



# NEWSLETTER



January 2013

Lincoln County FSA  
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## Office Hours

Mon. – Fri. 8:00 a.m – 4:30 p.m.

## Lincoln County Committee

Pete Carstensen – Chair  
Joe Schultz – Vice Chair  
Kathy Scrupps - Member

## Office Staff

Melissa Michael, Executive Director  
Debbie Sweet, Program Tech  
Paula Reed, Program Tech  
Aaron Landreth, Program Tech  
Stephanie Fisher, Program Tech  
Kile Concienne, Program Tech

## Next COC Meeting

February 20, 2013

## Dates to Remember

**February 18** Presidents Day Observed  
(Office closed)

**February 19** DCP/ACRE signup begins

**March 31** Last day for 2012 grain  
loans

More Information may be found at

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

## County Committee Election Results

The Farm Service Agency is happy to announce the following individual has been elected to represent the local producers on the County Committee. Elected representatives serve a 3 year term and can serve up to 3 consecutive terms.

**Pete Carstensen - Pete lives in the Almira area and has served on the Committee for 2 terms.**

## Congress Extends Farm Bill

The 2008 Farm Bill was extended through September 30, 2013. Most major programs were extended including DCP/ACRE, MILC, NAP, commodity loans and CRP. All producers will have the option to choose either DCP or ACRE for 2013. Adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions will continue to apply. Some minor program changes have been made and rules to implement those are being developed now.

**Signup for DCP/ACRE will begin on February 19, 2013.** DCP signup will run through August 2, 2013, while the ACRE signup will only go until June 3, 2013. There is still no word on general or continuous CRP signup for 2013. Watch future newsletters for details on all these programs as they are announced.

## 2012 NAP Production Deadline is July 15, 2013

Producers that have crops covered by Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) need to bring in their production by July 15, 2013. This is a requirement in order to keep your APH up to date on your NAP covered crops.

Producers that participate in NAP also need to remember that notices of loss must be filed the **earlier** of the following:

- \* 15 calendar days after the damaging weather event occurs or loss becomes apparent to the producer
- \* 15 calendar days after harvest

Without an approved notice of loss on file, the County Committee cannot approve any application for payments, so be sure to file notices of loss timely!

## 2012 ACRE Production Needed

If you participated in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program for the 2012 crop year, you need to provide the county office with your crop production. This is an annual requirement for all participating farms. The deadline to certify your 2012 production is July 15, 2013.

## **2013 Acreage Reporting**

As many of you have noticed, FSA has new acreage reporting dates. We now have two deadlines rather than just the normal June 30 as in years past. This change is being implemented beginning with the 2013 crop year. The change in deadlines will hopefully streamline the acreage reporting process in the future for producers between FSA and Crop Insurance. We are currently working off of a register to get all the fall seeded crops reported. If you have scheduled an appointment prior to the deadline below, your acreage report will be considered timely filed. If you have not scheduled an appointment, or have any questions, please contact the office. The new acreage reporting dates are as follows:

All fall planted wheat/small grains	12/15/2012
Fall Planted canola	12/15/2012
CRP	07/15/2013
Spring planted crops	07/15/2013
Perennial forages	07/15/2013 *

\*If harvest or grazing will occur before the established reporting date, producers must report acreage 15 days prior to the onset of harvest or grazing. In addition, crops planted after the established reporting dates can report timely by amending the previous acreage report within 15 days after planting.

## **Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)**

Signup for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) program continues through June 7, 2013. SURE covers weather related crop losses suffered during the 2011 crop year through September 30, 2011.

Eligible producers must either have suffered a minimum 10 percent production loss to one or more crops of economic significance, and be located within a county declared as a primary disaster county or contiguous disaster county, as designated by the Secretary of Agriculture; or be an individual producer with losses of 50 percent or greater, regardless of county designation. SURE requires applicants to have carried Federal crop insurance and/or Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on all crops of economic significance as a condition of eligibility. In order to apply for SURE, please contact our office to request an appointment.

## **Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period**

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced a claim process open to Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA between 1981 and 2000 due to denial of application for loan or loan servicing assistance. The claim period began September 24, 2012, and will continue through March 25, 2013. Information related to applying for consideration under the claim process may be obtained by calling 1-888-508-4429 or on the web at [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov).

## **New Microloan Program**

Starting in January, FSA will offer more flexible access to credit through the new Microloan program. The program is an attractive loan alternative for smaller farming operations like specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA). Microloans can be used for all approved operating expenses as authorized by the FSA Operating Loan (OL) Program, including but not limited to seed costs, equipment purchases, livestock purchases, fertilizer costs, minor farm improvements, and marketing expenses.

Eligible applicants may obtain a microloan for up to \$35,000. The repayment term may vary and will not exceed seven years. Annual operating loans are repaid within 12 months or when the agricultural commodities produced are sold. Currently the rate is 1.25 percent. Contact the county office for more information.

## **IRS 1099 Changes**

Calendar year 2012 brought changes to the way FSA reports farm program payments to the producer and to the IRS. In past years, IRS Forms 1099-G would be issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount. For calendar year 2012, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA were less than \$600 will not receive IRS Form 1099-G. Also, producers who receive payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more. The same changes will apply to producers and vendors who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

## **Farming Operation Changes**

Producers who have bought or sold land, formed a new entity, changed shares, or added or dropped rented land from their operation must report those changes to the FSA office as soon as possible so we can update our records accordingly and not delay 2013 payments.