



NEWSLETTER



Crook County

117 S. 21st Street; Sundance, WY 82729

December 2014

Farm Service Agency

307-283-2870 phone
855-415-3442 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

County Committee

Ross Garman, Chairperson
Ivan Cranston, Vice-Chairman
Larry Fowlkes, Member
Roxie Dacar, Advisor

FSA Staff

Mike Idler, CED
Susan Johnson, PT

Farm Loan Staff

Rob Weppner
Gillette (307) 682-8843

NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

BUY-UP Purchase Deadline – January 14, 2015!! NEW FOR 2015!!!

NAP covered crops harvested for grain or forage (hay) are eligible (excluding crops eligible for crop insurance). Deadline to purchase buy-up for perennial forage crops is **January 14, 2015**. Deadline to purchase buy-up for annually planted small grain crops for either grain or forage is **April 1, 2015**.

Currently, NAP offers a basic coverage policy at the 50/55 level (50% of the yield at 55% of the crop price). Through the “buy-up” option coverage can be purchased for coverage levels of 50, 55, 60 and 65 % of the yield, at 100% of the crop price. Premiums are minimal and are paid in addition to the \$250.00 per crop service fee for the NAP policy. Call the office to see how “buy-up” coverage can work for you.

If you currently have a 2015 NAP basic coverage policy you simply come to the office, select which level of buy-up coverage you want and sign the policy. Premiums can be paid right then if total crop acreage is known or the premium will be billed to you. If you do not currently have a 2015 NAP basic policy you can still purchase buy up coverage by paying the \$250 service fee per crop and then select the level of buy up coverage and sign all necessary forms.

FSA has a real good tool to calculate premiums and loss payments at www.fsa.usapas.com/NAP .

Here is a scenario though: 50 acres of mixed grass hay with an approved yield of .95 ton/acre.

Coverage Options:	Service Fee	Premium Due	Potential Indemnity Payment at .25 disaster yield
50/55 basic policy	\$250	n/a	\$686
50/100 buy up policy	\$250	\$138.40	\$1,110 (premium already deducted)
55/100 buy up	\$250	\$152.24	\$1,360 (premium already deducted)
60/100 buy up	\$250	\$166.08	\$1,609 (premium already deducted)
65/100 buy up	\$250	\$179.92	\$1,859 (premium already deducted)

As you can see the Buy-up coverage provides for substantially increased loss protection (for minimal premium cost) over the basic NAP policy.

2014 FARM BILL and ARC/PLC

Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) have replaced the former DCP/ACRE program. The enrollment for ARC/PLC is a multi-step process beginning with updating yields and/or reallocating base acres, followed by the election process, then enrollment.

By February 27, 2015 you must:

- 1/ Update yields, if you think you can prove a yield greater than the yield established for your farm
- 2/Re-allocate your current crop bases to the actual crops planted (annual small grain crops) during the years 2009-2012.

By March 31, 2015 you must: Make an ARC/PLC program option election for your farm(s). Options are:

- Price Loss Coverage (PLC)
- Agriculture Risk Coverage – County Option (ARC-CO)
- Agriculture Risk Coverage - Individual Coverage (ARC-IC)

By Mid-April through mid-summer 2015 you must: “Enroll” you farm(s) in the program by signing an application/contract.

The letter you received in mid-July of this year provided you the details of your farm(s) crop base acres, yields, and your planting history. These letters are your basis for participation in the ARC/PLC program and the information contained on them should help you in determining if you can/should update yields or reallocate bases.

Base crops do not have to be planted in order to earn payments in PLC or ARC-CO. Nor does production have to be reported. Annual crop reports are required. With PLC/ARC-CO you can sign all crops bases up into either option or split crops into both options. For example: wheat base into PLC and barley base into ARC-CO or both crops into PLC or ARC-CO.

In ARC-IC, payments are dependent on the planting of covered commodities on the farm. Production must be reported. Annual crop reports are required. If an ARC-IC election is made for one base crop on the farm then all other base crops on the farm must be enrolled in ARC-IC.

The Reference Price below has already been established for the life of the Farm Bill. In order for a payment to trigger the Marketing Year Average Price (MYA) has to be less than:

\$4.95/bu. for barley; \$3.70/bu. for corn; \$2.40/bu. for oats; \$5.50/bu. for wheat; \$3.95 for G. Sorghum

Yield Updates

The 2014 Farm Bill offers land owners a one-time only opportunity to update their yields. If you want to maximize your commodities payment it is very important that you take a look at your yield data and take this opportunity to increase your yields when possible.

It only takes one year of having planted a covered commodity crop (barley, corn, oats, or wheat) to be able to update your yield. Silage and other crops grown for forage/hay instead of grain are also eligible and will allow you to update your yield. Production from covered commodities grown during years 2008-2012 will be used to establish new yields, excluding any year where no acreage was planted to a covered (base acres crop) commodity.

