



NEWSLETTER



Laramie County FSA Office

March 2012

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Hours

Monday - Friday

7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Laramie County Staff

Doris Scheel

Denise Hunt

Krista Macy

Farm Loan Officer

Dixie Mount- In the office on
Tuesday. Located out of

the Wheatland FSA Office.

(307) 322-4050 phone

County Committee

Mike Peterson

Dale Martin

Brian Jacobsen

Advisor

Louise Jacobsen



CRP Signup Opens

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general signup is set to begin on March 12, 2012, and continue through April 6, 2012. During the signup period, producers may offer eligible land for CRP's competitive general signup at their local FSA office.

Land currently not enrolled in CRP may be offered in this signup provided all eligibility requirements are met. Please call for an appointment.

Additionally, current CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall may make new contract offers. Contracts awarded under this signup are scheduled to become effective Oct. 1, 2012.

FSA will evaluate and rank eligible CRP offers using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) and cost factors. The EBI consists of the five specific environmental factors of 1) wildlife, 2) water, 3) soil, 4) air and 5) enduring benefits. Decisions on the EBI cutoff will be made after the sign-up ends and after analyzing the EBI data of all the offers.

Farm Program Information

2012 Direct & Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and Agriculture Conservation Revenue Enhancement (ACRE) Signup

Signup for the 2012 DCP/ACRE will be held now through June 1, 2012. Advance payments are not authorized for 2012. Payment acres increase for 2012, from 83.3% to 85% of base acres. June 1, 2012, is the deadline for all ACRE and DCP participants. Deputy Administrator Farm Programs has authorized a late file DCP Contract enrollment period through August 1. Please call for an appointment

The ACRE Option

The Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. In exchange for participating in ACRE, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent. The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

Acreage Reports

Please call for an appointment and bring in your planting dates. While applying for the 2012 DCP, we will collect information from your crops planted. The deadline for a 2012 crop report has changed for this year; it is July 15. The change is being made to align with crop insurance reporting dates.

Final Crop Reporting Date Changes for 2013 Crops

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

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

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

Reconstitution of Farms

Producers have until August 1st to request a combination or division of farms. Farms with the same owner / operator are a required combination. Land that is sold can be split from the parent farm using the "landowner designation" method. This method allows the landowner to designate the amount of DCP contract acres to go with the land sold. A written agreement between the buyer and seller must be made before the land sale is final. FSA requires a Warranty Deed or Land Sales Agreement for proof of ownership before a reconstitution of farms can be completed.

Farm Record Changes

June 1, 2012 is the deadline to provide changes to your farm records at the local FSA office for the 2012 crop year. If you are changing your operation entity type, adding or dropping cropland or farms, or adding entities to your operation, contact the FSA county office by June 1.

Changes on the farm after DCP/ACRE enrollment must be reported to the FSA office and all necessary signatures obtained on the revised contract, no later than September 30, 2012.

NAP Deadline

Noninsured Crop Disaster applications are due at different times according to the crop being insured. Producers should apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage using form CCC-471 (Application for Coverage). Related service fees are due when the application is filed. The application and service fee **MUST** be filed by the crop sales closing date. FSA has two closing dates for 2012. December 1 for biennial and perennial forage crops, regardless of the intended use and April 1, 2012 for all other crops.

NAP provides coverage to producers for non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters. Crops eligible for NAP coverage are those for which crop insurance is not available, including fruits and vegetables, aquaculture, pecans, turf grass and forage crops just to name a few. More information about NAP may be found on the FSA web site located at www.fsa.usda.gov

Payment Eligibility

Actively Engaged Determinations

"Actively Engaged" rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE). The stockholder or a member of a legal entity **must** make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management for the farming operation. The contributions are to be performed on regular basis, must be identifiable, and separate from the contributions of others.

The exception to this rule for a stockholder or member of a legal entity only occurs when both of the following apply:

- At least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management; and
- The total direct payments received by the legal entity and each of the members can't exceed \$40,000.

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)

A new form, CCC-931, will be used to record a producer's certification that they meet the applicable AGI requirements. The form also gives consent for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to verify the eligibility of the producer to FSA. The CCC-931 can no longer be signed by an agent with power of attorney authority.

