



JULY 2010

CROOK COUNTY FSA NEWS



Crook County FSA
 PO Box 1070
 117 S. 21st Street
 Sundance, WY
 82729
 (307) 283-2870 Ext. 2
 (307) 283-2170 Fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA

Office Staff:
 Mike Idler, CED
 Susan Johnson, PT
 Danice Conzelman, PT
 Rob Weppner, Farm
 Loan Manager - Gillette
 (307) 682-8843 Ext. 2

County Committee:
 Mervin Peterson, Chairperson
 Larry Fowlkes, Vice Chairperson
 Ross Garman, Member
 Roxie Dacar, Minority Advisor

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

COC NOMINATIONS OPEN

The County Office Committee (COC) plays a crucial role in helping the county office staff implement Farm Bill programs. Producers are encouraged to participate in the FSA COC election process by nominating an eligible candidate by **Aug. 2**. Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and further information about FSA COC elections are available online at: www.fsa.usda.gov; select *News & Events* then *County Committee Elections*. Nomination forms for the 2010 COC elections must be postmarked or received in the county office by close of business on **August 2, 2010**.

FSA county committee members serve three-year terms and make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Committees consist of three to five members elected by eligible local producers. To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria as follows:

1/ Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA. 2/ Be eligible to vote in a county committee election. 3/ Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate.

LAA 1 (Local Administrative Area) is up for re-election this year. Larry Fowlkes is currently serving in this position and is eligible for re-election for a second three-year term.

Ballots will be mailed to producers beginning **November 5, 2010**. Completed ballots must be dropped off or received via mail at the county office by **December 6, 2010**.

At this time local FSA offices are taking nominations from individuals who are willing to serve on the county committee. If you have enjoyed the benefits you have received from FSA, especially during the past drought years, then you should consider giving back to the agency. Consider being a candidate for county committee elections and help your fellow farmers and ranchers.

CROP ACREAGE REPORTS

The deadline to file a timely crop report was July 1st. If you missed this deadline you can file a "late-filed" crop report and pay a fee of at least \$46.00 per farm.

DCP: DIRECT/COUNTER CYCLICAL PROGRAM (aka Crop Base Payment Program)

For those of you that are participating in the **DCP** program and did not file a crop report: You will not be paid DCP program benefits until a late-filed crop report is submitted.

Late-filed crop reports require an onsite inspection to determine the accuracy of the acreage report. This inspection **MUST** verify the physical existence of the crop or crop residue, the crops use (forage, grain) and the crop acreage. Untimely late-filed crop reports run the risk that not enough physical evidence of the crop is present in order for FSA to make proper crop existence determinations. (In other words, don't wait too long to file a late-filed crop report - if you do, we may not be able to tell what the crop was and you are then ineligible for payments.)

ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME (AGI):

Written consent (on form CCC-927 or 928) will be required from each producer or payment recipient authorizing IRS to verify compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Note: No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service.

NAP LOSS FILING

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. The timely filing of 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), 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.

FSA FARM LOANS

FSA is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, FSA direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Producers are encouraged not to wait until the last minute to apply.

FSA staff will help you complete the application forms and help you understand what information is required and where to find it. Call your county office staff today.

TRANSITION INCENTIVES

The Transition Incentives Program (TIP) encourages retired or retiring owners or operators to transition their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

TIP sign-up opened May 17, 2010. If all program requirements are met, TIP provides annual rental payments to the retiring farmer for up to two additional years after the expiration of the CRP contract, provided the transition is not to a family member.

For eligibility requirements producers should visit the FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

COMPLIANCE SPOT CHECKS

Compliance spot checks will be conducted on 2010 crops. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans and so on 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 others.

For more information about the spot check selection procedure, contact your local Farm Service Agency office.

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 2** 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.

FARM SAFETY

Summer can be a busy and fast-moving time on Crook County farms and ranches. **Be careful.** Your Crook County FSA staff wants to be sure our customers are **SAFETY CONSCIOUS** this summer.

Remember: Walk around machinery and check shields and guards; make sure the PTO's master shield is in place; make sure you have Slow Moving Vehicle signs.

When taking medicine, take it at the appropriate time and eat on schedule.

When working in grain bins, know that flowing grain can kill, quickly. A person caught in flowing grain is trapped in five seconds. Don't 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.

The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) offers these tips for farmers:

1. Educate yourself on farm equipment. Follow instructions according to the equipment's manuals about safety.
2. Conduct regular equipment inspections.
3. Don't wear loose clothing while entering confined spaces such as grain bins, silos and hoppers as this can prevent entanglements.
4. Install Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) on tractors.
5. Use seat belts while operating tractors with a ROPS. Do not allow additional passengers on the tractor with you.
6. While operating tractors and other farm equipment, be very cautious on rural roadways.
7. Use protective gear when operating machinery: Be familiar with hazardous chemicals. Take extra precaution when handling chemicals such as anhydrous ammonia, carbon dioxide, methane gas and hydrogen sulfide.
8. Consistently educate your family and co-workers about safety practices, especially children.

HELP AVAILABLE TO STRESSED FARMERS

Recently, the economy, inclement weather, and other factors have hurt some farming operations around the country. These events can push a producer to the emotional breaking point. Watching your livelihood being threatened is difficult for farmers and ranchers, especially for those whose income is solely dependent on agriculture.

The National Suicide Prevention Hotline is available to help. If you know a farmer or rancher who is under stress and is reluctant to ask for help, or if you just need to talk to someone, call 1-800-273-TALK (8255). Your call will be routed to the crisis center nearest you, where trained staffers are available 24/7. This nationwide service is free and confidential. Help is just a phone call away.

For more information, go to <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>. This service is not affiliated with the USDA.



Have a safe summer, *Mike Idler*

Important Dates to Remember:

August 2...File Committee Election Nomination Form

August 2...Farm Reconstitution Request Deadline

Continuous...Report Adverse Weather Conditions and Affect on your Operation

For Your Own Records...Document Livestock Losses due to Normal Reasons

Within 30 Days...File Notice of Loss on Livestock deaths from Adverse Weather Conditions (When loss is apparent)

Timely...File Notice of Loss for NAP Crops

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