



NEWSLETTER



June 2012

**Lincoln County
Farm Service Agency**

1310 W. Morgan St.
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Office Hours

Mon. – Fri. 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

County Committee

Pete Carstensen, Chair
Joseph Schultz, Vice-Chair
Kathy Scrupps, Member

Office Staff

Melissa Michael, CED
Debbie Sweet, PT
Paula Reed, PT
Aaron Landreth, PT
Stephanie Fisher, PT

Next COC Meeting

July 12th

Dates to Remember:

- June 30 - Acreage Reporting deadline
- July 15 - ACRE Production Reporting deadline
- June 15 – August 1 COC Nomination forms can be submitted

Please remember to **TIMELY** inform our office of any Farm Record changes!

More Information may be found at

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>

ACREAGE REPORTING

Acreage reporting must be completed this year by **June 30, 2012** as in years past. Please call the office to make an appointment. Acreage reporting is the baseline for many FSA programs and it is imperative that all acres are reported as soon as planting is complete. Producers are reminded to bring their planting dates to their appointment.

Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) Production Reporting

The deadline to report your 2011 commodity crop production for farms participating in the ACRE program is **July 15**. This is a requirement for all ACRE farms. If you have not yet reported your production please contact the office, or stop by to pick up form FSA-658 to ensure all information is timely filed.

FSA Seeks Candidates for County Committee

Local farmers and ranchers have an opportunity to influence federal farm programs. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting nominations for the Lincoln County Committee between June 15 and August 1, 2012.

The FSA county committee system provides a unique federal government experience. Farmers and ranchers are elected by their peers to help the agency administer farm programs and provide an important information link between producers and the agency.

The three-to-five person committee is the place producers can appeal most agency determinations. The committee also makes decisions which can impact program payments. It meets approximately once a month.

To be eligible for involvement, producers must participate or cooperate in at least one FSA program and be of legal voting age. Nomination forms must be submitted to the local FSA office. The committee draws its members from local administrative areas (LAAs). Counties are broken up into administrative areas for the purposes of representation and voting. **This year's election is for LAA number 1, which includes the general areas of Almira, Creston, and Wilbur.**

Candidates must live in the local administrative area they will represent and must be eligible to vote in the county election. Members serve on staggered three-year terms so that one-third of the seats are up for re-election each year. Committee members are compensated for official duty hours.

We encourage all producers to consider being a candidate. Producers benefit from a diverse committee representing all of agriculture in our area. At the next County Committee Meeting on July 12 at 8am, the CED will hold an informational meeting about the County Committee process, representative duties, and be available to answer any questions you may have.

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More information about the elections and nomination forms may be obtained from the local FSA office or the Farm Service Agency website - <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.

Crop Marketing Tools Available

FSA offers 9-month marketing assistance loans, using the harvested commodity as collateral. Obtaining a loan enables a producer to extend their marketing season by allowing them to hold the commodity beyond harvest when prices are usually lowest. Producers must maintain beneficial interest in the commodity for the entire length of the loan. The commodity may be stored on the farm or in CCC licensed warehouses. Producers who use farm-storage must provide safe storage of the crop and are responsible for maintaining quality of the grain through loan maturity. The structure must allow for safe inspection, measurement, and sampling of the commodity. FSA will disburse a commodity loan after receiving acceptable documentation from the producer. Documentation must show that all in-handling charges have been provided for or paid.

Producers who obtain a marketing assistance loan agree to loan provisions. Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans. The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity of the available loan commodity.

Producers may choose a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) in lieu of a loan. The LDP payment amount is determined by comparing the posted county price (PCP) for a commodity to the county loan rate for that commodity in the county. If the PCP is less than the county loan rate, the producer may file for a payment of the difference between the two prices on the date of application, or the date beneficial interest is lost. Producers must have beneficial interest when applying for an LDP.

The following crops are eligible for commodity loans or LDPs: barley, oats, wheat, corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, canola, crambe, flaxseed, mustard seed, rapeseed, safflower seed, sesame seed, sunflower seed, dry peas, lentils and large and small chickpeas. Honey and wool are also eligible. Unshorn pelts are eligible for LDP only. Mohair is no longer eligible for marketing assistance loan or LDP.

Final availability date for loans and LDP's are January 31 for wool and unshorn pelts; March 31 for barley, canola, crambe, flaxseed, honey, oats, rapeseed, wheat and sesame seed; May 31 for corn, dry peas, lentils, mustard seed, safflower seed, chickpeas, soybeans and sunflower seeds.

Financing for Beginning Farmers and Socially Disadvantaged Applicants

FSA's loan programs are designed to help family farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain commercial credit. In many cases, these are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for commercial credit.

The law also requires FSA to reserve or target loan funds for exclusive use by beginning farmers. Funds remain targeted for beginning farmers in the guaranteed programs until April 1 of each year. In the direct programs, funds are targeted for beginning farmers until September 1 of each year.

A beginning farmer or rancher is an individual or entity who:

- has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years
- substantially participates in the operation
- for Farm Ownership loan purposes, does not own a farm greater than 30 percent of the average size farm in the county
- for Farm Ownership loan purposes, must have participated in the business operation of a farm for at least 3 years.

Maximum amounts of indebtedness are \$300,000 for direct loans and \$1,214,000 (amount varies annually based on inflation) for guaranteed loans.

FSA has a down payment program to assist beginning farmers and socially disadvantaged applicants to purchase a farm or ranch. This program also provides a means for retiring farmers and ranchers to transfer their land to a future generation.

Eligible beginning farmers and socially disadvantaged applicants are given first priority to purchase FSA acquired properties. For more information about FSA loan programs, please contact our office.

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