



# NEWSLETTER



August 2016

## Sheridan – Johnson County FSA Office

1949 Sugarland Drive, Ste 126  
Sheridan, WY 82801

**(307)672-5820 Ext. 2**  
**Fax: 866-574-1670**

**Toll Free Number:**  
**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  
Staci Green-Steiner, 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  
307-682-8843

## Dates to Remember:

**September 5, 2016** – Labor Day-  
Office Closed

**September 20-22, 2016** – Office  
CLOSED for State Training

**October 10, 2016** – Columbus Day  
– Office Closed

**November 11, 2015** – Veteran's  
Day – Office Closed

**November 15, 2016**- Fall Crop  
Reporting Deadline

**January 31, 2017** – Deadline for  
LFP sign up

## Next COC Meeting:

Wednesday, September 14, 2016  
at 1pm

## Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill) authorized the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) to provide compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses for covered livestock on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or is planted specifically for grazing. The grazing losses must be due to a qualifying drought condition during the normal grazing period for the county.

An eligible livestock producer who owns or leases grazing land or pastureland physically located in a county rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having a:

- ◆ D2 (severe drought) intensity in any area of the county for at least eight consecutive weeks during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to one monthly payment;
- ◆ D3 (extreme drought) intensity in any area of the county at any time during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to three monthly payments; D3 (extreme drought) intensity in any area of the county for at least four weeks during the normal grazing period or is rated a D4 (exceptional drought) intensity at any time during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to four monthly payments; or
- ◆ D4 (exceptional drought) in a county for four weeks (not necessarily four consecutive weeks) during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to five monthly payments.

### Eligible livestock must:

- Have been owned, purchased or entered into a contract to purchase during the 60 days prior to the beginning date of a qualifying drought or fire condition;
- Have been held by a contract grower or sold or otherwise disposed of due to a qualifying drought condition during the current production year or one or both of the two production years immediately preceding the current production year;
- Have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the beginning date of the eligible drought or fire condition;
- Not have been produced and maintained for reasons other than commercial use as part of a farming operation (such excluded uses include, but are not limited to, wild free-roaming animals or animals used for recreational purposes such as pleasure, hunting, pets, roping or for show); and
- Not have been livestock that were or would have been in a feedlot on the beginning date of the qualifying drought or fire as part of the normal business operation of the producer.

***Sheridan and Johnson Counties are eligible for 1 month of feed loss due to the drought monitor being at a level 2 for eight consecutive weeks. If you don't have an appointment scheduled, please call the county office at 307-672-5820 ext. 2. The deadline to file is **Tuesday, January 31, 2017.*****

To find more information about FSA disaster assistance programs, visit <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov> or contact your local FSA office.



## FALL 2017 ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINE

**November 15, 2016:** Native Range, Apiculture, Perennial Forage, PRF, Fall Wheat (Hard Red Winter- HRW), and all other Fall Seeded Small Grains

**January 2, 2017:** Honey

Acres reports are a requirement for almost all programs administered through the USDA. Producers who are enrolled in the Noninsured Assistant Program (NAP), ARC/PLC, purchase multi-peril or catastrophic crop insurance, receive Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) or participate in the other USDA farm programs must file an acreage report each year to remain or be eligible for benefits. The crops reported are used in calculation benefits if you suffer a loss.

Our office is currently mailing appointment reminders to known agriculture producers. However, if you believe you need to file an acreage report and have not received an appointment reminder, please feel free to call for an appointment or come to the FSA office to file your acreage report.

### FSAfarm+, FSA's Customer Self-Service Portal

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) has launched a new tool to provide farmers and ranchers with remote access to their personal farm information using their home computers. Farmers and ranchers can now view, print or export their personal farm data all without visiting an FSA county office.

