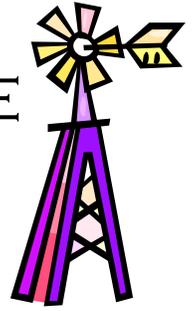




NATRONA/CONVERSE COUNTY WINDMILL



October 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

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

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program Changes

Have you finished putting up all of your hay for the year and are now contemplating putting up a storage facility for your hay? The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program has been amended to include hay and biomass as an eligible commodity eligible for a FSFL. Farm Storage Facility Loans allow producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department. Contact the Natrona/Converse County office for this month's rates.

Early partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility

loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- **Hay**
- **Renewable biomass**
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

If you are interested in constructing a storage facility for any of the above mentioned commodities, please contact me at the county office and I would love to go over the rules of the program with you.

James R. Neill, County Executive Director

Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The final date to purchase NAP coverage on perennial crops to include pasture for 2010 is **December 1, 2009**. FSA's Non-insured Crop Assistance program, (NAP), provides coverage for crops not covered by Federal Crop Insurance. For both Natrona and Converse Counties this includes irrigated and non-irrigated grass hay harvested for forage; fall seeded grain harvested for hay, grazing land and honey.

The application service fee for NAP is \$250.00 per crop per county, with a county maximum of \$750.00. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1875.00 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

NAP Production Reports

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production such as weight tickets, bale counts, etc.
- File a "Notice of Loss" claim (Form CCC-576) within 15 calendar days of the date the disaster event occurred or when damage to the crop became apparent.

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. We recommend producers submit 2009 production records as soon as harvest is complete. All 2009 production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date of July 1, 2010. Failure to timely report production can have an adverse impact on the overall crop yield history and payments.

For additional information, the NAP Basic Provisions Document is available for producers through the FSA web site located at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> or information can be obtained at county FSA offices.

County Committee Elections

Be watching your mailbox for your official county committee election ballot starting early next month. This year's election will be held for Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2. LAA 2 represents all farmers and ranchers north of Interstate 25 east of Casper and north of U.S. Highway 20 west of Casper.

Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters on November 6, 2009. If, for some reason, you do not receive a ballot, feel free to notify the Natrona/Converse County FSA office. Completed and signed ballots must be returned to the county office or postmarked by the close of business on December 7, 2009. Ballots will be counted December 10, 2009 and newly elected member will take office on January 1, 2010

The election of agricultural producers to FSA county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers - whether an operation is large or small. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. If you are considering selling agricultural land, or have sold agricultural land, please stop by and visit your FSA County Office. This is very important if you carry Direct and Countercyclical base acres on your land.

The following are the different methods of dividing base acres used when doing a farm recon:

- **Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;
- **Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;
- **DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;
- **Default Method** — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

Banking Changes?

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit. Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

Notes from Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is anticipating funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) very early in 2010. All applications on file by November 1, 2009 will be evaluated for funding in FY2010.

Conservation practices can be installed on cropland, hayland, pastureland, wildlifeland and rangeland under these programs to treat your resource concerns and/or needs. Eligibility records will need to be updated with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) prior to submitting an application. Please contact your local NRCS office as soon as possible if you have a project you wish be considered for this funding period.

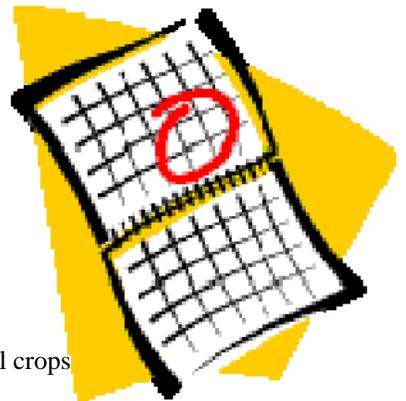
Please contact Mary Schrader, District Conservationist, Casper Field Office at (307) 261-5436 x.3 or Tim Schroeder, District Conservationist, Douglas Field Office at (307) 358-3050 x.3.

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

Return Service Requested

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- Oct 12 -** Office Closed (Columbus Day Holiday)
Nov 1 - Application Deadline for NRCS:
EQIP Program
WRP Program
AMA Program
WHIP Program
- Nov 11 -** Office Closed for Veteran's Day
Nov 26 - Office closed for Thanksgiving Day.
Dec 1 - Deadline to purchase Noninsured Disaster Assistance for perennial crops
Dec 7 - Deadline to return County Committee Election Ballots.



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Special Accommodations will be made for the physically handicapped, vision- or hearing-impaired person upon request. If accommodations are required, please call James Neill, CED at (307)261-5436.