



# United States Department of Agriculture

## May 2016

Sheridan – Johnson County FSA Office  
1949 Sugarland Drive, Suite 126  
Sheridan, WY 82801

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1-866-262-4396

**Johnson County Office Day:**  
First Wednesday of each month.

Buffalo USDA Service Center  
621 Fetterman Street  
Buffalo, WY 82834  
(307) 684-2526 Ext. 126

### FSA Office Personnel:

Linda Benzel, CED  
Janice Wheeler, PT  
Staci Green-Steiner, Temp. PT

### County Committee Members:

Steve Schuette, Chairperson  
Susan Moyes; Vice chairperson  
John Buyok, Regular Member  
Raymon Turk, Regular Member  
Thad Stoltz, Regular Member

### Farm Loan Manager:

Rob Weppner

### Farm Program Specialist:

Cindy Hottel

### Dates to Remember:

**May 30, 2016** – Memorial Day-  
Office Closed

**June 1, 2016** – OPEN HOUSE for  
Janice Wheeler's Retirement

**July 4, 2016** – 4<sup>th</sup> of July – Office  
Closed

**July 15, 2016**- Spring Crop  
Reporting Deadline & 2015 NAP  
Production Records Due

### Next COC Meeting:

Will be announced

## ♣ OPEN HOUSE ♣



*The mountains are calling, and Janice has answered...*

You are ALL cordially invited to come say “Farewell”, “Bon Voyage”, “Ciao”, but most importantly...Best Wishes for a wonderful Retirement...to Janice Wheeler. Janice has served the Sheridan and Johnson County producers for 11 ½ years.

Please join us Wednesday, June 1, 2016 from 9am – 4pm at the Sheridan ~ Johnson County FSA Office in the Cottonwood Building on 1949 Sugarland Drive in Sheridan, Suite 126.

## ARC/PLC ~ Are your Commodity Crops Covered?

The Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill combine provisions from previous programs delivered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) (the counter-cyclical portion of the Direct and Counter- Cyclical Program, the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program and the Average Crop Revenue Election Program) with revenue insurance delivered by the Risk Management Agency. Owners must have made a one-time election to reallocate crop bases, update program payment yields and producers select the type of coverage (price protection, county revenue protection, and/or individual revenue protection) for crop years 2014-2018.

Eligible producers may now formally enroll in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for 2016. The Sheridan-Johnson County FSA Office will begin scheduling appointments in late July for producers who have previously elected to participate in ARC or PLC. *Please note: Election is not the same as enrollment and producers must still enroll their farm (sign a contract) to receive program benefits.* This will be an annual signup until the year 2018, the end of the 2014 Farm Bill.

[When are payments authorized for the ARC/PLC Programs?](#) Payments for the 2014-2018 crops are issued the later of Oct. 1 of the subsequent crop year or when the national average market year price is published by USDA.

### Enrollment of ARC and PLC 2016 through 2018 Enrollment

2016, 2017, and 2018 enrollment of ARC and PLC farms, will begin Dec.1 and end Aug.1 of the applicable contract year.

2016 enrollment will begin Dec.1, 2015 and end Aug.1, 2016;  
2017 enrollment will begin Dec.1, 2016 and end Aug.1, 2017;  
2018 enrollment will begin Dec.1, 2017 and end Aug.1, 2018.

 **SPRING Planting has SPRUNG**   
**Acreage Reporting Deadline Fast Approaching**

Crop reports are required for participation in many FSA programs, such as **NAP** (Non-insured Crop Assistance Program), **CRP** (cropland and riparian areas set aside for habitat restoration and preservation), **LDP** commodity payments, **ARC/PLC** and **Disaster Program** payments. The annual crop report form FSA-578 Report of Acreage, must account for all rangeland and cropland on a farm, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage.

**July 15, 2016** is the deadline to file an acreage report for **SPRING** Seeded Alfalfa Crops, Forage Seeding, and all other **SPRING** seeded crops and any crops not previously recorded. Producers are encouraged to contact our FSA office to set up an appointment to complete their crop report certification before the deadline date.

