



TOWER OUTLOOK

FEBRUARY 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
Rob Weppner, Farm
Loan Manager-Gillette
Office,(307) 682-8843.

County Committee:

Roxie Dacar
Mervin Peterson
Ross Garman
Larry Fowlkes

Committee Meetings:

11:00 a.m. as follows:
March 21st
June 20th
September 19th
December 10th

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 opened on Jan. 23, 2012 and closes on **June 1, 2012. Call now for an appointment. We are not sending out appointment cards due to budget constraints.**

Here are some important reminders:

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

2) Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1st in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office including: ownership changes, producer changes (individuals and entities) and changes in crop shares arrangements. **Note:** All changes must be made by Sept. 30, 2012.

2012 Crop Reports

We will begin taking crop reports on April 1st. No appointment cards will be mailed out. The deadline to file a crop report has changed: This year (2012 crops) the deadline to file a crop report is July 15th.

NAP (Non-Insured Assistance)

The program provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to a natural disaster.

NAP covers losses that are greater than 50 percent of the farms crop historical yield and payments are calculated using 55 percent of the average market price as established by FSA. Service fees are \$250 per crop not to exceed \$750 per producer per county.

Application for Payment and Production Records for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the acreage reporting date for the crop for the following year.

The deadline to file an *Application for Payment and/or Production Records* for all 2011 crops is July 15, 2012.

Crop Losses: 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 Spring Wheat – which includes Winter Wheat (if wheat policy not bought by Dec.1st.), 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 Winter Wheat for forage or grazing (if winterkill coverage is desired); All forage and/or grazing crops including: Perennials (Mixed Grass or Single Variety Grasses, Native Pasture grass); Sanfoin; Clover; Sudan Grass. Alfalfa or Alfalfa/Grass mix for grazing. Grass Varieties for Seed. Honey, etc.

*****The application for coverage (form CCC-471) and the service fee must be filed by the applicable crop 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. 1st (application closing date).

1099-G

Producers who have received FSA payments should have received a CCC-1099-G, a report to the IRS about FSA payments made to producers the previous calendar year. The report is a service to help participating producers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the program participant's responsibility to report income to the IRS.

(1099-G Continued): When the CCC-1099-G is received; it should be checked with your records to see that the amounts are correct. Refunds will no longer be reported on the 1099-G, but will be available online from the FSA Financial Inquiries (FSA-FI) web-based database. Program participants with an eAuthentication user ID and password may access their refund information at FSA-FI and select "Inquiry Type 1099/Refund Reports". Refund amounts are displayed on the Producer's Year-to-Date Activity web page.

Contact your local FSA office concerning 1099-G details and eAuthentication access.

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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.

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.

Appeal Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter

(Appeal Process Continued): 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.

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.

These reviews will be done when you visit the office to sign up for the DCP program or when you come in to do your 2012 crop reports.

Actively Engaged

USDA has amended the rules that govern the requirements to be 'actively engaged' in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by FSA.

Normally the stockholder or a member of a legal entity **must** make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management for the farming operation. The contributions are to be performed on regular basis, must be identifiable, and separate from the contributions of others.

The exception to this rule for a stockholder or member of a legal entity only occurs when both of the following apply:

- At least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management; and
- The total direct payments received by the legal entity and each of the members can't exceed \$40,000.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency 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, or regularly borrow from 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 have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000.

The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans has increased from 1 percent to 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan, for loans obligated after October 1, 2011.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact Rob Weppner, Farm Loan Manager in the Campbell County FSA Office in Gillette at (307) 682-8843.

Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youth to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

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 % of the county's median size.

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 members of Socially Disadvantaged groups. 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.

Crook County FSA Office
PO Box 1070
Sundance, WY 82729



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

Important Dates:

April 1... Deadline to Purchase NAP policy on 2012 spring crops

June 1...DCP signup deadline

June 1...SURE signup deadline

July 15...2012 Crop Report Deadline

July 15...2011 Crop Production Report Deadline

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