



# Cowboy Country Connection

## Carbon/Albany FSA Newsletter

June, 2009

**Saratoga USDA Service Center**  
101 Cypress Avenue  
PO Box 607  
Saratoga, WY 82331

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FAX: (307) 326-8572  
<http://www.usda.gov>

**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### COUNTY COMMITTEE

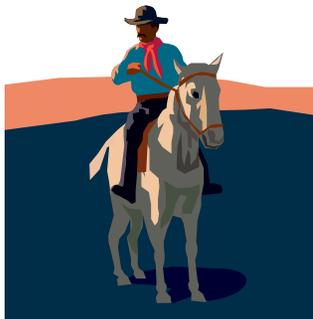
Kelly Kennedy, COC Albany  
Tom Page, COC Albany  
Scott Sims, COC Carbon  
Matt Weber, COC Carbon  
Ray Waliser, COC Carbon  
Heidi Custis, Minority  
Advisor

### FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Sheryl Hunter, CED Ext. 104  
Deb Shirley, PT Ext. 105  
Dixie Mount, FLO – Platte  
County, 307-322-4050

### NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Mark Shirley, DC  
Saratoga 326-5657 Ext.101  
Mike Evans, Soil Technician  
Saratoga 326-5657 Ext.107  
Marji Patz, Range Specialist  
Medicine Bow 327-2542  
Jerome Daugherty, Range  
Specialist, Baggs 383-7860  
Ruben Vasquez, DC  
Laramie 745-3698



## Changes in Payment Limitations

The payment limitation provisions over the last 39 years have been expanded to more programs. Some of the changes in this area are listed below.

### **New forms for 2009 and subsequent years**

Anyone that plans to participate in 2009 programs is required to submit a completed CCC-902, CCC-926, and CCC-901, if applicable, for payment eligibility and payment limitation purposes. The form used prior to 2009 was named CCC-502.

### **Another change for 2009, all must make a contribution in an entity**

All partners, stockholders, or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make a contribution, whether compensated or **not** compensated, for active--\*

- personal labor,
- active personal management,
- or a combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation;

\*Note: there are exceptions for spouses.

## Sodbusting

The term “sodbusting” is used to identify the plowing up of erosion-prone grasslands for use as cropland. Sodbuster violations are unauthorized tillage practices on highly erodible lands that converted native vegetation such as rangeland or woodland, to crop production after Dec. 23, 1985.

Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs.

Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production.

If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates on a CPA-026 that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to

develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage, before bringing land into production.

In addition, producers and the producer’s affiliates have to file an AD-1026 with the staff in the administrative or control county office before any farm program payments can be made. The AD-1026 is the producer’s signed certification that HELC, as well as wetland conservation, provisions will not be violated.

## FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- A married woman shall sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, not Mrs. John Doe
- For a minor, FSA requires the minor’s signature and one from an eligible parent Note, by signing the applicable document, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc
- When signing on one’s behalf the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form, or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. Example - John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc
- FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the acceptable program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information. Examples of documents **not** approved for FAXED signatures include:
  - Promissory note
  - Assignment of payment
  - Joint payment authorization
  - NAP actual production history and approved yield record

## Important Dates

- June 15-** COC nomination period begins
- July 1-** NAP production and Acreage Reporting Deadline
- July 3-** Independence Day Holiday, **Office Closed**
- July 8-** Albany County Office Day
- Aug. 3-** Last day to file COC nomination form
- Aug. 12-** Albany County Office Day
- Sept. 7-** Labor Day Holiday, **Office Closed**
- Nov. 6-** Ballots mailed to eligible voters
- Dec. 7-** Last day to return voted ballots
- Anytime-** Contact the office to report adverse weather conditions & losses.
- Anytime-** Accepting Continuous CRP applications.
- Anytime-** Accepting EQIP applications.



