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Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

BULLETIN

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Sheridan ~ Johnson County FSA Updates

Sheridan ~ Johnson County FSA Office

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County Executive

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County Committee:

Steve Schuette, Chairman
Susan Moyes, Vice-Chairman
John Buyok, Member
Raymon Turk, Member
Thad Stoltz, Member

Next County Committee Meeting: TBA

From the desk of Linda Benzel, CED

SPRING... or at least the calendar says it is spring! Wyoming weather always has another agenda. I hope all is going well with your calving and lambing. If you do have an adverse weather event causing death loss to your livestock, please contact our office within 30 days of when the loss was apparent. The Livestock Indemnity Program is available:

The 2014 Farm Bill authorized the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) to provide benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by eligible loss conditions, including eligible adverse weather, eligible disease and eligible attacks (attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law, including wolves and avian predators). LIP payments are equal to 75 percent of the market value of the applicable livestock on the day before the date of death of the livestock as determined by the Secretary. LIP is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA). For more information about FSA disaster assistance programs, visit <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov> or contact your local FSA office.

For those of you planting spring crops, be reminded the SPRING CROP ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINE DATE is **July 16, 2018**. Plan to make an appointment with the county office after planting but prior to the reporting deadline date.

For those of you that purchased 2018 NAP coverage, CCC-471 NAP BP (Basic Provisions) is available on the FFAS Employee Forms/Publications Online Website at <http://fsaintranet.sc.egov.usda.gov/dam/ffasforms/forms.html>. Or stop by the office to pick up a copy.

Linda Benzel, CED

Acres Reporting

A crop acreage report is a record of crops of a crop year on a farm. The crop acreage report (FSA-578) is filed annually with the Farm Service Agency (FSA). The FSA-578 is used by producers to document all crops and intended uses, including failed acreage and acres that may have been prevented from being planted. The crop acreage report must be filed by the crop's applicable final reporting date. Acreage reports provide information necessary for:

1. Eligibility for current or future U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs;
2. Determining highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation compliance; and
3. History purposes.

WHO CAN FILE Any farm operator, owner or producer with a share interest in crop acreage on the farm may file an acreage report.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION Acreage reporting maps are used to illustrate where crops are located on the farm and to provide information to the county office. The county FSA office can provide maps of the land you are reporting to complete prior to filing your acreage report. The following information must be included on the map:

1. Farm number;
2. Tract number;
3. Field (common land unit)/subfield number;
4. Crop;
5. Intended use;
6. Numbers of acres or other applicable unit of measurement;
7. Approximate boundaries of the crop (if different than the common land unit);
8. Planting pattern, when applicable;
9. Irrigation practice;
10. Planting date, when applicable; and
11. Producer shares.

FINAL ACREAGE REPORT DATE (ARD)

Fall-planted and perennial crops are reported in the fall, generally around Nov. 15. Spring-planted crops are reported in the summer, generally around **July 15**. Crops must be filed by the final ARD regardless of program participation. Program application, contract or signup deadlines have no bearing on the deadline for filing an acreage report by the ARD. Contact your local county office for the applicable ARD for the crops you wish to report. **Exception:** Persons or legal entities who acquire a share interest in crop acreage after the ARD have 30 days from the date they acquire that interest to either update the crop acreage report with that interest or to report the acreage (if not already reported).

LATE-FILED REPORT OF ACREAGE Late-filed acreage report may be filed after the ARD if the person filing the late-filed crop acreage report pays the cost of a farm visit to determine the crop acreage, type, use and practice. Physical existence or residue of the late-filed reported crop acreage for the crop must exist to enable FSA to verify and determine the crop acreage, crop type, use and practice. Because of physical existence and evidence requirements in a crop year to support verification of late-filed FSA-578s, late-filed reports of acreage are permitted after a crop's ARD up until the subsequent year's ARD for the crop.

MEASUREMENT SERVICE Most programs FSA administers require accurate acreage reporting. Producers who want assistance in determining crop acreage can seek an FSA measurement service. Producer-requested and paid for FSA measurement services are official and guaranteed. Producers must file a request with the county office staff and pay the cost of a field visit to have stake and referencing or measurement after planting is done on the farm. Measurement service is available using digital imagery. If an on-site visit is not required, producers are charged a reduced rate.

SAVE TIME - MAKE AN APPOINTMENT You can reduce the time it may take to file crop acreage reports by calling your servicing county FSA office before your visit to discuss any records or documentation that you may need to have with you and to possibly make an appointment for your visit. For local FSA service center contact information, please visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other restrictions

may apply. To find more information about acreage reporting, visit <https://www.ams.usda.gov> or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFLs) provide low-interest financing for producers to store, handle and/or transport eligible commodities they produce. This includes the following:

1. Acquire, construct or upgrade new or used, portable or permanently affixed, on-farm storage and handling facilities;
2. Acquire new or used storage and handling trucks; and
3. Acquire portable or permanently affixed storage and handling equipment.

The program is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA). A producer may borrow up to \$500,000 per loan, with a minimum down payment of 15 percent. Loan terms are up to 12 years, depending on the amount of the loan. Producers must demonstrate storage needs based on three years of production history. FSA also provides a microloan option that, while available to all eligible farmers and ranchers, also should be of particular interest to new or small producers where there is a need for financing options for loans up to \$50,000 at a lower down payment with reduced documentation.

ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS These loans must be approved by the local FSA state or county committee **before** any site preparation and/or construction can be started. All loan requests are subject to an environmental evaluation. Accepting delivery of equipment, starting any site preparation or construction before loan approval may impede the successful completion of an environmental evaluation and may adversely affect loan eligibility.

ELIGIBLE FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT AND UPGRADES The following types of new/used facilities and upgrades are eligible and must have a useful life for at least the term of the loan:

1. Conventional cribs or bins;
2. Oxygen-limiting structures and remanufactured oxygen-limiting structures;
3. Flat-type storage structures;
4. Electrical equipment and handling equipment, excluding the installation of electrical service to the electrical meter;
5. Safety equipment, such as interior and exterior ladders and lighting;
6. Equipment to improve, maintain or monitor the quality of stored grain;
7. Concrete foundations, aprons, pits and pads, including site preparation, off-farm labor and material, essential to the proper operation of the grain storage and handling equipment;
8. Renovation of existing farm storage facilities, under certain circumstances, if the renovation is for maintaining or replacing items;
9. Grain handling and grain drying equipment determined by the Commodity Credit Corporation to be needed and essential to the proper operation of a grain storage system (with or without a loan for the storage facility);
10. Structures that are bunker-type, horizontal or open silo structures, with at least two concrete walls and a concrete floor;
11. Structures suitable for storing hay built according to acceptable design guidelines;
12. Structures suitable for storing renewable biomass;
13. Bulk tanks for storing milk or maple sap;
14. Cold storage buildings, including prefabricated buildings that are suitable for eligible commodities. Also may include cooling, circulating and monitoring equipment and electrical equipment, including labor and materials for installation of lights, motors and wiring integral to the proper operation of a cold storage facility; and
15. Storage and handling trucks, including refrigerated trucks.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS An eligible borrower is any person who is a landowner, landlord, leaseholder, tenant or sharecropper. Eligible borrowers must be able to show repayment ability and meet other requirements to qualify for a loan. Contact an FSA office for more details.

WHERE TO FILE THE APPLICATION Loan applications should be filed in the administrative FSA county office that maintains the farm's records.

FOR MORE INFORMATION This fact sheet is provided for informational purposes; other eligibility requirements or restrictions may apply. For more information about FSFLs, visit

www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Linda Benzel at 307-683-4202 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

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).