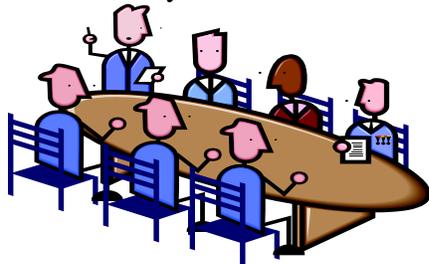


**COC ELECTIONS**

**NOMINATE AND VOTE FOR RANCHER OF YOUR CHOICE.**

If you think government programs should have a local voice, here's your chance. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting nominations for local County Committee-persons. Locally elected committees administer FSA farm programs at the county and community levels.

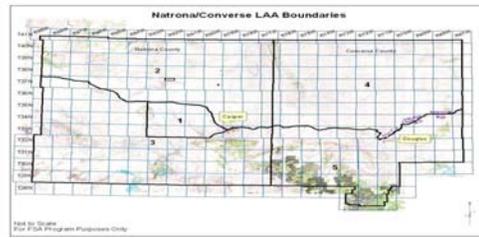


The election of responsible ranchers/farmers to these committees is essential to ALL ranchers and farmers as Committee responsibilities include:

- ~ Disaster Assistance Programs
- ~ Conservation Programs
- ~ Eligibility for Program Payments

- ~ Yields used in LDP payments
- ~ Commodity Price Support Loans and Payments

There have been changes in Local Administrative Areas (LAA's) due to the combination of our two Counties. The County Committee now consist of five members. The Committees reviewed the types of agriculture in the two counties. Our counties are very similar in grazing land, irrigated fields from creeks, and the irrigation of the North Platte River. The one difference that presented itself was that Natrona County has an irrigation project area that uses water from the Bureau of Reclamation. As both counties have a north and south LAA, 2 members will come from each county to comprise 4 members of the committee. The fifth member of the committee will be elected from the Area that is under the Bureau of Reclamation.



In this election producers will vote for a Committee person from LAA's 3 ( South Natrona) and 4 (North Converse) to serve a

a three year term.

Converse County is divided into North (LAA 4) and South (LLA 5). The division line is the North Platte River from the Natrona County line to Douglas. At Douglas, the line leads north on Highway 59 to Walker Creek Road (County Road 43). On Walker Creek Road you head northeast to Manning Road (County Highway 53). Manning Road east to the county line is the final leg of the division line. Please see the map above. Natrona County LAA's have not changed. The only reason that Natrona has three is that the Irrigated Project is a completely different type of farming and is under the Bureau of Reclamation. The rest of the two Counties were divided into North and South.

A Petition is enclosed with this newsletter for you use.



**HAVE YOU COVERED YOUR,  
RANGELAND, GRASS HAY AND  
SMALL GRAIN HAY FOR  
DISASTERS IN 2009?**

The final date to purchase a Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy for **2009**, on rangeland is **DECEMBER 1, 2008**. Producers are finding this coverage an essential component to their ranching operation. Many areas of Natrona County have been eligible for payments during this prolonged drought.

**IMPORTANT**

If you have a loss due to flooding, hail, or drought in 2008, you must file a notice of loss within 15 days of the loss? **No Notice of Loss means NO DROUGHT PAYMENT.**

**CROP REPORTS**

It's that time of year again and I realize how very busy you are but we would like to remind you to file a crop report with this office. As we have seen in the past these crop reports are used to establish eligibility for all programs administered by the County FSA Office. This crop history has been the basis for disaster payments, wheat and feed grain payment and was the basis for the acreages used for the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program.

**CROP REPORTS ARE REQUIRED FOR LDP (Loan Deficiency Payments) AND ALL DISASTER PROGRAMS FOR ELIGIBILITY PURPOSES. THIS INCLUDES REPORTS OF NATIVE RANGELAND** to be eligible under the NAP program for assistance on livestock feed. The final date to file a crop report with this office is **July 1, 2008**. In addition to the normal grain, hay and vegetable crops, we are also accepting crop reports on Native Pasture.



Please do not confuse this with the report of acreage and production that you give to the Casper – Alcova Irrigation District and the Wyoming Statistical Reporting Service. They DO NOT share this information so we never see it.

We encourage all producers to file a crop report in order to maintain and establish a crop history for their



farm on all land uses including, but not limited to:

- |               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Alfalfa       | Rangeland         |
| Barley        | Alfalfa/Grass Hay |
| Oats          | Corn              |
| Potatoes      | Grain Sorghum     |
| Sweet Corn    | Grass Hay         |
| Turnips       | Wheat             |
| Sorghum Sudan |                   |

Hope to see you in the office soon.

