



**TOWER OUTLOOK**

## JANUARY 2012

### Crook County FSA Office

307 283-2870 phone  
307 283-2170 fax  
www.fsa.usda.gov/WY  
**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Office Staff**  
Mike Idler, CED  
Susan Johnson, PT  
Danice Conzelman, PT

**County Committee:**  
Roxie Dacar  
Mervin Peterson  
Ross Garman  
Larry Fowlkes

**Committee Meetings:**  
11:00 a.m. as follows:  
January 18<sup>th</sup>  
March 21<sup>st</sup>  
May 23<sup>rd</sup>  
July 18<sup>th</sup>  
September 19<sup>th</sup>  
December 10<sup>th</sup>

If you wish to attend a committee meeting you should check with our office first, as a meeting date is subject to change for unforeseen reasons.

Meetings are open to the public for items that are available to the public.

## 2012 DCP/ACRE Signup

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment begins Jan. 23, 2012 and ends June 1, 2012.

Here are **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**:

All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payments for the farm.

Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1<sup>st</sup> in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office such as Ownership changes; Producer changes (Individuals and Entities); Change in crop shares arrangements  
Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

## NAP (Non-Insured 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. 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 the acreage reporting date for the crop for 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 loss.

April 1, 2012 is the application deadline to purchase a NAP policy on 2012 spring planted crops for forage or grazing; such as HRS

Spring Wheat – which includes HRW Winter Wheat (if winterkill coverage is not desired), Barley, Beans, Corn, Millet, Oats, Peas, Rye, Sorghum, Soybeans, Triticale, etc.,

December 1, 2012 is the application deadline to purchase a NAP policy for crops to be harvested in 2013. This deadline applies to HRW Winter Wheat for forage (hay) or grazing (if winterkill coverage is desired); All Perennials for forage or grazing including: Mixed Grass or Single Variety Grasses; Native Pasture grass for grazing; Sanfoin, Clover, Sudan Grass for hay or grazing. Alfalfa or Alfalfa/Grass mix for grazing; Grass Varieties for Seed; Honey, etc.

“Coverage” letters are mailed no later than 60 days prior to the application closing date to remind of which crops were covered by a NAP policy in the previous year. If the same crops are to be covered in the current year the policy coverage is thus “continuous” and all that is needed by the application closing date is remittance of the NAP fee for the same dollar amount as the previous year. If the same crops are not to be covered as in the previous year then the policy is not considered to be “continuous coverage” and both the service fee and the CCC-471 application (completed) must be received in the FSA office, where the policy is purchased, by the application deadline.

Crop coverage begins, for annual crops, the later of either of the following: 30 calendar days after the date CCC-471 (Application for Coverage) is filed; or the date the crop is planted, not to exceed the final planting date; for Perennial crops and Honey, it begins 30 days after Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> (application closing date).

## Committee Election Results

Ross Garman was re-elected to the FSA committee for a second three-year term. We welcome Ross back and appreciate his willingness to serve his fellow farmers and ranchers. A big thank you goes out to all of you who voted.

## Loan Deficiency Payments

Eligible producers have until Jan. 31, 2012, to apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for wool or unshorn lamb pelts produced during the 2011 crop year.

Eligible producers must have beneficial interest in the wool or pelts. For pelts, must have owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter.

**2012 LDP's** for wool and unshorn pelts: To be eligible for benefits for wool and unshorn pelts produced in calendar year 2012 producers must file page 1 of form CCC-633EZ as soon as possible and before losing beneficial interest (the ability to retain control/sale of the product).

## IRS Form 1099-G

Producers receive CCC-1099-Gs annually detailing payments from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on the CCC-1099-G is a service intended to help FSA customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producers' responsibility to report income to the 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 of data.

## Livestock Indemnity Program

Eligible losses as a result of adverse weather, as determined by the Secretary during the calendar year, include blizzards, disease, extreme cold, extreme heat, floods, hurricanes, and wildfires.

To be eligible for LIP benefits for 2011, participants must file FSA-914:

Notice of loss: the earlier of either of the following:

1/ 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock was apparent to the participant; 2/ October 31, 2011.

Application for payment: no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss of livestock occurred. (Must be filed by January 30, 2012).

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that other USDA agencies are also implementing GovDelivery, so once you subscribe through FSA, you will get other options for a variety of USDA bulletins, reports and other information.

## Spousal Signatures

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.

## Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for Socially Disadvantaged Applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of a group.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

## Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 losses in the SURE program runs through **June 1, 2012**.

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2010. SURE is available to eligible producers with qualifying losses on:

Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, except grazed crops. Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm.

## 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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **Adjusted Gross Income**

Participants in FSA and NRCS programs are required to submit form CCC-931 (Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information). We are in the process of accepting these forms for program year 2012.

## **Eligibility Records**

During the next few months when you visit our office we will be reviewing with you your farm operating plan (what we call the eligibility records) to verify that we have the most current information on file. This task will include reviewing form CCC-902 information, reviewing your AD-1026 (erodible land/wetlands) data, and accepting new CCC-931's as addressed above.

## County Committee Organization

At the December meeting the committee held the 2012 county committee organizational meeting to determine who will serve as the committee chairman and vice-chairman. Mervin Peterson was elected by the committee to be the committee chairman. Ross Garman was elected by the committee to be the vice-chairman.

Fact sheets for FSA programs can be found at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>; click on **Newsroom**, then **Fact Sheets**.

### **Important Dates:**

Jan 23...2012 DCP Enrollment begins

Jan. 30...Deadline to file FSA-914 page 2 Application for Payment for calendar year 2011 livestock losses

Jan. 31...Deadline to apply for LDP's on wool and unshorn lamb pelts

June 1...DCP signup deadline

June 1...SURE signup deadline

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