

January 2014



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FSA Newsletter - Uinta County, WY

Farm Service Agency <http://www.usda.gov>

100 East Sage Strret
PO Box 610
Lyman, WY 82937-0610

Phone: (307) 787-3859, Ext. 2
Fax: (307) 787-3810

Business Hours:
Monday thru Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Closed - Federal Holiday's

COC Regular Meeting Date:
Quarterly - Next Meeting is:
January 22, 2014 / 1:00 P.M.
USDA Service Center

Uinta County FSA Committee:

J Wesley Luper, Jr., Chairman
Aaron R. Martin, Vice Chairman
Kirk L. Eyre, Member
I. L'nette Iorg, Advisor

County Executive Director:
Karey M. Clark
karey.clark@wy.usda.gov

Farm Loan Manager:

Brian S. Harrell
Riverton, Wyoming
Phone: (307) 865-7524
brian.harrell@wy.usda.gov

Election Ballots Mailed to LAA#3 Voters! Cast Your Vote Today!

IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY VOTED AND RETURNED YOUR BALLOT TO FSA... please take a moment and exercise your right to vote! Your votes do count and are important to the final outcome for the 2013 Uinta County Committee Election.

The new "corrected" County Committee Election ballots were mailed to eligible voters in Local Administrative Area #3 (Lyman - School District Boundary Area) on December 20, 2013. These ballots indicate that they are the corrected ballot in several places, including on the outside of the mailing, on the ballot and on the outside of the return envelope.

Ballots may be returned to the FSA Office at 100 East Sage Street, Lyman, WY, or postmarked no later than January 17, 2014 deadline, to be eligible to be counted.

Candidates are: Mr. Kirk L. Eyre, incumbent and Mr. Clifford D. Martin. Both gentlemen reside and ranch within the LAA#3 boundary area. Mr. Eyre currently is serving on the County Committee, his term has been extended from December 31, 2013 until January 31, 2014.

The newly elected Committee member will take office February 18, 2014.

To be eligible to vote, ranchers and farmers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations of a ranch or farm may also be eligible to vote. Voters who own land within the voting boundary area, including out-of-county or state voters are eligible to cast their vote.

More information on County Committees, such as the new 2013 fact sheet and brochure, are on the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections or contact the Farm Service Agency office in Lyman, WY.

Acreage Reporting Deadlines for 2014

Producers have until January 15, 2014, to report crops that have a November 15, 2013, or December 15, 2013, reporting deadline without being assessed a late-file fee. Under this waiver reportable

crops include; Native or improved grasses intended for Haying and Forage Grazing.

Scheduling an appointment
is recommended

All spring-seeded crops intended for forage or grain have a reporting deadline of July 15, 2014.

Exceptions include:

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
EVERYONE!**

Crops that have not been planted by the acreage reporting dates, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.

Purchase of land, or leasing new land, requires that acreage reporting be completed no later than 30 calendar days from purchase or lease. Proof of new ownership or lease documentation is required to be submitted.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

Late file fees will be assessed for 2013 crops reported after September 15, 2013, and after January 15, 2014, for 2014 crops.

Note: Risk Management (RMA) did not grant a waiver so producers need to consult with their crop insurance agent for deadlines concerning insured (FCIC) crops. (Insured crops in Uinta County are: Alfalfa, Alfalfa Grass Mix and Grass Mix Alfalfa.)

Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The deadline for purchasing 2013 fall seeded NAP crop and permanent cover coverage was December 01, 2013. NAP coverage for 2014 spring planted forage crops may be purchased from now until April 01, 2014. Late file provisions may apply on a case by case basis.

NAP applicants are reminded to timely file your 2013 production history for forage crops covered by NAP.

Production history must include the type of commodity, harvested quantity, acreage where harvested from and broken out by individual farm unit(s). If you have multiple crops please do not provide a lump-sum harvest total. (Example: hay break it out into hay types. I.E. Alfalfa hay, Grass Mix Alfalfa Hay or Native Grass Hay, etc.) Include the applicable bale counts, the size and weight of the bales and the fields harvested from. The production report must also be signed and certified including the signature date.

NAP participants... this is a critical requirement, if a Notice of Loss filing is submitted to the County Office, timely filed production reports are important when determining any potential loss payments. Now is a good time to file your 2013 production history!

