

July 2013



NEWSLETTER



Campbell County FSA Newsletter

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COC Election Nomination Period

June 17 through August 1, 2013, is the period for nominating farmers and ranchers as candidates for the Local County Committee. This year's election will be held in Local Administrative Area (LAA) #1. FSA encourages all eligible producers to nominate themselves, or another eligible producer, to run for office. Nomination forms (FSA-669A's) are available:

- At <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>, and scroll down to the links under "Election Materials" and CLICK "2013 Nomination Form"
- By picking up FSA-669A at your local FSA Office
- By calling your local office and requesting FSA-669A be emailed to you.

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Reporting NAP Losses (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program)

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.

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.

2012 APH's Signature Deadline.

For those producers that had NAP coverage for 2012 on their grass hay or grain hay crops, your APH (Actual Production History) forms are ready for signature. Due to drought conditions in 2012, most producers filed losses on these crops and were assigned a replacement yield. The 2012 APH forms MUST be signed by July 15, 2013. Please stop in the office to get these signed.

Crop Appraisers Needed

Persons interested in becoming a crop appraiser for FSA should contact the county office for details on the training and job requirements as soon as possible.

2013 Spring Acreage Reporting Deadline

Deadline July 15, 2013 for Spring Seeded Crops

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 filed 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.

2013 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) Deadline

The signup period for DCP is coming to a close. Producers are encouraged to sign up before the Aug 2, 2013 deadline. Contact the FSA county office for more information or an appointment to enroll.

Farm Safety

Summer is a busy and hectic time on farms. Campbell County FSA employees care about our customers, so please remember to practice farm safety.

VISUAL INSPECTION: Remember to walk around machinery and check shields and guards; make sure the PTO's master shield is in place; make sure Slow Moving Vehicle signs are on machinery.

MEDICATION EFFECTS: If you are taking medicine, take it at the appropriate time and eat on schedule. Take seriously any cautions about drowsiness and operating machinery.

GRAIN CAN KILL: If you are working in grain bins know that flowing grain can kill, and it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped. Try not to work alone in bins or confined spaces, and if that's not possible let someone know where you are by checking in regularly by cell phone.

SAFETY TIPS from American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE):

- Educate yourself on farm equipment. Read and follow instructions according to the equipment's safety manuals.
- Conduct regular equipment inspections.
- Avoid loose clothing near machinery or when entering confined spaces like grain bins and hoppers.
- Install Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) on tractors.
- Use seat belts while operating tractors with a ROPS. No additional passengers on the tractors.
- Use caution while operating tractors and other farm equipment on rural roads.
- Use protective gear when operating machinery. Take extra precaution when handling chemicals.
- Consistently educate your family (especially children) and co-workers about safety practices.

Compliance Spot Checks

Compliance spot checks will be conducted on 2013 crops. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for review, a nationwide selection of producers is employed. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program and other programs.

For more information about the spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local Farm Service Agency office for additional clarification.

Highly Erodible Lands and Wetland Compliance

Producers participating in most programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are required to abide by certain conditions on any land owned or farmed that is highly erodible or that is considered a wetland.

To be in compliance with the highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions, producers must agree, that they will not:

- Produce an agricultural commodity on highly erodible land without a conservation system;
- Plant an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland;

Producers planning to remove fence rows, convert woodlots to cropland, combine crop fields, divide a crop field into two or more fields, install new drainage, or improve or modify existing drainage, must notify the FSA and update Form AD-1026. FSA will notify NRCS and NRCS will then provide highly erodible land or wetland technical determinations.

To get additional information on highly erodible land and wetland conservation compliance contact the FSA office or the NRCS office at a local USDA Service Center. Additional information about conservation programs offered by FSA can be found online at www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation, and information on NRCS programs can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>.

Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by August 1 for farms enrolled in specific programs.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

Estate Method — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

DCP Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

Default Method — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

Successor-In-Interest

Many FSA programs will allow payments to be made to heirs or successors when a program participant passes away. Additionally, contracts in programs such as CRP must be revised to reflect the successor(s) to a deceased participant's interest.

In the event of an FSA program participant's death, it is important that FSA be notified. Entities and joint operations that participate in FSA programs also need to notify FSA if a shareholder or member passes away. FSA benefits are reported to IRS so maintaining current, accurate records about participants is vital to ensuring that those payments are reported correctly.

Foreign Landowner Notification

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

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

If you are a county government official, real estate agent, attorney or are involved in real estate transactions remember to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Due to a reduced budget, many forms that were mailed to you, in prior years, can no longer be mailed. Please, pay special attention to deadlines that affect your operation, as there may not be additional reminders of these dates. Feel free to check with the county office to ensure all your required documents have been received.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

July 4, 2013 - County Office closed – Independence Day Holiday

July 15, 2013 – Spring Planted Crop Acreage Reporting Deadline

Aug 1, 2013 – Final date for nominations to the County Committee

Aug 2, 2013 – DCP Signup ends

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.

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).