



NEWSLETTER



Big Horn County

408 Greybull Ave - Greybull, WY 82426

March 2013

Farm Service Agency

307-765-2689 phone
307-765-9243 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov

FSA Staff

Brenda Miller, CED trainee
Connie Werbelow, PT

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

County Committee

Shawn Bullinger, Chairman
Jan Barnett, Vice-Chairman
Wilford Tippetts, Member

NRCS Staff

Monte Bush- DC
Robert Boettcher -SC

Conservation District

Janet Hallsted, Greybull
Kristen Tilley, Lovell

Farm Loan Staff

Bill Morrison, FLM
Worland (307)247-2456
Kathy Palazollo, FLO
Powell (307)754-9411

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The deadline to purchase 2013 Non-Insurable Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for small grain forage crops and specialty crops is **April 1, 2013**. This includes the following crops; oat, barley or wheat hay, uninsurable beans and sunflowers. The application fee is \$250.00 per crop/pay type. Crops eligible for NAP coverage are those crops for which RMA crop insurance is not offered. Lack of meeting deadlines doesn't warrant a not offered status. This coverage is only for losses in excess of 50% if the normal yield. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date. Production records for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the acreage reporting date for the crop for the following year. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verified according to agency specifications. *NAP losses must be reported within 15 days of loss.*

Remember April 1st is the deadline to purchase a policy for any 2013 spring seeded forage and specialty crops.

DCP/ACRE Sign-up Continues

DCP and ACRE signups for the 2013 crops are on-going. The DCP sign-up period will end on **Aug. 2, 2013**; and the ACRE sign-up period will end on **June 3, 2013**.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013. Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment.

Acreage Reports

The FSA Office will take crop reports as soon as you have all your crops planted. Please bring in your planting dates when reporting your crops. The deadline to report your fall planted crops was November 15, 2012. Due to the change in the fall planted acreage reporting deadline there will not be a late filed penalty. The deadline for spring planted crops is **July 15**.

2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program Applications

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will continue to accept SURE applications for 2011 crop losses through **June 7, 2013**. The SURE Program provides payments to producers when crop revenues are less than the crop guarantee. The SURE Program payment is equal to 60 percent of the difference between the crop guarantee and revenue. To be eligible, the producer must have at least one crop with a 10 percent production loss.

To determine the guarantee and revenue for the SURE Program, all crops on all farms for a producer are included in the calculation. Payments under the SURE Program are limited to \$100,000.

To be eligible for the 2011 SURE Program, producers must have crop insurance on all insurable crops. For crops that are not covered by crop insurance producers must have purchased Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage from FSA. The Crop Insurance and NAP purchase requirement is waived for crops that are not economically significant to the farming operation.

For more information concerning the 2011 SURE program or other Farm Service Agency programs, contact your local FSA office or visit the Farm Service Agency website at www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/.

Electronic News Delivery

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices have moved to a paperless news distribution system.

Producers are asked to enroll in the new *GovDelivery* system, which provides notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email helps conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. Producers can now subscribe to receive free email updates by going to www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe. If you don't provide us your email address you may miss out on important program news.

Crop Loan / LDP Information

Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) will be available if posted county price goes below the loan rate. To date there are no LDP's available for all crops including wool. CCC-633 EZ forms need to be filed for the 2013 program year to be eligible for LDP's, should they become a reality. Eligible producers must have beneficial interest in the commodity or pelts, owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter.

Crop Loans are available for program crops and oilseed crops harvested in 2012. Nine-month commodity loans can be made to eligible producers. The current interest rate for loans disbursed in January was 1.125 percent for farm-stored or warehouse stored commodities. The office is required to do a lien search on all loans in excess of \$50,000 and when the loan is determined to be at risk. The deadline to request a grain loan is March 31, 2013 for wheat and oats and May 31, 2013 for corn.

Microloan Program

FSA announced a new "Microloan" program designed to help small, family operations, secure loans under \$35,000. The microloan program will provide a simplified application process. Loans can be used to pay for initial start-up expenses, tools, irrigation, delivery vehicles, annual expenses, purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed, and supplies or to construct buildings or make farm improvements. Microloans will be targeted toward small famers, veterans, and disadvantaged producers.

Administrative Information

Controlled Substance Violations

Persons convicted of planting, cultivating, growing, harvesting or storing a controlled substance in any crop year shall be ineligible for Federal program benefits during the crop year of conviction and the four succeeding crop years.

Reasonable Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairments, or hearing impairment. Please call this office if assistance is needed.

Agriculture Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA)

AFIDA requires foreign persons or entities who acquire, transfer, or hold a 5 percent or greater interest in agriculture land or who gross \$1000 or more from any agriculture land report this information to the Secretary of Agriculture. The information must be reported within 90 days. This information must be reported to the local FSA office.

Direct Deposit Changes

Remember to notify FSA if you have changed bank accounts or your bank ownership has changed. Payments are made by direct deposit to the bank account FSA has on file. Payments are delayed if you have made changes and you have not informed FSA.

Farm Changes

As always you are required to notify our office of any changes in your farming operation for 2013. Did you buy some new land? Are you renting different land or have your shares changed for 2013? Do you have a new address? Did you form a new entity? Producers are responsible for notifying FSA of any changes regarding your farming operation.

IRS Form 1099-G

Producers annually receive their CCC-1099-G forms detailing payments producers have received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on the CCC-1099-G form is a service intended to help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producers' responsibilities to report income to IRS. FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy.

Starting with calendar year 2012, those producers with total reportable payments from FSA that are less than \$600 will not be receiving 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.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that allows producers to designate another person to conduct business at the office. If interested, contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office for more information.

Appeal Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on a request for USDA services or application, the producer will be sent a letter informing him/her of the decision and options that can be pursued.

Generally, program participants have three choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency. County office staff has further details.

FSA Signature Policy

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule. Spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

For more clarification on spousal signature authority, contact your local FSA office.

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions is required. Farmers with HEL determined soils must comply with tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

Producers should notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not jeopardize your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators can complete form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary.

For more information on Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions, contact a FSA County Office or visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Additional program information, loan applications and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov

North Big Horn County Producers

For your convenience we will be scheduling office days at the Lovell NRCS office again this year. With the limited operating funds the government has available we will not be sending out a newsletter announcing the dates. In order to be assured you don't miss the office days there it is best you read the article on Electronic News Delivery and sign up to receive updates via email or call the office with your email information, also watch your local newspaper for office day announcements.

"USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. 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)."

Dates to Remember

April 1, 2013 – Deadline to purchase NAP policy on spring seeded forage crops

May 27, 2013-Office closed- Memorial Day

June 7, 2013 – Deadline to accept 2011 SURE applications

July 15, 2013- Deadline to report spring seeded crops

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