In order to update your yields, please bring your production data into the county office.

Base Reallocation

Under this farm bill you are allowed a one-time opportunity to reallocate you base acres. Your farm base acres are already allocated to covered commodity crops that were historically grown on that farm and cannot be increased, but you can reallocate your farm's base acres to the covered commodity crops that were grown on the farm in years 2009-2012.

What is PLC?

Payments are issued when the effective price (greater of: the market year average price or FSA/CCC Loan rate) of a covered commodity is less than the respective reference price (FSA's target price) for that commodity. The effective price equals the higher of the market year average price or the national average loan rate. The PLC payment is equal to 85 percent of the crops base acres times the difference between the reference price and the effective price times the PLC payment yield for the covered commodity.

What is ARC County (ARC-CO)?

Payments are issued when the actual county crop revenue (price and yield) of a covered commodity is less than the ARC-CO county guarantee (FSA's established program price and county yield) for the covered commodity. The ARC-CO guarantee equals 86 percent of the previous five-year market year average price, excluding the years with the highest and lowest price (the ARC guarantee price), times the five-year average county yield, excluding the years with the highest

and lowest yield (the ARC county guarantee yield). The payment is equal to 85 percent of the crops base acres times the difference between the county guarantee and the actual county crop revenue for the covered commodity.

What is Individual ARC (ARC-IC)?

Payments are issued when actual ARC-IC revenue (the producers "farm" revenue: price received and current harvested production), summed across all covered commodities on the farm, is less than the associated ARC-IC guarantee (FSA's established program prices coupled with the producers established proven farm crop yields).

The farm for ARC-IC purposes is the sum of the producer's interest in all ARC-IC farms in the state. The farm's ARC individual guarantee equals 86 percent of the farm's individual benchmark guarantee, defined as the five-year average of a producer's annual benchmark revenue for each commodity, excluding the high and low annual revenues. The resulting revenues are averaged across all crops on the farm, based on plantings, to obtain the revenue guarantee. Actual revenue is computed similarly. The ARC-IC payment equals: 65 percent of the sum of the base acres of all covered commodities on the farm, times the difference between the individual guarantee revenue and the actual individual crop revenue across all covered commodities planted on the farm. Payments may not exceed 10 percent of the individual benchmark revenue. Base crop(s) must be planted in order to receive payments.

???? How Do I Decide ????

The USDA has partnered with Texas A & M and the University of Illinois to create web tools to help producers decide what options might benefit them the most. Here are some links to websites to help in your decision making process. The county office staff will not be able to make this decision for you so it is up to you to do the research. Both of the decision making tools allow you to input your actual information and market predictions, or use USDA or FAPRI market predictions to assist you.

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=arpl&topic=landing>

<http://fsa.usapas.com/>

<https://usda.afpc.tamu.edu/>

LIVESTOCK DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Livestock Forage Disaster Program

The 2014 Farm Bill makes the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) a permanent program. Any livestock producer that grazed non-irrigated grazing land in Crook County may be eligible for a payment. LFP payments for drought are equal to 60 percent of the monthly feed cost for a period of one to five months depending on the severity of the drought.

Eligible producers in Crook County will be eligible for 4 monthly payments for 2012 and 2013. The sign up deadline is **January 30, 2015**.

Livestock Indemnity Payments

LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law.

Sign-up ends **January 30, 2015** for losses occurring in 2012-2014. Please consult a local FSA office for details. Losses occurring after January 1, 2015 must be reported within 30 calendar days of when the loss was apparent.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Ross Garman was re-elected to the committee. Congratulations Ross! Thanks to all who voted. Your participation in this important aspect of FSA is greatly appreciated.

CROP PRODUCTION REPORTS:

Crop production reports are the reporting of current year harvested production. For annual crops the reporting deadline is the next year's crop report date (July 15). For perennial forage crops the production report deadline is the next year's crop report date (November 15). For example, 2014 annual crop production reports are due July 15, 2015 while 2014 perennial forage crop production reports are due November 15, 2014. These production reports are used for NAP program participants to establish and/or maintain the current year APH (payment yield).

Crook County FSA Office
PO Box 1070
Sundance, WY 82729



PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Farm Service Agency

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting/event/function should contact Mike Idler at 307-283-2870 extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 by December 16, 2014.

Dates to Remember

- January 14** NAP Buy-UP Purchase Deadline for perennial forage crops
- January 30** LFP and LIP Deadline
- February 27** Yield Update and Base Acre Reallocation Deadline
- March 31** ARC/PLC Program Option Election Deadline
- April 1** NAP Basic / Policy/Buy-up Policy for spring planted crops
- July 15** Crop Report Deadline for 2015 spring planted crops
- July 15** Deadline to report crop production for 2014 spring planted crops
- Sometime this summer** Deadline to enroll farm(s) in ARC/PLC

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)