



NEWSLETTER



SERVICE CENTER NEWS

Campbell County Wyoming

NOVEMBER 2011

Farm Service Agency

County Committee

307-682-8843, ext. 2

Lee Isenberger, Chairperson
David C Reed, Regular Member
Amanda Sorenson, Vice-Chairperson

Natural Resources

Conservation Services

307-682-8842, ext. 3

Tim Kellogg, District Conservationist
Erika Peckham, Habitat Extension Biologist
Tyrel West, Civil Engineer

Campbell County

Conservation District

307-682-1824

Michelle Cook, District Manager
Debbie Hepp, Program Assistant
Crystal Kellebrew, Admin. Assistant

Office Staff, ext 2

Susan Kramer, CED
Claudette Vander Voort, PT
Peggy Seppala, PT
Judy Bishop, PT
Rob Weppner, FLM
Darla Rhodes, COT

District Board Members

Richard Bonine, Jr
Travis Hakert
Jason Oedekoven
Brenda Schladweiler
Richard VanCampen

County Committee Voting Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election were mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 4, 2011. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on Dec. 5, 2011. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight Dec. 5, 2011.

The candidates are:

Charles L Tweedy is nominated in LAA 3, Campbell County, to serve as a committee member.

Eligible voters in local administrative area 3, who have not received a ballot, should contact the FSA county office staff.

Voter Requirements - Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, are eligible to vote:

1. Legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as any of the following: an individual, an authorized representative of an entity, spouses when property is owned jointly or in community property states.
2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.
3. Participates or cooperates in any FSA program that is provided by law.

Discrimination Prohibited No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.



2012 DCP/ACRE Signup

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment begins Jan. 23, 2012 and ends June 1, 2012.

Here are IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- 1) All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.
- 2) Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1st in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office such as:
 - Ownership changes
 - Producer changes (Individuals and Entities)
 - Change in crop shares arrangements
- 3) Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 losses began **Nov. 14, 2011** and will end **June 1, 2012**.

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2010. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties that have incurred at least a 10% crop production or quality loss, or both. All economically significant crops grown by a producer are eligible, **except** grazed crops.
- Any farm in which disaster-related conditions reduced the actual crop year production on the farm to 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm.

Disaster Assistance Programs

The array of FSA disaster assistance programs include:

- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)
- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program

To be eligible for SURE, TAP, and ELAP, producers must purchase catastrophic risk protection insurance for all insurable crops, and NAP coverage for non-insurable crops. For LFP, grazed land must be covered.

Farm-Raised Fish means all fish being produced for sale by an eligible producer. In the case of honey, the term "farm" means all bees and beehives in all counties that are intended to be harvested for a honey crop by the eligible producer.

Producers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource Producer or Beginning Farmer or Rancher do not have to meet this risk management purchase requirement.

Hispanic and Women Farmers

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

- **Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process:**

www.farmerclaims.gov or call
1-888-508-4429

- **Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation:**

www.blackfarmercase.com or call
1-866-950-5547

- **Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement:** www.IndianFarmClass.com or call
- 1-888-233-5506

Adjusted Gross Income Report to IRS – Act Now

Producers are reminded they must submit an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) verification consent form (CCC-927 or CCC-928) to the IRS to maintain eligibility for 2010 and 2011 program benefits.

The consent form authorizes IRS to verify that a producer's AGI is within the requirements for FSA programs eligibility.

Producers who failed to file these forms before Sept. 2011 will receive a notice from the National Office that the producer is ineligible for 2010 and 2011 payments.

IRS requires written consent from all individuals or legal entities before verification of AGI eligibility can be provided to USDA. Individuals must submit form CCC-927 and legal entities must submit form CCC-928. Without these forms on file, eligible producers will not receive USDA program payments. For more information contact your local FSA office.

NAP Production Reporting

Production records for individual NAP crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved yield (APH). If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable and verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. It is recommended producers submit production records as soon as possible after harvest. ***All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date of July 1st.***

Marketing Assistance Loans

Marketing Assistance loans are commodity loans available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity, maintaining responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity, and maintaining title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for a loan.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; reporting use of cropland acreage on the farm and ensuring that the commodity meets CCC minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, and exist in a storable and merchantable condition for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program to be eligible for commodity loans.

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 certification.

Move with FSA to Instant Electronic Information

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation.

Producers can now enroll in the new GovDelivery system for notices, newsletters and electronic reminders and discontinue their slow and costly paper copies received through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is working smarter and more efficiently. Conversion to electronic notifications via email helps conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars.

County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers.

Subscribe now to receive free e-mail updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe> or use the box "Sign up for updates" on the FSA homepage.

Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit.

To maintain efficient payment processing, it is critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make with your financial institutions.

If you have made changes to accounts or have changed banking institutions, these changes might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments. When changes like these are made, be sure to contact the FSA county office so we can update our records to ensure efficient and uninterrupted service.

FSA Reminds Producers of Livestock Disaster Program Deadlines

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds eligible ranchers and livestock producers who had livestock losses or grazing losses during the 2011 crop year that the deadline for applying for payment under the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) is Jan. 30, 2012.

It is imperative that producers meet the deadline for disaster assistance since there are no late file provisions for LFP, ELAP and LIP. To insure a smooth application process, producers should have all required supporting documentation with them at the time they apply for benefits.

Program Requirements:

In order to qualify for LFP and ELAP, the applicant must have purchased insurance coverage through FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) or the Pasture, Rangeland and Forage Insurance-Rainfall Index for Grazing (PRF-RI) program offered through the Risk Management Agency (RMA). Producers who meet the requirements of a socially disadvantaged, limited resource, or beginning farmer or rancher do not have to meet the Risk Management Purchase Requirement (RMPR).

Program applicants should note that certain payment limitation and adjusted gross income eligibility requirements must be met in order to qualify for LFP, ELAP and LIP.

For more information on FSA's livestock disaster assistance programs, please contact the your nearest county USDA Service Center. Information can also be obtained on line at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

November 24, 2011 – County Office Closed – Thanksgiving Day Holiday

December 1, 2011 – 2012 NAP Signup Deadline

December 5, 2011 – COC Ballots Due in County Office or Postmarked by midnight

December 8, 2011 – Holiday Open House 1:00 – 3:00 pm

December 12, 2011 – COC Meeting – Election Ballots Count @ 2:00 pm

December 26, 2011 – County Office Closed - Christmas Holiday

IMMEDIATELY --File Notification of Loss Forms within 15 Days of Loss of crops

--File Notification of Loss Forms within 30 days of livestock losses due to a weather event

--Notify County office of any changes in Direct Deposit information,

--Payment limitation changes, Farm records changes, etc.

Any time --CRP Continuous Signup

--Paid measurement services from FSA

Office Hours are from 8:00am to 4:30pm. Producers are urged to call for an appointment, so the office staff can assist you timely. Due to the computer environment, some applications/processes are unable to be completed after 4:00pm.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above dates or information in this newsletter, please contact the County office for more information (307) 682-8843, ext.2.

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”