



NEWSLETTER



**Fremont County
FSA Office**

JULY 2011

**508 North Broadway Ave
Riverton, WY 82501
307-856-7524
307-856-2383 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/wy**

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30am - 4:30 pm

Staff
Annie Warren, CED
Brian Harrell, FLM
Cheyenne Magnan, FLO
Mary Lou Wickstrom, PT
Carol Zogata, PT

County Committee
John P. Stoll, Chairman
Chuck Murray, Vice-Chairman
Bryan Hamilton, Member

2011 DCP SIGNUP

The 2011 DCP deadline has passed but new late file procedures have been implemented. If you missed the deadline it is not too late, stop by the office and we will get you signed up.

2011 CROP REPORTING

2011 Crop Reporting season has ended and there is a \$46.00 per farm late fee assessed for late filed reports. Most FSA programs, including but not limited to DCP and NAP require a Crop Report. If you have not filed your 2011 Crop Report please contact the office immediately in order to not create payment delays.

Prevented Planting: Prevented planting needs be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

Failed Acreage: Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions

RIVERTON WEATHER STATION



The National Weather Service in Riverton reminds you to check their internet site or to call their office anytime for Fremont County weather forecasts. Detailed weather forecasts for the next several days can be found online at weather.gov/Riverton or by calling NWS forecast operations directly at 1-800-211-1448. Forecasters are available 24 hours a day to assist you in planning farm and ranch operations, family outings, or travel. Other websites of interest include:

Tabular & Graphical Forecasts by Latitude/Longitude
<http://forecast.weather.gov/gridpoint.php?site=riv>

PULSE CROPS

The 2008 Farm Bill states that eligible pulse crop acres may be added as base acres for the DCP and ACRE Programs.

The addition of pulse crop base acres is: Effective for 2009 through 2012 crop years; Required to be calculated in the same manner as eligible oilseed acreage under the 2002 Farm Bill.

The calculation of pulse crop base acres and yield is based on the acreage and yield history from the 1998 through 2001 crop years. Pulse crops are defined as: Dry peas (green, yellow, Austrian, Umatilla, and wrinkled); intended uses must be Seed or Dry Edible; Lentils; any intended use; Large chickpeas (Kabuli garbanzo beans); any intended use; Small chickpeas (Desi garbanzo beans); any intended use.

Pulse crop base acres will only be eligible for counter-cyclical or Acreage Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) payments for 2009 through 2012 crop years, not direct payments.

Surface Weather Observations around Wyoming
<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/mesowest/mwmap.php?map=wy>

NWS Precipitation Mapping
<http://water.weather.gov/precip>

Short and Long Term Climate Outlooks
<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/forecasts>

NWS Riverton Facebook Page
<http://www.facebook.com/US.NationalWeatherService.Riverton.gov>

HISPANIC AND WOMEN FARMERS

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans is being established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you during certain time periods between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information on this claims process and other settlement issues contact:

- **Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process, please visit:**
www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429;
- **Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation, please visit:**
www.blackfarmercase.com or call 1-866-950-5547;
- **Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement please visit:**
www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506.

SODBUSTER REGULATIONS

- The term “sodbusting” is used to identify the plowing up of erosion-prone grasslands for use as cropland. Sodbuster violations are unauthorized tillage practices on highly erodible lands that converted native vegetation such as rangeland or woodland, to crop production after Dec. 23, 1985.
- Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs.
- Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production.
- If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates on a CPA-026 that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage, before bringing land into production.
- In addition, producers and the producer’s affiliates have to file an AD-1026 in the administrative or control county office before any farm program payments can be made. The AD-1026 is the producer’s signed certification that Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELIC), as well as wetland conservation, provisions will not be violated.

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM (ECP)



Fremont County has been approved from 2011 ECP flood funding; however, the program has not yet been funded.

A disaster assistance signup period has been established to assist producers who have suffered losses due to the July flood conditions. **The signup period starts August 2nd and ends September 2nd.** During this time producers may file applications for assistance in recovering monetary costs for damages caused by the flood. **ECP is an emergency program and funding is not guaranteed.** The eligible practices the producer must complete, regardless of funding. Assistance is in the form of cost shares for corrective actions that have already been completed and/or for those yet to be done. Eligible items include: Removing Debris from Farmland; Grading, Shaping, Re-leveling, or similar measures on Cropland; Restoring Permanent Fences; Restoring Conservation Structures and Other Installations (such as dams, ponds, diversion, spreader ditches, pipelines, etc.). **We do not cost-share on rip rap, in stream work, or stream bank stabilization.** NRCS has a program call EWP that might be able to help you with items we do not cover. Please make an appointment with the office to complete an application.

Important: in order for FSA to provide cost-share payments all practices must be done according to specifications per the technical agency. (For example, if repair work is to be done on a dam then NRCS will design the corrective measures and the producer must repair the dam per NRCS specifications)

We are in the process of finishing up our 2010 flood applications. If you received an extension or were funded late in the program, please work with the office to complete your applications as soon as possible.

NAP PARTICIPANTS

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. Timely filing the Notice of Loss is required for ALL CROPS INCLUDING GRASSES. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, 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.

2012 FREMONT COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS LAA2

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, large or small. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and to represent all constituents. This means wherever possible, minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for these underrepresented groups.

County committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities
- Emergency programs
- Payment eligibility

FSA county committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decision and operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal rules, regulations and laws.

Election Period

June 15, 2011 – COC nomination period begins.

Aug. 1, 2011 - COC nomination forms (FSA-669A) due at the local USDA Service Center

Nov. 4, 2011 – COC ballots mailed to eligible voters

Dec. 5, 2011 - Last day to return completed COC ballots to the USDA Service Center

Jan. 2, 2012 - Newly elected COC members take office

Who Can Hold Office

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria as follows:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate

Candidates must not have been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

For more information about county committee elections, contact the county office staff.

Nominations

We are looking for nominations from the Midvale/Riverton area, Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2. John Paul Stoll has served this area for his final, third, three year term. We have been lucky to have him and he will be missed!

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must complete and sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and online at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_commiteelectform.pdf. Nomination forms for the 2011 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1, 2011.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy 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. Nomination forms are filed for the county committee of the office that administers a producer's farm records.

Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers of legal voting age (18 years) may be eligible to vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm may also be eligible to vote. More information about voting eligibility requirements can be found in the FSA fact sheet titled "FSA County Committee Election - Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a County Committee Member." Producers may contact their local USDA Service Center for more information.



Thank You
John!

Fremont County FSA Office
508 North Broadway Ave
Riverton, WY 82501



PRESORTED STANDARD
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Farm Service Agency
PERMIT #G-96

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Selected Interest Rates for	
July 2011	
Operating Loan	2.375%
Farm Ownership	4.750%
Conservation Loan (NEW)	4.750%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Farm Storage Facility – 7 yr	2.375%
Farm Storage Facility – 10 yr	3.000%
Farm Storage Facility – 12 yr	3.250%

Dates to Remember	
July 29	Supplemental Revenue (SURE) 2009 Deadline
Aug. 1	COC Nomination Deadline
Aug. 1	Reconstitution Deadline
Sept. 2	ECP Deadline
Sept. 5	Labor Day – Office Closed
Oct. 10	Columbus Day – Office Closed
Nov. 11	Veteran's Day – Office Closed