



NEWSLETTER



SERVICE CENTER NEWS

Campbell County Wyoming

JAN. - MARCH 2013

Farm Service Agency County Committee

307-682-8843, ext. 2
Amanda Sorenson, Chairperson
Wendy Bethea, Vice-Chairperson
Chuck Tweedy, Regular Member

Natural Resources Conservation Services

307-682-8842, ext. 3
Tim Kellogg, District Conservationist
Katie Carpenter, Rangeland Mgmt Specialist
Tyrel West, Civil Engineer
Barb Litzinger, Ultima Admin Assistant

Campbell County Conservation District

307-682-1824
Tim Morrison, District Manager
Debbie Hepp, Program Assistant
Crystal Kellebrew, Admin. Assistant
Kevin Quick, Water /Range Technician

Office Staff, ext 2

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

RMBO/NRCS/BLM

Brandon Elkins, PR Restoration Range Con

District Board Members

Travis Hakert
Bob Maul
Jason Oedekoven
Brenda Schladweiler
Lindsay Wood

Important Notice

Due to budget constraints, printed newsletters ***WILL NOT*** be mailed to producers. Printed copies will be available at local FSA offices for producers to pickup, when they are in town. Our newsletters are also available online at the following link:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/stateoffapp?mystate=wy&area=home&subject=landing&topic=landing>

We strongly suggest all producers share an email address with your local FSA office, so that you may receive email updates regarding program information.

The County office staff kindly asks those producers who receive email newsletters, please let your friends and neighbors know of this change, especially if you know they will not be getting email.

2013 County Office Committee (COC) Election Results

Congratulations to Wendy Bethea! She received the majority of the 30 voted ballots returned in the 2012 COC Election. As the elected member representing Local Administrative Area LAA2, Wendy will serve a 3-year term, which began January 1, 2013. We would also like to express our thanks to Dave Reed for his past service on the committee and for participating in the election.

2013 Committee Organization

The COC held their annual organization meeting January 30, 2013. For 2013, Amanda Sorenson will be the committee chairperson, with Wendy Bethea fulfilling the office of vice-chairperson and Chuck Tweedy being the regular member.

OTCnet

Payments made to FSA, for example FLP payments and checks to purchase NAP policies, are now electronically submitted. This process is much the same as at grocery and discount stores. The funds for these payments may be withdrawn from your account as quickly as the same day and most likely no later than the following day. Please keep this in mind when submitting your payments.

IRS 1099G 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 received payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties was \$600 or more.

The same changes will apply to those who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

Producers are urged to check your form 1099G for accuracy against your deposits and or payment statements!

2013 DCP Signup Period

FSA began sign-ups for DCP and ACRE for the 2013 crops on Feb. 19, 2013. **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. Compliance requirements remain the same as in previous years regarding weed control on contract acres. As in 2012 there will be no advance payments. **Due to lack of funding DCP contracts will not be mailed. Call the office to set up an appointment to sign your contract**

2013 Spring Acreage Reporting Deadline

Deadline July 15, 2013

All acreage must be reported for a farm, including crops on non-cropland such as hayed or grazed grassland and other cover crops. It is also important to accurately report crops' intended use. Intended use is used to determine eligibility in many FSA programs and cannot be revised after the deadline.

Producers should contact their local FSA county office if they are uncertain about reporting deadlines. In order to meet FSA program eligibility requirements, producers must submit timely acreage reports. Reports filed after the established deadlines must meet certain requirements to be accepted and may be charged late fees.

For more information on FSA crop reporting requirements and other programs, visit your local FSA office or visit us online at www.fsa.usda.gov/wy.

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, 2013**.

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 July 15 of 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 the loss.

Payment Limitations

All payment eligibility and payment limitation provisions, including AGI limitations, are extended for the 2013 crop year, program year, and fiscal year.

All rules and requirements effective for 2012 program payments and benefits are applicable to eligible recipients of 2013 program payment and benefits. This includes the requirements of actively engaged in farming, cash-rent tenant, substantive change, minor child, and spousal provisions. Payments will continue to be limited by direct attribution to person and legal entity.

Additional information on payment limitations is available at FSA county offices or online at:

www.fsa.usda.gov

LDPs

Form CCC-633EZs were mailed out for signatures. If you received this form, you need to make certain you have completed and returned the form to our office prior to losing beneficial interest in your 2013 wool. If beneficial is lost in the commodity prior to filing the form and the price is low enough that LDPs (Loan Deficiency Payments) occur you will not be eligible for payment. As of March 5, 2013, the price of wool is high enough that LDPs are not available.

Actively Engaged

To be eligible for payments and benefits under specified programs, all program participants, either individuals or legal entities, must provide significant contributions to the farming operation to be considered as "actively engaged in farming." Contributions can consist of capital, land, and/or equipment, as well as active personal labor and/or active personal management. The management contribution must be critical to the profitability of the farming operation and the contributions must be at risk.

Each partner, stockholder or member with an ownership interest must contribute active personal labor and/or active personal management to the farming operation on a regular basis. The contribution must be identifiable and documentable; as well as separate and distinct from the contributions made by any other partner, stockholder or member. If any partner, stockholder or member with an ownership interest fails to meet this requirement, program payments will be reduced by the corresponding share held by that partner, stockholder or member. There is an exception allowed for legal entities, such as corporations, if total direct payments received both directly and indirectly, by the legal entity and its members do not exceed \$40,000

New Microloan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and the smallest of family farm operations.

The program will operate similar to the Operating Loan program but will include reduced requirements for managerial experience and loan security, as well as reduced paperwork. The microloan program can be used for such expenses as annual crop inputs, marketing and distribution expenses, purchase of livestock and equipment, and minor farm improvements such as wells and coolers. 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 typically repaid within 12-18 months of when the loan is closed. The interest rate is the same as the regular Operating Loan (currently 1.25%.)

USDA Announces 45th General Sign-Up for the Conservation Reserve Program

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will conduct a four-week general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), beginning May 20 and ending on June 14. CRP has a 27-year legacy of protecting the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States.

Currently, about 27 million acres are enrolled in CRP. Producers that are accepted in the sign-up can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract (10-15 years).

Contracts on 3.3 million acres of CRP are set to expire on Sept. 30, 2013. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP.

Additional sign-ups for continuous CRP programs such as Highly Erodible Land Initiative and Initiative to Restore Grasslands, Wetlands and Wildlife will be announced in spring 2013.

For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, visit a local FSA service center or www.fsa.usda.gov.

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.

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.

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GILLETTE, WY 82716-4127

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

April 1, 2013 – Deadline to purchase NAP coverage on Spring planted crops

May 27, 2013 – County Office closed – Memorial Day Holiday

July 15, 2013 – Spring Planted Crop Acreage Reporting Deadline

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.

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)”

“Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities and wish to file either an EEO or program complaint, please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish). Persons with disabilities, who wish to file a program complaint, please see information above on how to contact us by mail directly or by email. If you require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) please contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).”

“If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or e-mail at program.intake@usda.gov.”