



NEWSLETTER



Laramie County FSA

July/August 2012

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/s/ *Gary Gompert*

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Hours

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

Laramie County Staff

Doris Scheel
Denise Hunt
Krista Macy

Farm Loan Officer

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

County Committee

Dale Martin
Mike Peterson
Brian Jacobsen
Louise Jacobsen, Advisor



Committee Election

Committee Nominations Open for LAA #1

Nominations of candidates for the Farm Service Agency county committee election representing producers in Local Administrative Area (LAA) number 1 will be accepted through August 1, 2012. Producers who are eligible to vote in LAA 1 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 1. That position is currently held by Mike Peterson. LAA 1 includes the area North and East of County Road 136 and 221 in Laramie County.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by November 5 and must be returned to the FSA county office or postmarked by December 3, 2012.

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/elections>. The nomination form can be found in "Election Materials" and select "2012 Nomination Form". Fact Sheets explaining the nomination and election process can be found in links under "Fact Sheets".

Conservation Reserve Program

Emergency Haying/Grazing of CRP

Laramie County has been approved to implement Emergency Haying and Grazing of CRP for 2012. This authorization is based on ongoing drought conditions causing shortages of livestock feed. Basic details of this authorization:

1. The CRP participant must apply for this provision and be approved before haying or grazing the CRP. The participant will need to meet with FSA for application and then with NRCS to complete a haying or grazing plan.
2. Once approved, haying/grazing can begin immediately. Haying must be completed by August 31 and bales removed by September 30. Grazing must end the sooner of when the grazing plan calls for, or September 30, 2012.
3. For grazing, at least 25% of each field or contiguous CRP field must be left ungrazed for wildlife; or, the participant may elect to graze at no more than 75% of the stocking rate, as determined by NRCS. For haying, 50% of the field may be hayed.
4. CRP annual payments will be reduced by 10% on the acres actually hayed or grazed. (This was changed from 25%)
5. CRP participants that do not own livestock are permitted to lease their CRP to an eligible livestock producer for this purpose. In these cases, the person leasing the CRP is required to review and sign paperwork with FSA before approval is made.

For more information, please contact this office.

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.

Weed Control

New contracts are being checked by NRCS to determine if grass is established and weeds are controlled. Please check your CRP acreage for noxious weeds, cheat grass, and other undesirable weeds. CRP contract holders are required to control weeds on their CRP. The NRCS has found many small areas of weeds that will eventually spread to the rest of the CRP. There are penalties for not controlling weeds and pests on CRP.

Farm Program Information

2012 Direct & Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and Agriculture Conservation Revenue Enhancement (ACRE)

Signup

Signup for the 2012 DCP/ACRE was held through June 1, 2012. 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.

Final Crop Reporting Date Changes for 2013 Crops

November 15, 2012 – Perennial Forage, Fall Wheat, and other fall seeded small grains

January 15, 2013 – Established stand alfalfa seed and fall seeded alfalfa

July 15, 2013 – Conservation Reserve Program acreage, Spring alfalfa seed, spring barley, corn, beans, millet, oats, potatoes, sugar beets, sunflowers, spring wheat, and all other spring crops.

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.

Administrative Information

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>

What is OTCnet? OTCnet is a web-based online application process for converting paper checks presented to FSA into electronic debits to the producer's checking account. Benefits include reducing lost/misplaced checks, less paper handling, improved customer relations, more efficient check clearing process and reducing the potential for human error.

How will my check be handled? The check will be scanned into the system and voided. The customer will not receive the check back from FSA. FSA will hold checks for up to 14 calendar days to ensure that the item was successfully processed, and then FSA will shred the check.

How quickly will funds be transferred from my account? The transfer of funds from your account could occur within 24 hours. Therefore, you should be sure that you have sufficient funds in your account to process the transaction. If you do **not** have sufficient funds, we may initiate the transaction again.

How will this transaction appear on my account statement? The transfer of funds reflected on your account statement may be recorded in a different place on your statement. The transaction may appear under "withdrawals" or "other transactions".

What are my rights if there is a problem with the transaction? You have protections under Federal law for an unauthorized electronic fund transfer from your account. You should contact your financial institution immediately if you believe that a transaction reported on your account statement was not properly authorized or is otherwise incorrect.

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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.

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

Crop Loans are available for program crops and oilseed crops harvested in 2012. Nine-month commodity loans can be made to eligible producers. The current interest rate for loans disbursed in July is 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 2012 LDP's must be filed by January 31, 2013.

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



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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.

Dates to Remember

August 1	Last Day to File a Nomination for Committee Election
August 1	Last Day to Sign DCP Contract
September 3	Labor Day Holiday – Office Closed
October 8	Columbus Day Holiday – Office Close
November 12	Veterans Day Holiday– Office Close
November 15	Fall Planted Wheat, Grass Final Crop Reporting Date for 2013 Crop Year
November 22	Thanksgiving Day Holiday– Office Close

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