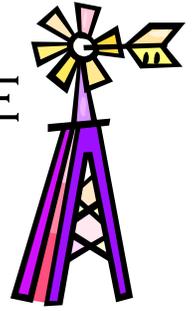




# NATRONA/CONVERSE COUNTY WINDMILL



February 2009

Natrona/Converse  
County FSA  
5880 Enterprise Dr Ste 100  
Casper, WY 82609  
(307) 261-5436  
or  
Toll Free 1-866-596-4478

Office Hours:  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 am – 4:30 pm  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

## County Committee

Jared Vollman – Chair  
Mary Owens – V. Chair  
Jim Price – Member  
Neal Forgey – Member  
John Bentley - Member

## Staff

Jim Neill – CED  
Wanda McLean – PT  
Deena McDaniels – PT  
Dave Lengle – FLM

Douglas USDA Service  
Center  
911 S. Windriver Dr.  
Douglas, WY 82633  
(307) 358-3050

I would like everyone to welcome the Natrona/Converse County Farm Service Agency's newest employee, Deena McDaniels. Deena is joining us from the Conservation District and will be replacing Linda Valdez. Linda has accepted a position in the State FSA office.

The Natrona/Converse County Farm Service Agency is dedicated to providing you with the most up to date information on farm programs and farm loan information. We will be publishing a newsletter every three months or as often as needed if policies or procedures change. This newsletter will provide you with information about the FSA's farm programs and farm loan programs that are currently ongoing. Each specific topic will begin with a header. If you have interest in any specific program, please review the information provided in that section.

We have a major project to undertake for 2009. The 2008 Farm Bill has changed eligibility requirements. Therefore, we are required to create new Farm Operating Plans, Adjusted Gross Income certifications for all producers that wish to participate in FSA farm programs or NRCS programs. We have already started this process with participants of the NRCS programs. Please don't wait until you are ready to sign up for a FSA program before you stop by and recreate your Farm Operating Plan.

I have received many inquiries about office hours at the Douglas office. I will maintain the Tuesday schedule at the Douglas office by **appointment only** until the end of March. If I do not have any appointments scheduled, I will not be in the office. Starting in April, I will be in the office every Tuesday, with or without appointments to receive Converse County producer crop reports. Producers with appointments will receive first priority. Depending on the demand, I will consider additional days in the office during signup periods.

I would like to thank the County Committee for giving me the opportunity to serve as the County Executive Director for Natrona and Converse Counties. I know that I have very large shoes to fill as Debra Reed retired on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009. I know that I have many challenges to overcome, but I look forward to meeting each producer and providing quality service to the best farmers and ranchers in the United States.

*James R. Neill, County Executive Director*

## *Crop Reporting*

In the past, this office has traditionally mailed out crop reports with your acreage information. We will **NOT** be mailing out crop reports this year. I am sorry if this poses an inconvenience for anyone. We are not able to mail out crop reports this year because your acreage may have changed from last year. We need everyone to stop by the office and verify our Farm Records in order to determine the accuracy of our Farm Records before we are able to create a crop report for you. I encourage everyone that needs to create a crop report to call this office at 1-866-596-4478 and set up an appointment to have this completed.

Those producers that have Noninsurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2009 are required to create a crop report. Producers that wish to participate in or are currently participating in the following programs are required to submit a crop report: Direct and Countercyclical Program (DCP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Grassland Reserve Program (GRP).

This process will take longer this year, because of the acreage verification process. So, in order to prevent you from waiting, please set up an appointment. If you do not have any annual crops, please call us right away and set up an appointment. Because of the changes in Farm Records, the information on your crop report will come directly from our digitized maps. You may remember this office mailing out information about changes to your acres. If you have not stopped by the office to ensure that your information is correct, I would encourage everyone to do so.

The deadline for submitting your crop report is July 1, 2009. If you do not complete a crop report by this time and are required to do so, you will be assessed a late file fee.

