



## **Committee Election Nominations**

Nominations of candidates for the Farm Service Agency county committee election representing producers in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2 will be accepted through August 2, 2010. Producers who are eligible to vote in LAA 2 and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates.

LAA's are elective areas. Single counties are divided into three LAA's. Elections are held each year to replace a member whose three-year term will expire.

Laramie County will be holding an election for a person to represent LAA 2. That position is currently held by Dave Bowman who has hit his term limit, so he is not eligible to run for election. LAA 2 includes south east corner of Laramie County east of County Road 136 and south of County Road 221.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 5, and must be returned to the FSA county office or postmarked by Dec. 6, 2010.

More information on the elections, including nomination forms, is available at the county office or online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

## **Farm Program Information**

### *Acreage Reporting Deadline Has Passed*

**Please call for an appointment. A minimum of \$46 per farm late filed fees will be charged.** Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop.

## **Conservation Reserve Program**

### *Reminder for Contracts Expiring*

CRP contracts that are expiring on September 30 cannot be hayed or grazed until October 1, 2010.

### *General CRP Signup Not Announced*

USDA has not yet announced a General CRP Signup as of the date of this Newsletter. We will notify all producers when a signup is announced.

### *Weed Control*

Please check your CRP acreage for noxious weeds. CRP contract holders are required to control noxious weeds on their CRP.

### *Transition Incentives Program*

The Transition Incentives Program (TIP) encourages retired or retiring owners or operators to transition their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

TIP sign-up opened May 17, 2010. If all program requirements are met, TIP provides annual rental payments to the retiring farmer for up to two additional years after the expiration of the CRP contract, provided the transition is not to a family member. For eligibility requirements producers should visit the FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## **Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Reminders**

### Notice of Loss

A Notice of Loss, CCC-576, must be filed for crop losses within 15 days of the loss event or whenever the loss becomes apparent. Losses not reported timely could result in a loss of eligibility for payment.

## **Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) / Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) Information**

Crop Loans are available for program crops and oilseed crops harvested in 2010. Nine-month commodity loans can be made to eligible producers. The current interest rate for loans disbursed in July is 1.375 percent for farm-stored or warehouse stored commodities. The office is required to do a lien search on all loans in excess of \$50,000 and when the loan is determined to be at risk.

Producers with average adjusted gross nonfarm income that exceeds \$500,000 are not eligible for a marketing loan gain or an LDP.

Marketing loan gains or LDP's will no longer be limited. (There is no limit on the total dollar amount of LDP's.)

Actively engaged determinations are not required for producers requesting MAL or LDP.

CCC will no longer require the execution of UGRSA in storage facilities that are either of the following: federally licensed or state licensed with an operating warehouse licensing program.

It is the producer's responsibility to maintain the quality of the grain in storage.

Both husband and wife must sign the loan document. A notarized or FSA witnessed FSA Power of Attorney Form, FSA-211, may be filed giving the husband and/or wife authority to sign for each other.

Measurement services are available to measure the grain in your storage facility. The cost is \$30 per farm plus \$16 per hour / \$8 for every 30 minutes after the first hour with a minimum charge of 1 hour. Fees must be paid for the measurement before the loan check can be disbursed. **We strongly recommend that producers get a measurement service to avoid penalties for overstating grain in storage.**

Please call the office for more information if you are interested. The loan process does take some time and will be done by appointment only.

### CCC-633EZ Signed Before Harvest for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP)

The EZ form is a two-part loan deficiency payment request that allows producers to (1) indicate their intentions to receive LDP benefits *before* losing beneficial interest (title and control) in the eligible commodity, and (2) submit a request for an LDP at any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest. An LDP is available if the posted county price is lower than the loan rate.

Once the first page of the form has been signed and submitted, the producer can submit an LDP request by completing page 2 for all harvested commodities, except cotton; page 3 for cotton; or page 4 for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts. The LDP request can be submitted at any time during the loan availability period, before or after losing beneficial interest. To date there is only wool LDP's.

### Wool, Mohair, & Unshorn Pelts LDP

Producers who file for a Loan Deficiency Payment on wool or unshorn pelts must indicate their intentions to receive LDP benefits on CCC-633EZ (page 1) before the sale or loss of beneficial interest. Then submit an LDP request (CCC-633EZ page 4) for benefits at any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest.

January 1 is the beginning of the crop year for the wool, mohair, and unshorn pelts. The ending of the crop year is December 31. Applications for 2010 LDP's must be filed by January 31, 2011.

## **Farm Service Agency (FSA) & Risk Management Agency (RMA)**

The RMA (Risk Management Agency) and FSA work together to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse of the Crop Insurance Program. FSA will again be assisting RMA and insurance providers in monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse of Crop Insurance Program to RMA. Producers may report suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse to their local FSA County Office, RMA office, or Office of Investigative General (OIG). FSA will also assist with auditing claims with RMA.

## **Foreign Landowner Notification**

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form 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.

## **Farm Loan Program**

### Youth Loans

FSA makes loans to individual rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, Future Farmers of America, and similar organizations.

Each project must be part of an organized and supervised program of work. The project must be planned and operated with the help of the organization adviser, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

Each year, many young entrepreneurs take advantage of these loans and gain valuable business experience in the process. For more information contact Dixie Mount, Farm Loan Officer, at 307-322-4050.

## **USDA Announces Project to Improve Water Quantity in Laramie County**

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced support for farmers and ranchers in 10 states to conserve water and improve water quality on agricultural working lands through the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP), which leverages additional resources and services from conservation partners. USDA will provide more than \$19.7 million in fiscal year 2010 for 28 projects through this voluntary program. AWEP provides technical and financial assistance to help farmers and ranchers implement activities to improve agricultural water.

One of the 28 projects announced is the Ogallala Aquifer Conservation Restoration Project in Laramie County. This joint project between the Laramie County Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Cheyenne Field Office will reduce the over use of groundwater in the county. Projects that will be funded include the conversion of irrigated lands to other agricultural uses and improving the irrigation water management on about 12,000 additional acres.

It has been a long term goal of the district to stabilize the aquifer in Laramie County. It is estimated that this project will save about 7,200 acre feet of water annually. This is more water than is stored in Granite Springs Reservoir at Curt Gowdy State Park. The district began working with irrigators in 1990 to find ways to improve water efficiency, but this will be the largest effort to date.

*NRCS is now taking sign-ups from eligible irrigators that pump water from the Ogallala Aquifer in Laramie County. The deadline for applications is July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Irrigation wells that are competing with municipal wells for groundwater will be given the highest priority for funding. For more information contact the NRCS Cheyenne Field Office 772-2314, or Laramie County Conservation District 772-2600.*

**USDA / FSA**  
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**Permit No. G-96**

**County Committee:** Mark Child, Mike Peterson, Dave Bowman **Advisor:** Louise Jacobsen  
**Office Staff:** Doris Scheel, Denise Hunt, Krista Macy, Kendal Sedman  
Dixie Mount – Farm Loan Officer – Laramie County office day is Tuesday of each week. Dixie may be reached by calling the Wheatland FSA Office at (307)322-4050.  
/S/ Gary Gompert, CED – Email [gary.gompert@wy.usda.gov](mailto:gary.gompert@wy.usda.gov)

**Dates to Remember**

July	23	AWEP Signup Deadline with NRCS
August	2	Committee Nomination Deadline
September	6	Labor Day Holiday Office Closed

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