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the applicable acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage; ie. Purchased or Leased; after the applicable acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of “cover only,” “green manure,” “left standing,” or “seed,” then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

 **NAP Participants: Report your 2016 Actual Production History** 

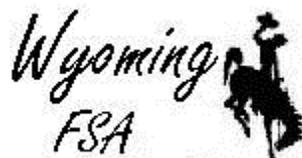
Production records for ALL forage seeded crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. The deadline to file 2015 production records is **July 15, 2016**. *Please note: if you fail to report your production it could have an adverse impact on the overall crop yield history 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. **All production records need to be signed and dated by producer.** On request, our office will gladly prepare maps to assist in documenting production at time of harvest.

**2017 NAP**

**Attention Sheridan-Johnson County Ag Producers -----**

**Software is now available for producers wanting to purchase Crop Year 2017 NAP coverage.**



# CRP ~ Working to Save Our Topsoil

Grasslands is part of the CRP program, a federally funded voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is not farmed or ranched, but instead used for conservation benefits. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 14 and 15 years.

CRP Grasslands helps landowners and operators protect grassland, including rangeland, and pastureland, and certain other lands, while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. The program emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and grassland and land containing shrubs and forbs under the greatest threat of conversion.

CRP Grasslands is authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill. The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers the program on behalf of the USDA Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).

Interested participants may file applications with FSA at any time. These applications will be batched and reviewed several times a year to determine which applications can be approved. Applications for CRP Grassland will be ranked after each batching period using Grassland Ranking Factors. FSA collects data for each of the ranking factors based on the relative benefits for the land offered. Each eligible offer is ranked in comparison to all other offers and selections made from that ranking.

FSA uses the following ranking factors, including:

- Existence of expiring CRP or Grassland Reserve Program land;

- Existing grassland;

- Multi-species cover existence and predominance of native species;

- Livestock grazing operation;

- State Focus Area (land-based) determined in consultation with State Technical Committee;

- Whether the applicant is an eligible beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher and;

- Other factors as determined by the Deputy Administrator.

FSA provides cost-share assistance to participants who establish approved practices on eligible land in an amount that is not more than 50 percent of the participants' costs in establishing approved practices.

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other restrictions may apply. To find more information about CRP-Grasslands, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/crp](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp). For more details on FSA conservation programs, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation) or contact your local FSA office.

## *Nomination Period Begins for County Committee Elections*

Nomination for candidates for this year's County Committee election will be held for LAA3 (Local Administrative Area). Producers may request nomination forms from their local FSA county office or obtain online at [www.fsa.usda.gov/election](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/election).

Nominations will be accepted from June 15 through August 1, 2016. This area correlates with School District 3 in Sheridan County and in Johnson County lies north of Township 44N on the East side of I-90 and I-25 to the Campbell County line. Thad Stoltz is currently serving his 1<sup>st</sup> term as the LAA 3 representative to the county committee.



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Sheridan, WY 82801-5720

### Important FSA Dates and Deadlines

- ◆ **May 30, 2016:** Memorial Day – Office Closed
- ◆ **June 15, 2016:** Nomination Period Begins for County Committee Elections. Producers may request nomination forms from their local FSA county office or obtain online at [www.fsa.usda.gov/election](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/election).
- ◆ **December 1, 2015 to August 1, 2016:** 2016 Enrollment Period for ARC/PLC programs.
- ◆ **July 4, 2016 (Monday):** Fourth of July Holiday Observed; FSA Office Closed.
- ◆ **July 15, 2016:** Acreage Reporting Deadline for Spring Seeded Alfalfa crops, Forage Seeding, all other spring seeded crops and any crops not previously recorded.
- ◆ **July 15, 2016:** Final 2015 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Production Records are due.
- ◆ **August 1, 2016 (Monday):** Last day to file County Committee nomination forms at the local FSA county office.

### ◆ *OFFICE HOUR CHANGE* ◆

Effective **May 31, 2016** the Sheridan ~Johnson FSA Office will have new office hours. We will be open Monday thru Friday from 8am to 4:30pm.

We will continue to be in the Johnson County FSA Office the first Wednesday of each month.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. 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).