



NEWSLETTER



November 2014

Weston County FSA Office

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www.fsa.usda.gov/wy

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

County Staff

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Director

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2015 Crop Acreage Reporting Deadline Approaching

Producers are reminded to file their 2015 acreage reports as follows:

- **November 17, 2014** - Deadline for perennial forage, pasture, rangeland & forage (PRF) including native grass, winter wheat, and other fall-seeded grains.
- **July 15, 2015** – Deadline for spring-seeded crops and CRP.

The annual, timely and accurate reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs.

Prevented Planting: Prevented planting needs be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

Failed Acreage: Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

Non-Insured Crop Disaster Program (NAP) Deadline

December 1, 2014 is the deadline for producers to purchase NAP coverage for the 2015 crop year for winter seeded crops such as winter wheat hay or grass for hay and/or grazing. NAP provides financial assistance to eligible producers affected by a natural disaster. The program covers crops for which Federal crop insurance is not available. For details, please contact your local FSA office.

If NAP coverage is purchased, please remember, timely filing a Notice of Loss is required. You must file the Notice of Loss within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and Notice of Loss must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

Save the Date – December 19th 2014 Farm Bill Public Meeting Coming Soon

University of Wyoming Extension – Sustainable Ag & Horticulture in cooperation with Wyoming Farm Service Agency will offer a meeting in Gillette, WY covering details of the new farm programs. Highlights will include: base acre update, yield update, Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC), Price Loss Coverage (PLC), Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO), Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance (NAP) buy-up coverage, online decision tools, analyzing information for your farm, and more. More information regarding specific location and time will be announced once details are finalized.

Livestock Disaster Assistance Sign-up Underway

Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP): LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land. Deadline to sign-up is **January 30, 2015**.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP): LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered death losses in excess of normal mortality due to an eligible adverse weather event, or attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the Federal Government or protected by Federal law. Date of livestock death occurring Oct. 1, 2011 – Dec. 31, 2014, final date to file notice of loss is January 30, 2015. Calendar years 2015 and all subsequent years, final date to file notice of loss is 30 days after death is apparent.

Agricultural Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC)

The new programs, Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC), are cornerstones of the commodity farm safety net programs in the 2014 Farm Bill, legislation that ended direct payments. Both programs offer farmers protection when market forces cause substantial drops in crop prices and/or revenues. ARC/PLC provides revenue and price loss payments to eligible producers for the 2014 through 2018 crop years.

Sept. 29, 2014 to Feb. 27,	Nov. 17, 2014 to Mar. 31,	Mid-April 2015 to Summer	October 2015
Landowners may update their yield history and/or reallocate base acres.	Producers make one-time election between PLC, ARC-CO or ARC-IC for the 2014-2018 crop years.	Producers enroll for 2014 and 2015 crop years.	Payments for 2014 crop year issued if applicable.

ONLINE TOOLS AVAILABLE: USDA helped create online tools to assist producers in the decision process, allowing farm owners and producers to enter information about their operation and see projections that show what ARC and/or PLC will mean for them under possible future scenarios. The new tools are now available at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

Microloan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA). Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Individuals who are interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available should contact their local FSA office to set up an appointment with a loan official.

Beginning Farmer Loans

FSA assists beginning farmers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size farm.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

LOANS FOR THE SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches. While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of socially disadvantaged applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

County Committee Elections

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is encouraging farmers and ranchers to make their voices heard by voting in the upcoming Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee elections. Beginning Monday, Nov. 3, 2014, USDA will mail ballots for the 2014 elections to eligible producers across the country. Producers must return ballots to their local FSA offices by the Dec. 1, 2014, deadline to ensure that their vote is counted.

To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers 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 an entire farm may also be eligible to vote. Agricultural producers in each county submitted candidate nominations during the nomination period, which ended on Aug. 1, 2014.

Eligible voters who do not receive ballots in the coming week may pick one up at their local USDA Service Center or FSA office. The deadline to submit ballots is Dec. 1, 2014. Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked no later than Dec. 1, 2014. Newly elected committee members and their alternates will take office Jan. 1, 2015.

2014 MAL and LDP Requests

FSA is accepting requests for marketing assistance loans (MALs) and loan deficiency payments (LDPs) for eligible 2014 commodities. MALs and LDPs for the 2014 crop year become available to eligible producers beginning with harvest/shearing season and extending through a specific commodity's final loan availability date. Sugar commodity loans for the 2014 crop will be available to sugar processors beginning Oct. 1, 2014.

MALs and LDPs provide financing and marketing assistance for wheat, feed grains, soybeans, and other oilseeds, pulse crops, rice, peanuts, cotton, wool, mohair and honey. MALs provide producers interim financing after harvest to help them meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. A producer who is eligible to obtain a loan, but agrees to forgo the loan, may obtain an LDP if such a payment is available. Marketing loan provisions and LDPs are not available for sugar and extra-long staple cotton.

National and county loans rates for 2014 crops are posted on the FSA website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport. For program details and more information, please visit your local FSA office.

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 phone.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Additional program information, loan applications and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov

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Newcastle, WY 82701



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Dates to Remember	
Continuous	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
Continuous	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Nov 27, 2014	Thanksgiving Day Holiday – Office Closed
Dec 1, 2014	Deadline to purchase NAP
Dec 1, 2014	Last day to return ballots for County Committee
Dec 4, 2014	County Committee Meeting
Dec 19, 2014	2014 Farm Bill Public Meeting – Gillette, WY
Dec 25, 2014	Christmas Day Holiday – Office Closed

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or e-mail at program.intake@usda.gov.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities and wish to file either an EEO or program complaint, please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish). Persons with disabilities, who wish to file a program complaint, please see information above on how to contact us by mail directly or by email. If you require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) please contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).