### ***Direct and Countercyclical Program (DCP)***

Producers can sign up for the 2009 Direct and Countercyclical Program (DCP) from now until June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. You will not be allowed to sign your contract after June 1<sup>st</sup>. Your contract will not be approved unless all producers sharing in the base acres with more than a “zero” share have signed to their share of the contract.

If you are cash leasing property eligible for a DCP contract, you must either have the landowner sign to a “zero” share on the contract or provide us with a copy of the lease. If you are crop sharing property eligible for a DCP contract, the shares must be commensurate with the risk and all parties must sign the contract.

Properties with 10 or less base acres are not eligible for a DCP contract, unless the producer is considered socially disadvantaged or a limited resource producer.

Producers that sign up for a DCP contract are also eligible to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Program (ACRE). Producers may first enroll in the DCP program, elect to receive advance direct payments and then later modify their enrollment to include the ACRE program or they may wait and elect to enroll in the DCP and ACRE at the same time.

### ***Loan Deficiency Program (LDP)***

As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, the FSA office is accepting the CCC-633EZ form. This form is an intent to participate in LDP or Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) for the 2009 crop year. All producers are required to complete this form before beneficial interest is lost. This office will be mailing out this form to our producers that have participated in the past.

### ***Crop Disaster Assistance Program (CDP)***

We have been accepting applications for the Crop Disaster Assistance Program (CDP) since October 2007. The USDA has officially announced a closing date for applications. The deadline to sign up for CDP is **February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009**. All applications received after this date will be disapproved.

### ***USDA Sets Date for Lamb Referendum***

The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced that it will offer lamb producers, feeders, and first handlers the opportunity to vote in a nationwide referendum on whether to continue or terminate the Lamb Promotion, Research, and Information Order, authorized under the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996. The referendum will be held Feb. 2-27, 2009.

The referendum will be conducted at USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices. To be eligible to vote, persons must certify and provide documentation, such as a sales receipt or remittance form, which shows they have been engaged in the production, feeding, or slaughtering of lambs during the period, Jan. 1, 2008, through Dec. 31, 2008. Beginning Feb. 2, 2009, and continuing through Feb. 27, 2009, persons eligible to vote should obtain form LS-86 from a county FSA office either in person, by mail, fax, or via the Internet at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsmarketingprograms>.

Persons must vote in the referendum at the County FSA office where their administrative farm records are maintained. For those persons not participating in FSA programs, the opportunity to vote will be provided at the County FSA office where the person owns or rents land. Form LS-86 and supporting documentation must be returned in person, by mail, or by fax to the appropriate county FSA office. The form and documentation returned in person or by fax must be received in the appropriate county office prior to the close of business on Feb. 27, 2009. The form and documentation returned by mail must be postmarked no later than midnight on Feb. 27, 2009, and received in the county FSA office by March 6, 2009.

USDA monitors activities of the American Lamb Board. The mandatory program is financed by producers, seedstock producers (breeders), feeders, and exporters who are assessed one-half cent (\$.005) per pound when live ovine animals are sold. The first handler, primarily packers, pays an additional 30 cents per head on ovine animals purchased for slaughter. Notice of the referendum will be published in the Dec. 16, 2008, Federal Register. Copies of the Final Rule and Notice are available from the Marketing Programs Branch; Livestock and Seed Program, AMS, USDA; STOP 0251 - Room 2628-S; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, D.C. 20250-0251; tel. (202) 720-1115; or via the Internet at [www.ams.usda.gov/lsmarketingprograms](http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsmarketingprograms).

## ***Farm Reconstitutions***

If you have sold land or purchased additional farm land, the FSA needs to conduct a Farm Reconstitution in order to better serve you. If you are confused by the information on your crop report, we may be able to organize your farm records in a way that is understandable. Ideally, we would like all land that is operated under the same owner to be categorized as one farm. If we can organize our records in a manner that will help you report your acres, please stop by and review your farm records

## ***Farm Loan Program Information***

Farm Service Agency (FSA) has loan programs that could help farmers and ranchers experiencing financial problems in today's economy of tight profit margins. Several types of loan programs are offered through FSA.