### **CROP PRODUCTION REPORTS**

If you received a Non-insured Disaster Payment on Grass Hay or Small Grain Hay for 2007, you must file a production report no later than **July 1, 2008**. Even if you grazed these crop acres, you must report them.



### **LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM**

**July 18, 2008**, is the final date to apply for benefits under the Livestock Compensation Program. We have been told there will be no Late Filed Applications Accepted.



### **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROTRAM (EQIP)**

If you would like to have your application for EQIP conservation practices

considered for funding this year you must apply no later than **June 30, 2008**. Applications received after July 1, will be deferred and held for consideration at a future date as funding becomes available.

### **CROP DISASTER PROGRAM**

If you have not filed an application for the 2005 thru 2007 Crop Disaster Program, there is still time. I encourage you to do as soon as possible as they have already established an ending date for the livestock portion of this Act. When contacting the office please have your production records available.



### **CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)**

CRP participants are required to control all weeds, insects, pests and perform fire management according to your Conservation Plan.

Due to the drought, Critical Use of CRP acres has been approved. If you are interested please contact the County Office. However, any livestock found on CRP acres with out an application and conservation plan will constitute a violation and all payments plus interest will be collected back.

### **LOANS FOR SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED PRODUCERS**

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is able to make and guarantee loans to Socially Disadvantaged Applicants to buy and operate family size farms and ranches. Funds specifically for these loans are reserved each year. A socially

Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice without regard to their individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asians, and Pacific Islanders. Contact your local FSA Loan Manager for more details.

### **SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS**

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, and/or hearing impairment. If accommodation are needed, please contact the County FSA office directly or by phone at (307)261-5436 or Toll Free 1-866-596-4478.

### **SPOUSAL SIGNATURES**

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is filed in the County Office.

### **BANK ACCOUNT CHANGES**

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers must notify the FSA County Office if you change accounts or another financial institution purchases your bank. If we do not have the correct information on file, your payment will be held up until we have the proper accounts to send payments to.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NATRONA/CONVERSE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>COUNTY COMMITTEE</b></p> <p><b>ROBERT CHENEY. . . . . CHAIRPERSON</b> <b>NEIL FORGEY. . . . . VICE-CHAIRPERSON</b> <b>JARED VOLLMAN. . . . . VOTING MEMBER</b> <b>JOHN BENTLEY. . . . . VOTING MEMBER</b> <b>MARY OWEN . . . . . VOTING MEMBER</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OFFICE HOURS</b> <b>Casper Office</b> <b>Monday-Friday. . .8:00 – 12:00 &amp; 12:30 – 4:30</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OFFICE ADDRESS &amp; PHONE NUMBERS</b></p> <p><b>5880 Enterprise Dr., Suite 100, Casper, WY 82609</b> <b>Toll Free 1-866-596-4478 – Office (307) 261-5436</b> <b>FAX (307) 261-5435</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Douglas Office</b> <b>DAVE LENGLE Monday – Friday:8:00-12:00 &amp; 1:00-5:00</b> <b>DEBBIE REED Tuesday. . . . . 9:00-12:00 &amp; 1:00-5:00</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OFFICE ADDRESS &amp; PHONE NUMBERS</b></p> <p><b>1954 Richards, Douglas, WY 82633</b> <b>FAX (307) 358-5719 Office (307) 358-3050</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OFFICE PERSONNEL</b> <b>DEBBIE REED. . . . . CED</b> <b>DAVE LENGLE. . . AG CREDIT MANAGER</b> <b>LINDA VALDEZ. . . . . PT</b> <b>WANDA MCLEAN. . . . . PT</b></p>
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### **FOREIGN INVESTMENT ACT**

Foreign investors who own or have a 5% interest in farm or ranch land, or who gross more than \$1000 from any plot of land are required to report their holdings. These holdings are to be reported to the FSA Office within 90 days after acquiring such interest.

*The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider or employee*

May rain fall softly on your face and the wind be always at you back.

*Debbie Reed, CED*

**FSA-669A**

(02-25-08)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

## NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

The County FSA Committee election will be held on the first Monday of December. Ballots will be mailed to voters not less than 4 weeks before the election.

