



NEWSLETTER



Laramie County FSA

July 2011

Gary Gompert, CED

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/s/ *Gary Gompert*

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www.fsa.usda.gov/WY

Hours

Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Laramie County Staff

Doris Scheel
Denise Hunt
Krista Macy
Kendal Sedman-Temporary

Farm Loan Officer

Dixie Mount- In the office on
Tuesday. Located out of the
Wheatland FSA Office. (307)
322-4050 phone

County Committee

Mike Peterson
Mark Child
Dale Martin
Louise Jacobsen, Advisor

Committee Election

Committee Nominations Open for LAA #3

Nominations of candidates for the Farm Service Agency county committee election representing producers in Local Administrative Area (LAA) number 3 will be accepted through August 1, 2011. Producers who are eligible to vote in LAA 3 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. Beginning farmers and ranchers are encouraged to nominate themselves and participate in the election process.

Laramie County FSA will be holding an election for a person to represent LAA 3. That position is currently held by Mark Child. LAA 3 includes all of Laramie County west of County Road 136.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by November 4, and must be returned to the FSA county office or postmarked by Dec. 5, 2011.

All farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers are encouraged to participate. The county committee provides local input on commodity price support loans and payments; establish allotment and yields; conservation programs; disaster assistance payments and other programs. More information on the elections, including nomination forms, is available at the county office or online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.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 has been established. If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible for compensation. To register for a claims package or for additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process:
www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429

Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation:
www.blackfarmercase.com or call 1-866-950-5547

Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement:
www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506.

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.

Conservation Reserve Program

Maturing CRP Contracts

CRP participants with expiring contract acres in the final year of the CRP-1, who intend to destroy cover for preparation for spring or fall-seeded crops, need pre-authorization from FSA to avoid penalty. Authorization can only be granted after a completed CRP-1G (Modification to Allow Early Preparation) is reviewed and approved by a representative of the Commodity Credit Corporation and the producer completes a conservation plan with NRCS.

Reminder for Contracts Expiring

CRP contracts that are expiring on September 30 cannot be hayed or grazed until October 1, 2010. Contracts may be hayed / grazed under the Managed Haying and Grazing if eligible with prior approval and paper work filed with FSA.

Weed Control

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

Farm Program Information

2011 Direct & Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and Agriculture Conservation Revenue Enhancement (ACRE)

Signup

Signup for the 2011 DCP/ACRE was held through June 1, 2011. Deputy Administrator Farm Programs has authorized a late file DCP Contract enrollment period through August 1.

DCP Cover Requirements

Fallow acreage on cropland that supports DCP base acres must be protected from wind and water erosion and have the weeds controlled. Violations for not controlling weeds and wind or water erosion will lead to penalties.

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.

Fruit and Vegetable (FAV) Planting

Participating DCP and ACRE farms are limited to the amount of FAV's that can be planted without a payment reduction/violation. FAV acres may not exceed the non-contract acres on the farm. Farms must have a FAV history on the farm or the producer must have a history of producing FAV to be eligible for planting FAV on base acres. FAV's include dry beans, potatoes, onions and chicory. Planting FAV can cause you to lose benefits and could also include fines. Please contact the office before planting so we can keep you from losing benefits and avoid penalty.

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.

Disaster Programs

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

Losses of livestock due to adverse weather must be reported to the FSA Office within 30 days of when the loss is apparent by filing a Notice of Loss application FSA-914. For 2011 a Notice of Loss filed must be finalized by October 31, 2011 as this is the last year of this program in the current Farm Bill.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program

Signup for the SURE Program for 2009 crop losses started on January 10. The signup goes through July 29, 2011. Please call for an appointment.

At a minimum, to be eligible for the SURE Program, the producer must have purchased or be enrolled in the following for the 2009 crop year (This is called the Risk Management Purchase Requirement or RMPR):

- A plan of crop insurance of at least catastrophic (CAT) level for all insurable crops on all farms.
- And/or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for all non-insurable crops on all farms.

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

Crop Loans are available for program crops and oilseed crops harvested in 2011. Nine-month commodity loans can be made to eligible producers. The current interest rate for loans disbursed in June was 1.250 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 are no 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 2011 LDP's must be filed by January 31, 2012.

FSA Farm Loans

FSA 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 Guaranteed Loan** 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** can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,119,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner. FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

Laramie County FSA Office
11221 US Hwy 30
Cheyenne, WY 82009



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Dates to Remember

July 4	Independence Day Holiday – Office Closed
July 29	Last Day for SURE Signup
August 1	Last Day to File a Nomination for Committee Election
September 5	Labor Day Holiday – Office Closed

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