The program, known as FSAfarm+, provides you with secure access to view your personal FSA data, such as base and yields, Conservation Reserve Program data, other conservation program acreage, Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation status information, field boundaries, farm imagery, name and address details, contact information and membership interest and shares in the operation. This data will be available in real time, at no cost to the producer and allow operators and owners to export and print farm records, including maps. Producers also can electronically share their data with a crop insurance agent from their own personal computer.

Farm operators and owners first will need "Level 2 eAuthentication" to access the webportal. This level of security ensures that personal information is protected for each user. Level 2 access can be obtained by going to [www.eauth.usda.gov](http://www.eauth.usda.gov), completing the required information and then visiting your local FSA office to finalize access.

For more information on FSAfarm+, the customer self-service portal, contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA county office, click <http://offices.usda.gov>.



### Ongoing Notice of Loss Filing Requirements

**NAP - Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program:** The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, documents a producer's loss or damage to a crop or commodity due to an eligible cause of loss, as well as failed acreage and prevented planting. A CCC-576, Notice of Loss must be provided for prevented planting claims, within 15 calendar days after the final planting date established for the crop, and for low yield claims, the earlier of:

- **15 calendar days** after the disaster occurrence or date of loss or damage to the crop first becomes apparent
- **15 calendar days** after the normal harvest date established for the crop.

Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office by the dates previously mentioned. An acreage report must be on file prior to the Notice of Loss being filed.

## County Committee Election

Be watching your mailbox for your official county committee election ballot starting early in November. This year's election will be held for LAA (Local Administrative Area) 3, 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 1st term as the LAA 3 representative to the county committee.

Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters on November 7, 2016. **Completed and signed ballots must be returned to the county office or postmarked by the close of business on December 5, 2016.** Newly elected members take office on January 1, 2017.

The election of agricultural producers to FSA county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers – whether an operation is large or small. FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the United States Department of Agriculture. Members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support programs and other important agricultural issues.

We would like to encourage all eligible producers to participate in this year's COC election process. Please cast your vote and return your ballot by the deadline.



## Breaking New Ground

Producers requesting USDA benefits are reminded to follow the Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) provisions provided in the 1985 Food Security Act, as amended. In order to maintain eligibility for USDA programs, all producers planting agricultural commodities on predominantly highly erodible land (HEL) shall ensure they are following tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements according to the provisions of an approved conservation system or conservation plan. Producers should contact their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) prior to breaking new ground to file an AD-1026.

Producers are also reminded to follow the Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions. The 1985 Food Security Act, as amended, states that producers are ineligible for benefits if they plant agricultural commodities on wetlands that were converted after December 23, 1985 or convert a wetland after November 28, 1990, by draining, dredging, filling, leveling, or any other means for the purpose, or to have the effect, of making the production of an agricultural commodity possible. Annual reviews are conducted by FSA and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to ensure producers follow an approved conservation system or conservation plan on highly erodible land and to ensure that identified wetlands have not been altered. Violations may lead to ineligibility for USDA program benefits.

If you have highly erodible land that you farm or if you are breaking out new land, please contact NRCS's Andrew Cassidy or Oakley Ingersoll to make sure you have a current highly erodible plan.

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Sheridan ~ Johnson Counties FSA Office  
1949 Sugarland Drive, Suite 126  
Sheridan, WY 82801-5720

## **IMPORTANT FSA DATES AND DEADLINES**

- ◆ **September 5, 2016:** Labor Day – Office Closed
- ◆ **September 14, 2016:** County Committee Meeting, 1pm at Sheridan USDA Service Center, 1949 Sugarland Dr.
- ◆ **September 20-22, 2016:** Office **CLOSED** – State Training in Casper
- ◆ **October 10, 2016:** Columbus Day – Office Closed
- ◆ **November 11, 2016:** Veteran's Day – Office Closed
- ◆ **November 15, 2016:** Fall 2017 Crop Reporting Deadline
- ◆ **November 24, 2016:** Thanksgiving – Office Closed
- ◆ **January 31, 2017:** DEADLINE to sign up for LFP (Livestock Forage Program)

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).