Under the Guaranteed Loan program, FSA guarantees farm ownership, term operating loans, and lines of credit used for annual operating through conventional agricultural lenders for guarantees up to 95%. The guarantee generally allows the conventional lender to provide the applicant with longer terms and lower rates of interest. All applicants must meet certain qualifying criteria to be eligible for guarantees. Farmers and ranchers interested in Guaranteed Loans should apply directly with a conventional lender, who arranges for the guarantee.

For those unable to qualify for a Guaranteed Loan, FSA offers Direct Loans, which are made and serviced by FSA officials. Funding is limited for Direct Loans, and applicants must sometimes wait until funds are available. To qualify for a Direct Farm Ownership or Operating Loan, the applicant must meet eligibility criteria and have sufficient repayment ability and loan collateral. FSA will work with you to analyze your situation, provide technical assistance, and tailor loans to meet your needs.

Youth between the ages of 10 and 21 may also apply for a direct loan up to \$5,000 associated with their 4-H, FFA, or other youth organization activities.

Farm Service Agency is an Equal Credit Opportunity Lender. Beginning farmers and members of traditionally underserved gender and ethnic groups are encouraged to apply for guaranteed and/or direct loan assistance from FSA. Each year, farm ownership and operating loan funds are temporarily set-aside to meet the needs of beginning farmers and traditionally underserved groups.

Anyone having questions please call your local Farm Loan Manager in Douglas, WY at 307-358-3050

## ***Notes from Natural Resources Conservation Service***

As many of you are aware, the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 changed many programs for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The requirements of the "new farm bill" changed eligibility for programs. I encourage anyone considering applying for a program to visit with the Farm Service Agency to update eligibility records.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is again a major program for NRCS. In Natrona County, NRCS will have four subaccounts available for funding. The accounts are: Grazing Lands, Irrigation, and General & Russian Olive/Salt Cedar Control. This will give NRCS the flexibility to treat a variety of resource concerns.

Other programs available for funding are Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) and Grassland Reserve Program (GRP). WRP and GRP offer an opportunity for land to be put into a conservation easement. These easements allow the landowner to remain on the land while keeping the land in a natural state and offering assistance for improving the land.

If you are interested in treating a resource concern on your property now is the time to look into program requirements. Later this spring or summer, a field visit can be completed to evaluate any water and/or wind erosion problems you may have and provide options for treatment. Recommendations for improvements to cropland and rangeland can be discussed after the field visit.

If you are interested in any of these programs or would like a field visit completed for your land, please stop by or call the office at (307) 261-5436 x. 3.

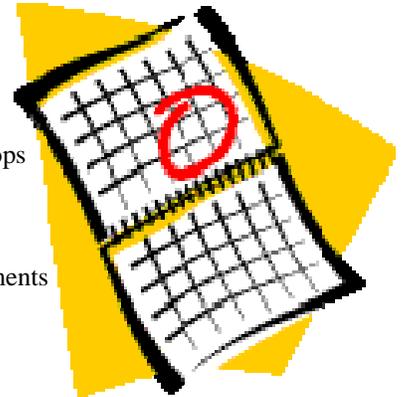
*Mary Schrader, District Conservationist, NRCS*

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
Natrona/Converse CO FSA  
5880 Enterprise Dr. Ste 100  
Casper, WY 82609

Return Service Requested

***IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER***

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>February 16 -</b> | Presidents Day (Office Closed)                               |
| <b>February 27 –</b> | Crop Disaster Assistance Program Signup Deadline             |
| <b>March 16 –</b>    | Last day to purchase NAP coverage for spring seeded crops    |
| <b>May 25 –</b>      | Memorial Day (Office Closed)                                 |
| <b>June 1 –</b>      | Last day to sign up for Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payments |
| <b>July 1 -</b>      | Last day to complete crop reports                            |



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (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 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Special Accommodations will be made for the physically handicapped, vision- or hearing-impaired person upon request. If accommodations are required, please call Peggy Livingston, CED at (307)746-2701.