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL)

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. 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.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans: Hay, Oats or Barley harvested as other-than-whole grain, or harvested as whole grain, Honey, fruits and vegetables - cold storage facilities, Renewable Biomass and other applicable crop commodities.

Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying and handling equipment or the remodeling of existing facilities. Eligible facilities include but are not limited to: new conventional-type bins or cribs, new or remanufactured oxygen-limited and other upright silo-type structures, new flat-type storage, and hay and biomass storage facilities.

Terms for loan amounts are as follows:

- \$100,000 or less, the term is 7 years only

- \$100,000.01 to \$250,000, the borrower can specify 7 to 10 years
- \$250,000.01 to \$500,000, the borrower can specify 7, 10, or 12 years

Farm Storage Facility Loan Borrowers eligibility must include:

- be a producer of a facility loan commodity
- demonstrate a need for increased storage capacity
- show the ability to repay FSFL through the financial analysis process
- meet all other eligibility requirements

Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85% of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$500,000 for each borrower. A minimum cash down payment of 15 percent is available depending on the amount of the loan and multi-perial crop insurance coverage for all crops is required. The interest rate for January 2014 is 2.250% for 7 years loans, 2.875% for 10 year loans, and 3.000% for 12 year loans.

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov and click on Price Support in the left-hand column of the page (near the bottom of the column).

Farm Bill - Producers Need Good Records

No official word concerning a Farm Bill has been released at this time. Once Farm Bill legislation is made known producers will be notified by GovDelivery, Newsletter and Newspaper articles. In the meantime producers are encouraged to keep accurate records.

FSA encourages producers who sustain losses due to natural disasters to accumulate records of their losses as they occur. Suggested documentation may include, but is not limited to: Receipts, Date of Loss, Photos of Dead Livestock, Purchase Records, Bank or other Loan Documents, Tax Records, Description of Cause or Loss, Inventory Records, Production History Records, Veterinary Records and Rendering Truck Receipts are some examples of loss records.

Accurate and well-kept records will aide in filing for any Farm Bill program when announced. It is always a good idea to maintain accurate records, as often FSA programs are backing up a couple of years to complete program applications. Your application will only be as well-documented as the detailed information you are able to provide. Help us to assist you by keeping accurate and complete records.

Annual FSA Notifications

Breaking New Ground: Agricultural producers are reminded to consult with FSA and NRCS before breaking out new ground for production as doing so without prior authorization may put a producer's federal farm program benefits in jeopardy. This is especially true for land that must meet Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions.

Producers with HEL determined soils must apply tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

Producers should notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to ensure compliance. If you intend to clear land to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not risk your eligibility for program benefits.

Landowners and operators can complete form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary.

Controlled Substance: Any person convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

Signature Authority - Power of Attorney: Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA will save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines: Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office. Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities. For those who find it difficult to visit the county office because of work schedules, distance, health, etc, FSA has a power of attorney form available that allows producers to designate another person to conduct business at the office. If interested,

contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office for more details.

FSA County Offices No Longer Accept any Payment in Cash: Farm Service Agency county offices are no longer authorized to accept any payment in CASH (Currency or Coin). This is a national policy requirement. If you wish to pay in cash, please pick up a money order on the way to visit your county office. Your cooperation is appreciated!

Special Accommodations: Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by telephone.

Bank Account Changes: Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into a bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office when an account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases the bank where payments are sent. Payments will be delayed if the FSA Office is not aware of updates to bank accounts and routing numbers. Help FSA stay current to avoid delays when Farm Bill programs are announced.

Land Ownership Sales or Purchase or Leasing: FSA works very hard to keep accurate records of agricultural land ownership and relies upon you, the producer, to keep FSA informed of any changes in operations. Please help us keep your records up-to-date in the event Farm Bill programs offer a program that will fit your operation. Out-of date records impede application processing. Timely notify FSA of changes by contacting the office as soon as farm changes occur.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

January 15	Deadline to Report Perennial Forage and Fall Seeded Crops
January 17	COC Election Ballots Postmarked or Returned
January 20	Office Closed, Martin Luther King Holiday
January 22	Uinta County COC Election Ballot Count - Open to the Public - 1:00 p.m.
January 22	Regular County Committee Meeting - USDA Service Center
January 31	Current (LAA#3) COC Member Position Extended to this Date
February 17	Office Closed, President's Day Holiday
February 18	Newly Elected COC Member takes Office

ANYTIME Update Records, Report Banking Changes, Visit the COF for more Information.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).