

November 2013



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Carbon/Albany County FSA Updates

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to the GovDelivery service from your County FSA Office. Note that you are welcome to request to receive GovDelivery information from more than one county and can add or remove individual subscripton at any time.

Carbon/Albany County FSA Office

101 Cypress Ave.; PO Box 607
Saratoga, WY 82331

Hours: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Phone: 307-326-5657
Fax: 307-326-8572

County Executive Director:
Sheryl Hunter

Program Technicians:
Addie Fletcher

Farm Loan Officer:
Dixie Mount
Phone: 307-322-4050

Next County Committee

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

The Carbon/Albany County FSA Office has been approved to participate in the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). This program allows the agency to cost share the expenses to haul water to livestock and/or drill livestock wells and place pipelines and tanks in eligible pastures.

The water hauling may be authorized for livestock that were grazing on land that no longer had access to water because of the extended period of severe drought conditions and normal, dependable water resources were depleted.

Emergency livestock water hauling measures are limited to:

- Amount which provides the minimum amount necessary to sustain the livestock;
- Only those grazing areas having adequate livestock watering systems or facilities before the drought;
- 60 calendar days per producer, per year of practice performance from the COC approval date; and

Meeting: January, 2014

- Hauling water to fill tanks or troughs. No earthen structures.

November 20 – Albany County Office Day

- Cost share is 50% of actual eligible costs, not to exceed the amount approved by the COC

November 28- Thanksgiving Office Closed

Well and tanks can be approved for pastures that had adequate watering system prior to the drought. The cost share is 75% of actual, eligible costs, not to exceed the amount approved by the COC.

December 1- 2014 NAP Coverage Deadline

The official sign-up period will be November 4 – January 3 for producers in Carbon and Albany Counties. Average Adjusted Gross income (AGI) provisions DO NOT apply to participation in this program. **If you have questions or would like to participate in this program please contact the office at 307-326-5657 ext. 2**

December 18- Albany County Office Day

December 25- Christmas Day - Office Closed

January 1- New Year's Day - Office Closed

January 3- Deadline to apply for ECP for water hauling or livestock wells.

January 15-Albany County Office Day

January 20- MLK, Jr's Birthday - Office Closed

Anytime- Contact the office to report adverse weather conditions & losses.

Anytime- Accepting EQIP applications.

15 Days- after realizing a loss to file a Notice of Loss on NAP covered crops

County Committee Elections

Ballots for this year's county committee election were mailed in early November. However, the ballots were incorrectly printed with the name and address of the voter shown on the back of the actual ballot. This was a misprint, and these ballots cannot be used. Ballots that are received in the office will be destroyed unopened. New ballots will be mailed by mid-December with a corrected election date. Please watch your mail for the new ballot and vote for the COC candidate of your choice. We apologize for the inconvenience.

The candidates in this year's election are:

- Melinda Sims is nominated in LAA 1. Mrs. Sims' area represents producers within the Medicine Bow, Hanna, and Elk Mountain areas.
- Michelle Hall is nominated in LAA 4. Ms. Hall's area represents producers in the North half of Albany County.

Eligible voters in a local administrative area 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. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as any of the following:

- An individual
- The authorized representative of an entity
- Both spouses when property is owned jointly
- Spouses in community property states.

2. Is 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. n consectetur lectus sed risus iaculis ut commodo ligula lacinia.

Anticipate Payment Reductions

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is reminding farmers and ranchers who participate in FSA programs to plan accordingly in FY2014 for automatic spending reductions known as sequestration. The Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA) mandates that federal agencies implement automatic, annual reductions to discretionary and mandatory spending limits. For mandatory programs, the sequestration rate for FY2014 is 7.2%. Accordingly, FSA is implementing sequestration for the following programs:

Dairy Indemnity Payment Program; Marketing Assistance Loans; Loan Deficiency Payments; Sugar Loans; Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP); Tobacco Transition Payment Program; 2013 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payments (DCP); 2013 Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE); 2011 and 2012 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE); Storage, handling; and Economic Adjustment Assistance for Upland Cotton. Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) payments are specifically exempt by statute from sequestration, thus these payments will not be reduced.

For information about FSA programs, visit your county USDA Service Center or go to www.fsa.usda.gov

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. **The application deadline for 2014 coverage is December 1, 2013.**

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 verified according to agency specifications. **NAP losses must be reported within 15 days of loss.**

If you have hay coverage and plan to graze the meadows instead of hay them, please notify the office and file a notice of loss BEFORE turning the livestock out.

Farming Operation Changes

Producers who have bought or sold land, or added or dropped rented land from their operation must report those changes to the FSA office as soon as possible. A copy of the deed or recorded land contract for purchased property is needed to maintain accurate records with FSA. Failure to report changes can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. While making record updates, be sure to update signature authorizations. Making record changes now will save time during the acreage reporting period.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or

guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Additional program information, loan applications and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. Visit www.fsa.usda.gov

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).