



TOWER OUTLOOK

OCTOBER 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:
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.

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.

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

December 1st is the deadline to purchase a NAP policy on perennial hay crops such as grass hay; pasture grass; winter wheat for hay if winter kill coverage is desired; and any other fall planted annual hay crop.

Filing for NAP Losses

Form 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 pasture 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.

Over the Counter Channel (OTCnet)

FSA/CCC is implementing OTCnet, an electronic method for processing customer check payments. When a check is submitted for payment either in person or through the mail, the check will be converted into an

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). Within 24 hours, the funds may be debited from the producer's account. Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following Department of Treasury site for detailed information:

<http://fms.treas.gov/otcnet/legal.html>

2011 Supplement Disaster Assistance Program (SURE)

Sign up for the 2011 crop year Supplemental Disaster Assistance Program (SURE) will start on October 22, 2012 and end on June 7, 2013. This program will cover losses to crops that occurred due to an eligible weather event that occurred prior to September 30, 2011. In order to qualify, a producer with land physically located in Crook County must have incurred at least a 10% or greater loss to a crop of economic significance. Under SURE, the 10% loss is on all production of that crop in all counties. In addition, you must have had all crops of economic significance insured and a crop acreage report for 2011 must be on file in our office on all acres and land uses for which you have an interest. The 10% loss requirement applies to Crook County because of the Secretarial Disaster Declaration received for a contiguous county.

November 15th Crop Acreage Reporting Deadline

All producers are reminded that the acreage reporting date for fall seeded crops has changed, beginning with the crop planted for 2013 harvest. The new acreage reporting date is November 15, 2012. This applies to all fall seeded crops, perennial hay crops such as grass hay, and pasture grass. Please call for an appointment to certify your farm crops.

Committee Election Nominations

Crook County producers eligible to vote in the local voting area number 3 will be casting ballots to elect a farmer/rancher to represent them on the county committee. This year's candidates are Ivan Cranston and Robert Wagner.

Local voting area #3 is that portion of Crook County south of: I-90 from the South Dakota border to Sundance, then westerly along highway 14 to Cabin Creek road, then westerly along Cabin Creek road to Oshoto, then westerly along the Oshoto cut across road to the D road, then southerly to Dead Man road, then westerly along Dead Man road to the Campbell County line.

Completed and signed ballots must be returned to our office by close of business on December 3, 2012.

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.

IRS 1099 Changes

Calendar year 2012 has brought changes to the way FSA reports farm program payments to the producer and to the IRS. In past years, IRS Forms 1099-G would be issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount. Starting with calendar year 2012, producers whose total

reportable payments from FSA are less than \$600 will not receive IRS Form 1099-G. Also, producers who receive payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more. The same changes will apply to producers and vendors who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA

Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may result in liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans.

Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths 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.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien.

Be 10 years to 20 years of age

Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements

Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people

Be unable to get a loan from other sources

Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above

Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from

a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Increased Guaranteed Loan Limit

The Farm Service Agency has announced that the loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program will increase to \$1,302,000 on Oct. 1, 2012. The limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The lending limit increases every year according to an inflation index. The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness will also increase to \$1,602,000.

As a reminder, the one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed Farm Ownership and Operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan.

Producers should contact their local FSA County Offices with questions about farm loans.

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 the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

Electronic Services Available

If a producer has Internet access, program participants can access many services from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours.

To participate in these services, you must meet all program eligibility requirements. Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private information.

To utilize electronic services a producer needs an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires an e-mail address and filling out an online registration form at www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/ followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification.

If you would like assistance establishing your account, just contact your local USDA Service Center.

USDA Announces Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period Now

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between September 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their applications for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000.

As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

The Department will continue reaching out to potential Hispanic and female claimants, around the country to get the word out to individuals who may be eligible for this program so they have the opportunity to participate.

Call center representatives can be reached at 1-888-508-4429. Claimants must register for a claims package (by calling the number or visiting the website) and the claims package will be mailed to claimants. All those interested in learning more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages are encouraged to attend meetings in your communities about the claims process and contact the website or claims telephone number.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Claims Period: September 24, 2012 - March 25, 2013.

Independent legal services companies will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. Although there are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

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:

November 12 - Veterans Day Holiday – Office Closed

Nov. 15...2013 Crop Reports due for fall seeded small grains, perennial forage and grazing.

Nov. 15...Deadline to file 2012 crop production report for NAP crops for payment yield purposes

Nov 22 - Thanksgiving Day Holiday – Office Closed

Dec. 1....Deadline for 2013 NAP coverage for rangeland, perennial hay and fall seeded crops.

Dec 25 - Christmas Holiday – Office Closed

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