- Acknowledgement of commodity certificate purchase
  - Financing statement
  - UCC financing statement
- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
  - Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities
  - All members of a general partnership must sign for the general partnership unless an individual is authorized to act on the behalf of the general partnership and bind all members
  - Spouses may sign on behalf of each other's individual interest in a partnership, unless notification denying a spouse that authority is provided to the county office
  - Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts shall consist of an indicator "by" or "for" the individual's name, individual's name and capacity, or individual's name, capacity, and name of entity

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

## 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. If you want a crop loan, a power of attorney form will need to be completed for husband and wife, if both do not come into the office to sign the forms on the day the loan is disbursed.

## Wool/Unshorn Pelt LDP Requirement

Loan Deficiency payments will be available to eligible producers that produce non-graded wool in the form of unshorn pelts, non-graded and graded shorn wool and mohair for crop years 2008-2012.

Wool, Mohair, Unshorn Pelts Producers: You are reminded to call our office prior to shearing and/or selling your wool to ensure your "page 1" of form CCC-633EZ is filed. This form has to be signed, dated and filed in our office prior to the loss of

beneficial interest (delivery or sale) of the wool. The CCC-633EZ page 4 requesting payment needs to be filed in the county office at anytime after shearing and no later than Jan. 31, 2010.

## Timely Filing of Loss

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for ALL CROPS INCLUDING GRASSES. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (notice of loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

## Acreage Reporting

Filing an acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops including NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by the **July 1, 2009** deadline.

## County Committee Elections

The Carbon/Albany County Office will be holding elections to the County Committee for the Saratoga/Encampment/Rawlins (LAA2) district of Carbon County and south Laramie (LAA5) district of Albany County. The elected members will serve a term of 3 years beginning Jan. 1, 2010 and commencing Dec. 31, 2012. If you know of anyone that resides or has an agricultural operation in either of these areas and would like to be a County Committee Member, please completed the attached nomination form and return to our office no later than Aug. 3, 2009.

*Have a wonderful day!*  
*/s/ Sheryl Hunter, CEDT*

**FSA-669A**  
(04-17-09)

**U.S. Department of Agriculture**  
Farm Service Agency

**NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION**

1. NAME OF NOMINEE <i>(Type or print Nominee's Full Name)</i>		<b>TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE</b>
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE		
3. <b>NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION</b> <i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</i>		5. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE <i>(MM-DD-YYYY)</i>
		6A. COUNTY
		6B. LAA NO.
		7. STATE
4A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	4B. DATE <i>(MM-DD-YYYY)</i>	<b>DATE OF ELECTION IS 1st MONDAY OF DECEMBER OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR</b>

**8. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE**

**VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES:** The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.

<u>ETHNICITY</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	<u>RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)</u> <input type="checkbox"/> America Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	<u>GENDER</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
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**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM**

Complete the form as follows:

**ITEM 1** Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:

- A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
- B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
- C. Willing to serve if elected.

**ITEM 2** Enter the nominee's current address.

**ITEM 3** The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.

**ITEM 4** The nominee must sign and date.

**ITEM 8** Completing this item is voluntary.

**ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 3.**

**NOTE:** *The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a) and the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as amended. The authority for requesting the following information is 7 CFR Part 7. The information will be used to obtain nominees for County FSA Committee.*

*According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.*

## Controlled Substances

Program participants convicted under federal or state law of any planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting or storing a controlled substance are ineligible for program payments and benefits.

If convicted of one of these offenses, the program participant shall be ineligible during that crop year and the four succeeding crop years for direct and counter-cyclical payments, price support loans, loan deficiency payments, market loan gains, storage payments, farm facility loans, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program payments or disaster payments.

Program participants convicted of any federal or state offense consisting of the distribution (trafficking) of a controlled substance shall, at the discretion of the court, be ineligible for any or all program payments and benefits:

- for up to 5 years after the first conviction
- for up to 10 years after the second conviction
- permanently for a third or subsequent conviction.

Program participants convicted of federal or state offense for the possession of a controlled substance shall be ineligible, at the discretion of the court, for any or all program benefits, as follows:

- up to 1 year upon the first conviction
- up to 5 years after a second or subsequent conviction.

## Banking Changes?

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit. Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
CARBON/ALBANY COUNTY FSA OFFICE  
101 CYPRESS AVENUE  
PO BOX 607  
SARATOGA, WY 82331**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). 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 employment opportunity employer.