSA Office or postmarked no later than August 1.

The County FSA Committee is responsible for reviewing each form to determine the eligibility of nominees. A person who files this form and is found ineligible will be so notified and have an opportunity to file a challenge.
 Persons nominated should actively participate in the operation of a farm or ranch and be well qualified for committee work. A producer is eligible to be a County FSA committee member if the producer resides in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) in which the election is to be held and is eligible to vote.

Federal regulations may prohibit County FSA Committee members from holding certain positions in some farm, commodity, and political organizations if such positions pose a conflict of interest with FSA duties. The positions include functional offices such as president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer; and positions on boards or executive committees. Conflict of interest restrictions also apply to employees, operators, managers, and majority owners of tobacco warehouses. Questions concerning eligibility should be directed to the County FSA Office.
 A candidate has the option to request that all voted ballots for an individual county committee election be returned to the respective State Office in lieu of being returned to the county office. This request must be in writing and submitted to the local County Executive Director prior to the announced end of the nomination period.

- The duties of County FSA Committee members include:
- A. Administering farm program activities conducted by the County FSA Office.
 - B. Informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA programs.
 - C. Keeping the State FSA Committee informed of LAA conditions.
 - D. Monitoring changes in farm programs.
 - E. Participating in county meetings as necessary.
 - F. Performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex. USDA also prohibits discrimination on the basis of religion, sexual orientation, and marital status. Individuals who believe they have been discriminated against by USDA should contact USDA's Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at (202) 720-2697 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-5272 (voice) or (202) 720-6022 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Conservation Reserve Program

CRP Signup – Continuous CRP Marginal Pastureland

Laramie County has total CRP acreage exceeding 25 percent of the total cropland in the county. When current enrolled CRP acreage exceeds the limitation, only offers for continuous signup for marginal pastureland can be accepted. Practices that are eligible in Continuous CRP are: CP-22 – Marginal Pastureland, CP-29 – Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Habitat Buffer, and CP-30 – Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer. Marginal pastureland is pasture along a stream or adjacent to a wetland area.

CRP Management

CRP participants are required to control all weeds, insects, pests, and perform fire management according to your Conservation Plan. (Mow CRP around farmsteads and buildings for fire control.) We will be checking CRP for compliance. Violation will be subject to the CRP contract being terminated.

CRP Acreage Reports

CRP acreage is required to be reported annually by filing a crop acreage report by July 1.

Maturing CRP Contracts

CRP participants with expiring contract acres in the final year of the CRP-1, who intend to destroy cover for preparation for spring or fall-seeded crops, need pre-authorization from FSA to avoid penalty. Authorization can only be granted after a completed CRP-1G (Modification to Allow Early Preparation) is reviewed and approved by a representative of the Commodity Credit Corporation and the producer completes a conservation plan with NRCS.

Disaster Programs Signup

Signup deadlines for the disaster programs have not been announced, but, we do anticipate a deadline to be announced very soon. There are no late filed provisions. Applications filed after June 20, 2008 will have payments delayed due to software being implemented for CDP Quality Applications.

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

LCP compensates livestock producers for pasture and feed losses resulting from natural disasters occurring between Jan.1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007.

Producers in primary or contiguous counties declared secretarial disaster areas or counties declared presidential disaster areas between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, are eligible. Laramie County is eligible for 2006 or 2007 losses. Producers incurring a loss in more than one of the 2006 or 2007 calendar years must choose only one year for which they want to receive benefits. Please call the county office to set up your appointment.

Applications are paid on the lesser of a dollar value based on cattle numbers or a dollar value based on pasture loss. Most applications are paid on a dollar value based on cattle numbers, so the addition of more pasture or excess feed adds to the pasture value, which does not change the application payment amount.

Crop Disaster Program (CDP)

Signup for the Crop Disaster Program began October 15, 2007. Program benefits will be based on crop losses incurred in the 2005 / 2006 / 2007 crop years. Applications will be taken by appointment at the County office. Please call for an appointment. Crop loss is covered under this signup and quality losses will be taken in a latter signup.

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity or quality losses from natural disasters and related conditions that occurred in 2005, 2006 or 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to receive benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.

USDA / FSA
Laramie County FSA Committee
11221A U.S. Highway 30
Cheyenne WY 82009 8730

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NRCS News

EQIP DEADLINE DATE MOVED FORWARD AGAIN

In past years, the EQIP application deadline date was typically December 1st. In 2007, the application deadline was changed to October 1st. In 2008, the deadline date has again changed. The application deadline for Fiscal Year 2009 EQIP funds is now **September 1st**. If you are an agricultural producer and you have a conservation or wildlife project that you would like help with, call or stop by the local Natural Resources Conservation Service office. The application process is a simple 2 page form to get the process started. The early application deadlines were started in order to give the local NRCS office more to do preliminary planning and cost estimates prior to contract signing. If you need any information or help please contact the NRCS at 11221 US Hwy 30 or 772-2314.

County Committee: Mike Peterson, Mark Child, Dave Bowman **Advisor:** Louise Jacobsen
Office Staff: Doris Scheel, Denise Hunt, Mark Lanning
/S/ Gary Gompert, CED – Email gary.gompert@wy.usda.gov

Dates to Remember

July 1	Deadline to report crops planted.
July 1	Deadline to submit production evidence for 2007 NAP.
July 4	Independence Day Holiday – Office Closed
August 1	Committee Nomination Deadline

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."