This form allows individuals to nominate themselves or any other person as a candidate. If additional forms are needed, this one may be copied or may be obtained at the County FSA Office or obtained electronically at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Each form submitted must be:

- A. Limited to one nominee.
- B. Signed and dated by the nominee in Item 4. Nominee must sign if willing to have his/her name placed on the ballot and agrees to serve if elected.

**Note:** Name shown on ballot will appear exactly the same as in Agency records.

- C. Delivered to the County FSA Office or postmarked no later than August 1.

The County FSA Committee is responsible for reviewing each form to determine the eligibility of nominees. A person who files this form and is found ineligible will be so notified and have an opportunity to file a challenge.

Persons nominated should actively participate in the operation of a farm or ranch and be well qualified for committee work. A producer is eligible to be a County FSA committee member if the producer resides in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) in which the election is to be held and is eligible to vote.

Federal regulations may prohibit County FSA Committee members from holding certain positions in some farm, commodity, and political organizations if such positions pose a conflict of interest with FSA duties. The positions include functional offices such as president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer; and positions on boards or executive committees. Conflict of interest restrictions also apply to employees, operators, managers, and majority owners of tobacco warehouses. Questions concerning eligibility should be directed to the County FSA Office.

A candidate has the option to request that all voted ballots for an individual county committee election be returned to the respective State Office in lieu of being returned to the county office. This request must be in writing and submitted to the local County Executive Director prior to the announced end of the nomination period.

The duties of County FSA Committee members include:

- A. Administering farm program activities conducted by the County FSA Office.
- B. Informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA programs.
- C. Keeping the State FSA Committee informed of LAA conditions.
- D. Monitoring changes in farm programs.
- E. Participating in county meetings as necessary.
- F. Performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee

<b>FSA-669A</b> (02-25-08)	<b>U.S. Department of Agriculture</b> Farm Service Agency
<h2 style="margin: 0;">NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION</h2>	

1. NAME OF NOMINEE <i>(Type or print Nominee's Full Name)</i>	<b>TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE</b>
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE	
3. <b>NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION</b> <i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i>	5. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE <i>(MM-DD-YYYY)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</i>  <input type="checkbox"/> <i>I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</i>	6A. COUNTY  6B. LAA NO.  7. STATE
4A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	4B. DATE <i>(MM-DD-YYYY)</i>
<b>DATE OF ELECTION IS 1st MONDAY OF DECEMBER OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR</b>	

**8. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE**

**VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES:** The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.

<b>ETHNICITY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	<b>RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> America Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	<b>GENDER</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
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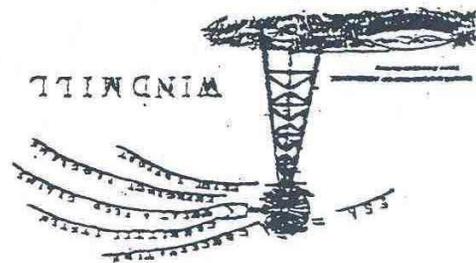
**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM**

- Complete the form as follows:
- ITEM 1** Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:
    - A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
    - B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
    - C. Willing to serve if elected.
  - ITEM 2** Enter the nominee's current address.
  - ITEM 3** The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.
  - ITEM 4** The nominee must sign and date.
  - ITEM 8** Completing this item is voluntary.

**ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 1.**

**NOTE:** *The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a) and the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as amended. The authority for requesting the following information is 7 CFR Part 7. The information will be used to obtain nominees for County FSA Committee.*

*According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.*



PRESORTED STANDARD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
CASPER, WY  
PERMIT NO. 21

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FARM SERVICE AGENCY  
5880 ENTERPRISE DR. SUITE 100  
CASPER, WY 82609

## DATES TO REMEMBER!

<b>JULY 1, 2008</b>	<b>FINAL DATE TO FILE CROP REPORT NO CROP REPORT - NO MONEY</b>
<b>JULY 4, 2008</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY</b>
<b>JULY 18, 2008</b>	<b>LAST DATE TO APPLY FOR BENEFITS UNDER THE LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM</b>
<b>AUGUST 18, 2008</b>	<b>FINAL DATE TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS FOR COUNTY COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>
<b>AUGUST 18, 2008</b>	<b>LAST DATE TO APPLY FOR NAP AND CROP INSURANCE NO INSURANCE - NO ELIGIBILITY FOR DISASTER PAYMENTS</b>

**FARM BILL HAS PASSED - BE SURE TO READ NEWSLETTERS**

