



# NEWSLETTER



## SERVICE CENTER NEWS

### Campbell County Wyoming

JANUARY 2012

#### Farm Service Agency

#### County Committee

307-682-8843, ext. 2

David C Reed,  
Amanda Sorenson,  
Chuck Tweedy,

#### Office Staff, ext 2

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

#### Natural Resources

#### Conservation Services

307-682-8842, ext. 3

Tim Kellogg, District Conservationist  
Katie Nelson, Rangeland Mgmt Specialist  
Tyrel West, Civil Engineer  
Barb Litzinger, Ultima Admin Assistant

#### Campbell County

#### Conservation District

307-682-1824

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

#### District Board Members

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

## **PRODUCERS Please Contact the County Office**

If you **DO** wish to continue to receive the newsletter and have access to a computer with email capabilities, *we need your email address*. Also, if you want the newsletter but **DO NOT** have computer access we need to know this as well, so that we can mail it to you.

**(In an effort to cut costs, we need to send as many newsletters via email as possible!)**

Contact the office to be removed from the newsletter mailing list if you no longer want to receive our newsletter.

### **Get GovDelivery – Instant News, Updates**

Farm Service Agency offices are adopting an instant delivery, electronic option. Producers can now enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and reminders via email, rather than costly paper copies delivered 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.

Producers who subscribe on-line, should also contact the County Office to prevent receiving **both** a mailed paper copy and an emailed copy.

Get your information better, faster and at less cost overall with FSA's free GovDelivery service. If you have questions, call your local office. Note that other USDA agencies are also implementing GovDelivery, so once you subscribe through FSA, you will get other options for a variety of USDA bulletins, reports and other information.

County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers. Subscribe right now to receive your free e-mail updates instantly by going to [www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe).

### **County Committee Election Results**

Congratulations to Charles L Tweedy. Chuck was elected to represent farmers from LAA 3 on the county committee. LAA 3 consists of the area of Campbell County south of I-90. Chuck was elected to his first 3 year term.

FSA appreciates all of the eligible voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

The committee members will hold their organizational meeting in January to determine who will serve as the county committee chairman and vice-chairman.

## **2012 DCP/ACRE Sign-up**

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment will begin Jan. 23, 2012 and will end June 1, 2012.

### **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 1<sup>st</sup> in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office. This includes: Ownership changes: Producer changes (Individuals and Entities); Change in crop share arrangements.

**Note:** Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

## **Adjusted Gross Income Report to IRS – Act Now**

Producers are reminded they must submit an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) verification consent form annually to the IRS to maintain eligibility for 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 will receive a notice from the National Office that the producer is ineligible for payments.

IRS requires written consent from all individuals or legal entities before verification of AGI eligibility can be provided to USDA. Individuals and legal entities must submit form CCC-931 for 2012. Without these forms on file, eligible producers will not receive USDA program payments. For more information contact your local FSA office.

## **Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)**

The noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. 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 verifiable according to Agency specifications. NAP Losses must be reported within 15 days of loss.

## **SALES CLOSING DATE FOR NAP SPRING CROPS**

The deadline for spring grains planted for hay and spring crops not covered by Federal Crop Insurance is **April 1, 2011**.

## **LDPs for Unshorn Lamb Pelts**

Eligible producers have until Jan. 31, 2012, to apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for unshorn pelts produced during the 2011 crop year.

Eligible producers must have beneficial interest in the pelts, owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. Producers must also comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in.

To qualify for payment, pelts must have been produced by an eligible producer from live unshorn lambs of domestic origin in the United States.

Currently due to high wool prices there is no LDP payment.

# **ANNUAL NOTIFICATIONS:**

## **Foreign Buyers Notification**

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report new holdings or their changes in holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

## **Controlled Substance**

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium poppies and other drug producing plants.

### **Farming Operation Changes**

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

### **Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation 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 are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

### **Special Accommodations**

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

### **Power of Attorney**

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

### **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.

### **Appeal Process**

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree.

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.

### **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, where 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, feel free to contact your local FSA office.

### **CROP INSURANCE COMPLIANCE and FARM SERVICE AGENCY**

The Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 requires Farm Service Agency and Risk Management Agency to work together to help prevent waste, fraud and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. To meet these requirements: FSA will assist RMA and insurance providers in monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season.

FSA will refer suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse about the Federal Crop Insurance program to RMA.

Producers may report suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to the local FSA office, RMA office or the Office of Inspector General.

FSA will assist RMA with auditing claims.

If there are discrepancies between information reported to your crop insurance agent and information reported to FSA, we may be contacting you to determine the reason for the difference.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CAMPBELL COUNTY SERVICE CENTER  
601 4-J Court, Suite # B  
GILLETTE, WY 82716-4127

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

**January 23, 2012 – 2012 DCP Signup begins**

**January 31, 2012 – Application deadline for LDPs on 2011 Wool & Unshorn pelts**

**February 20, 2012 – County Office Closed – President's Day Holiday**

**April 1, 2012 – Sales closing date for 2012 Spring NAP Crops**

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

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

**--Payment limitation changes, Farm records changes, Banking info 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."