

November 2015



BULLETIN



Campbell County FSA Updates

Campbell County FSA

Office

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County Executive Director:

Susan Kramer

Farm Loan Manager:

Rob Weppner

Program Technicians:

Judy Bishop
Peggy Seppala
Claudette Vander Voort

County Committee:

Chuck Tweedy, Chairman
Wendy Bethea, Vice
Chairperson
Jody Cheser, Regular
Member

Next County Committee

Meeting: October 7th
1:00pm

County Office News - Peggy is Retiring and Annual Holiday Open House!

Peggy Seppala, long-time county office employee, is planning to retire at the end of this calendar year. Please attend the Holiday Open House to wish Peggy a Happy Retirement!

The Annual Holiday Open House will be held December 3, 2015, 1:00 -3:00 pm. Come join us for holiday treats and to wish Peggy good luck in her upcoming retirement.

Election of COC Representative for LAA 2

Ballots will be mailed November 9th for the election of a representative for Local Administrative Area 2 (LAA2). LAA2 is that portion of Campbell County North of I-90 and East of Hwy 14-16 N, Collins Rd and Bowers-Ute Rd, north to the Montana state line. Nominees are Wendy Bethea, current representative for the area and Nancy Tarver, a past representative. Voted ballots must be in the Campbell County FSA office or postmarked no later than Dec. 7, 2015. Ballots will be counted @ 2:00pm, Dec. 14, 2015, during the COC meeting.

2016 Fall Acreage Reports

Please contact the FSA County office to complete your 2016 fall acreage report. Contact the county office to make an appointment to complete your reports. The deadline to complete your fall acreage report is **November 15, 2015**.

2015 Hay Production Reports

Reports of 2015 hay production can be made at this time. The deadline for these reports is **November 15, 2015**. Please contact the county office while this information is fresh in your mind.

Signup for CRP Grasslands – Approaching Deadline

Software is currently not available for the CRP Grasslands signup. Please contact the

office if you want to complete a manual application. If you previously contacted the county office, please contact us again.

Farmers and ranchers can apply for financial assistance to help conserve working grasslands, rangeland and pastureland while maintaining the areas as livestock grazing lands.

The CRP-Grasslands initiative will provide participants who establish long-term, resource-conserving covers with annual rental payments up to 75 percent of the grazing value of the land. Cost-share assistance also is available for up to 50 percent of the covers and other practices, such as cross fencing to support rotational grazing or improving pasture cover to benefit pollinators or other wildlife. Participants may still conduct common grazing practices, produce hay, mow, or harvest for seed production, conduct fire rehabilitation, and construct firebreaks and fences.

With the publication of the CRP regulation, the Farm Service Agency will accept applications on an ongoing basis began Sept. 1, 2015, with those applications scored against published ranking criteria, and approved based on the competitiveness of the offer. The ranking period will occur at least once per year and be announced at least 30 days prior to its start. **The end of the first ranking period will be Nov. 20, 2015.**

Please call your local FSA Office if you are interested in this Program!

To learn more about participating in CRP-Grasslands or SAFE, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/crp or consult with the local Farm Service Agency county office.

Farmers to Receive Documentation of USDA Services

Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds agricultural producers that FSA provides a receipt to customers who request or receive assistance or information on FSA programs.

As part of FSA's mission to provide enhanced customer service, producers who visit FSA will receive documentation of services requested and provided. From December through June, FSA issued more than 327,000 electronic receipts.

The 2014 Farm Bill requires a receipt to be issued for any agricultural program assistance requested from FSA, the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Rural Development (RD). Receipts include the date, summary of the visit and any agricultural information, program and/or loan assistance provided to an individual or entity.

In some cases, a form or document – such as a completed and signed program enrollment form – serve as the customer receipt instead of a printed or electronic receipt. A service is any information, program or loan assistance provided whether through a visit, email, fax or letter.

To learn more about FSA, visit www.fsa.usda.gov or to find your local USDA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov 15, 2015 – Deadline to submit 2015 NAP Production

Nov 15, 2015 – Deadline for fall acreage reports for 2016

April 1, 2016– Deadline to purchase 2016 NAP coverage

IMMEDIATELY --File Notification of Loss Forms within 15 Days of Loss of crops

--Notify County office of any changes in Direct Deposit information,

--Payment limitation changes, Farm records changes, Banking info changes, etc.

Any time --CRP Continuous Signup

--Paid measurement services from FSA

Office Hours are from 8:00am to 4:30pm. Producers are urged to call for an appointment, so the office staff can assist you timely. Due to the computer environment, some applications/processes are unable to be completed after 4:00pm.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above dates or information in this newsletter, please contact the County office for more information (307) 682-8843, ext.2.

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).