The form includes the following AGI eligibility amounts:

- Less than \$500,000 nonfarm AGI – Eligible for commodity programs
- Less than \$750,000 farm AGI – Eligible for DCP/ACRE direct payments
- Less than \$1 million nonfarm AGI – Eligible for conservation programs
- Less than \$1 million total (farm and nonfarm) AGI – eligible for DCP/ACRE direct payments.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) & Risk Management Agency (RMA)

The RMA (Risk Management Agency) and FSA work together to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse of the Crop Insurance Program. FSA will again be assisting RMA and insurance providers in monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse of Crop Insurance Program to RMA. Producers may report suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse to their local FSA County Office, RMA office, or Office of Investigative General (OIG). FSA will also assist with auditing claims with RMA.

Administrative Information

County Committee Information

The County Committee has set the third Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m. for the regular meeting schedule. Elections were held for Committee positions. Dale Martin was elected Chair, Mike Peterson was elected Vice Chair, and Brian Jacobsen will be Member. Louise Jacobsen was appointed Advisor.

Due to budget constraints the Committee will only be meeting quarterly and may hold meeting per conference call.

Hispanic and Women Farmers

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established. If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible for compensation. To register for a claims package or for additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process:

www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429

Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation:

www.blackfarmerscase.com or call 1-866-950-5547

Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement: www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506.

GovDelivery

Farmers and ranchers in WY now have a more efficient, timely option for receiving important FSA program eligibility requirements, deadlines and related information.

FSA is now offering free online communications through our GovDelivery electronic news service. News will now be sent via e-mail right to your home or farm office or to your Smartphone – allowing you to receive immediate notification of farm program news that is pertinent to your agricultural operation.

Through FSA's GovDelivery electronic news service, producers can establish subscriber preferences by choosing to receive federal farm program information by topic, by state and/or by county. Producers can select as many subscriber options as they want, which allows producers who farm in multiple counties or across state lines to receive updates from each county in which they operate or have an interest.

If, after using this online system, producers no longer wish to receive hardcopy newsletters from their local county office, they should contact the office and make their preferences known. GovDelivery will enable FSA to keep producers better informed and allow us to conserve resources and reduce taxpayer expenses associated with the preparation, printing and distribution of hardcopy newsletters. To begin using GovDelivery, subscribe online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe> or contact your local office for subscription assistance.

Disaster Programs

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program

Signup for the SURE Program for 2010 crop losses started on November 14, 2011. Please call for an appointment. The signup goes through June 1, 2012. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties that have incurred crop production losses and/or crop quality losses during the crop year. (Laramie County is eligible for the 2010 crop year as a bordering county received a Disaster Designation.)
- Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50 percent or less than the normal production of the farm.

At a minimum, to be eligible for the SURE Program, the producer must have purchased or be enrolled in the following for the 2010 crop year:

- A plan of crop insurance of at least catastrophic (CAT) level for all insurable crops on all farms.
- And/or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for all non-insurable crops on all farms.

Laramie County FSA Office
11221 US Hwy 30
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NRCS News

Agricultural Water Enhancement Program Signup Period Announced

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications for the AGRICULTURAL WATER ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (AWEP) until May 18, 2012. The program provides funding to reduce irrigation from aquifers that are experiencing declining water levels. Payments are primarily made to landowners wanting to convert land being irrigated from the Oglala Aquifer to dry cropland. This is the third and final year of the program which has converted over 2000 acres of irrigated farmland to dry cropland in Laramie County. AWEP is administered jointly by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Laramie County Conservation District in an effort to stabilize the Oglala Aquifer providing for a sustainable water supply for Laramie County residents.

Dates to Remember

March 12 – April 6	CRP Signup Period by Appointment
March 15	Federal Crop Insurance Deadline for Spring Crops
March 31	Loan / LDP Deadline for Small Grains
April 1	Application Deadline for NAP Spring Crops
May 28	Memorial Day Holiday – Office Closed
May 31	Loan / LDP Deadline for Feed Grains
June 1	DCP Signup Deadline
June 1	SURE Signup Deadline
July 1	Crop Reporting Deadline
July 4	Independence Day Holiday – Office Closed

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