



NEWSLETTER



Natrona/Converse Counties

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January 2013

Farm Service Agency

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Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

NRCS Staff

Kenny Wolfley, Casper - DC
Tim Schroeder, Douglas - DC

County Committee

Jarad Vollman, Chairman
Neil Forgey, Vice-Chairman
Leslie Hendry, Member
Philip Johnson, Member
Kem Nicolayson, Member

Farm Loan Staff

Dave Lengel, FLM
Douglas 307-358-3050

Conservation District

Michelle Huntington, Douglas
Lisa Ogden, Casper
307-234-4022

COC Election

Leslie Hendry was elected for another 3 year term for LAA 2. Jack Wright will be the alternate member. Congratulations to them both! FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation. The committee members will hold their organizational meeting in January to determine who will serve as the county committee chairman and vice-chairman.

Crop Reporting Deadline - Fall Seeded and Perennial Crops

July 15, 2013 is the deadline for reporting spring alfalfa seed, spring barley, corn, beans, oats, sugar beets, sunflowers, spring wheat, and all other spring crops. 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. Please call for an appointment to certify your crops.

2012 NAP Payments

The FSA County Committee requested a 70% county-wide loss for Natrona County and 80% county-wide loss for Converse County. Producers who had 2012 NAP coverage and reported their losses will be issued payments based on these percent of loss. This office would like you to know that we are working on making those payments as quickly as possible. We have made a few payments, but it could be several months before we are able to complete them all, due to complicated procedure. Please bear with us, we are doing our best to get your much needed payment out to you as soon as we can. We also would like to thank you for your patience.

WOOL PRODUCERS --File "Page 1" for 2013 LDPs

Wool, mohair and unshorn pelt producers are reminded that the 2013 crop year began on January 1, 2013 and if you wish to participate in 2013 you must stop by the office to complete and submit "Page 1" to be eligible for wool LDPs. "Page 1" **must be filed before beneficial interest of the commodity is lost (i.e. sold)**. Contact the office for more information or to fill out your "Page 1". There is currently no LDP being paid.

Price support options for wool producers

The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 has been extended thru 2013 for wool to provide crop year marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments (LDPs) to eligible producers who produce and shear wool from live sheep. **Crop year 2013 mohair MAL's and LDP's are not authorized.** The LDP program is also available to eligible producers of nongraded wool in the form of unshorn pelts but MAL's are not eligible. The wool nonrecourse marketing assistance loan and LDP program provides eligible producers with two forms of Federal assistance. Eligible producers can either:

- request a nine-month marketing assistance loan; or
- agree to forgo the loan and request an LDP.

The program's objective is to help stabilize America's wool industry and ensures the well-being of agriculture in the United States. Nonrecourse marketing assistance loans are administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).

Land Contract (LC) Guarantee Program

FSA offers LC Guarantees to the owner of a farm or ranch who wishes to sell real estate using LC to a beginning or SDA farmer or rancher. This program is a valuable tool to transfer farm real estate to the next generation of farmers and ranchers. LC's may be part of the estate planning process, such as parents selling farmland to their son or daughter. Financial institutions, tax professionals, attorneys, and escrow agents are involved in implementing many LC's. Contact your local Farm Service Agency for more information on this program.

Attention NAP Participants ...

Report your 2012 hay production NOW!

The November 15th deadline for reporting 2012 NAP hay production has been extended. 2012 grass hay crops need to be filed with our office by **July 15, 2013**. If you fail to report your production it could have an adverse impact on the overall crop yield history and payments. Actual Production records should include bale count, average weight of bales, irrigation practice (NI, IR), field numbers to calculate acreage, and type of hay and are used to calculate your payment in case of disaster. If you fail to report production for just one year it could significantly lower your APH and your potential payment! **All production records need to be signed and dated by the producer.** On request, our office will gladly prepare maps to assist in documenting production at time of harvest.

Selling Land

If you plan on selling farmland, you should be aware of several consequences associated with FSA programs. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't continue the CRP contract, you may be required to refund all of the payments you've received to date. Reviewing program implications with your local Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.

IRS 1099 Changes

In past years, IRS Forms 1099G 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 the Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more.

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.

Electronic Services Available

If a producer has Internet access, program participants can access many services from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours.

To participate in these services, you must meet all program eligibility requirements. Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private information.

To utilize electronic services a producer needs an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires an e-mail address and filling out an online registration form at www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/ followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification. If you would like assistance establishing your account, just contact your local USDA Service Center.

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

USDA Announces Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period Now

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

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. Generally, program participants have three choices —an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

Help Available to Stressed Farmers

In the past year, the economy, inclement weather, drought and other factors have hurt many farming operations around the country. These events pushed some farmers to the emotional breaking point. Watching their livelihood being threatened is difficult for farmers and ranchers and especially for those who care about them.

The National Suicide Prevention Hotline is available to help. If you know a farmer or rancher who is under stress and is reluctant to ask for help, or if you just need to talk to someone, call 1-800-273-TALK (8255). Your call will be routed to the crisis center nearest you, where trained staffers are available 24/7. This nationwide service is free and confidential. Help is just a phone call away. For more information, go to <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>. **This service is not affiliated with the US Department of Agriculture.**

Successor In Interest

Many FSA programs will allow payments to be made to heirs or successors when a program participant passes away. Additionally, contracts in programs such as CRP must be revised to reflect the successor(s) to a deceased participant's interest. In the event of an FSA program participant's death, it is important that FSA be notified. Entities and joint operations that participate in FSA programs also need to notify FSA if a shareholder or member passes away. Since FSA benefits are reported to IRS, maintaining current, accurate records about participants is vital to ensure that those payments are reported correctly.

Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the

property. County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

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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.

Dates to Remember	
Feb 18	Washington's Birthday- Federal Holiday Office closed
July 15	Spring crop report deadline
Mid April	Order trees from the Conservation District Go to www.nccdwyoming.com for information
Before beneficial interest is lost	File CCC-633 page 1 for wool LDP
Anytime	Continuous CRP
Anytime	Report land ownership or lease changes
Within 15 days	Provide a Notice of Loss or Prevented Planting Report to FSA

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