



Natrona/Converse
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Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
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County Committee

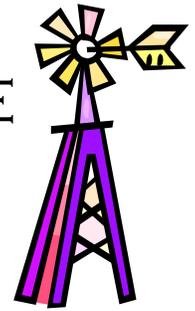
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NATRONA/CONVERSE COUNTY WINDMILL



AUGUST 2010

The Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Natrona County Conservation District will be hosting a Russian Olive Removal Seminar on August 25th, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. at the Poison Spider Bridge on Zero Rd. Contractors will be on site demonstrating their equipment and removal methods. Other topics of discussion will be Russian olive control and removal through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), wildlife habitat improvement, Russian olive control, and the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP).

I would like to personally invite anyone interested in removing Russian Olives from their property or anyone concerned about wildlife habitat and conservation. The seminar is free to everyone. This seminar is a great opportunity to meet other producers with similar resource concerns. The NRCS has really worked hard to put this together and I would love to see as many producers attend this seminar as possible.

Conservation Reserve Program General Sign-up

The USDA has announced a general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to begin on **August 2, 2010** and continue through **August 27, 2010**. During the sign-up period, farmers and ranchers may offer eligible land for CRP's competitive general sign-up at the Farm Service Agency (FSA) office.

CRP is a voluntary program that assists farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers to use their environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. Producers enrolling in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers in exchange for rental payments, cost-share, and technical assistance. CRP protects millions of acres of America's topsoil from erosion and is designed to improve the nation's natural resources base. Participants voluntarily remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production by entering into long-term contracts for 10 to 15 years. In exchange, participants receive annual rental payments and a

payment of up to 50 percent of the cost of establishing conservation practices.

Land currently not enrolled in CRP may be offered in this sign-up provided all eligibility requirements are met. Additionally, current CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall covering about 4.5 million acres may make new contract offers. Contracts awarded under this sign-up are scheduled to become effective Oct. 1, 2010.

Marketing your Commodity with Marketing Assistance Loans

The 2008 Farm Bill reauthorizes nonrecourse marketing assistance loans (MAL) and loan deficiency payment (LDP) and makes them available for the 2008-2012 crops of wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, extra-long staple cotton, long grain rice, medium grain rice, soybeans, other oilseeds (including sunflower seed, rapeseed, canola, safflower, flaxseed, mustard seed, crambe and sesame seed), dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas, large chickpeas, graded wool, nongraded wool, mohair, honey and peanuts.

MALs and LDPs are marketing tools available to producers beginning upon harvest or shearing. The MAL provides an influx of cash when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows, which allows the producer to delay the sale of the commodity until more favorable market conditions emerge. Allowing producers to store production at harvest or shearing provides for a more orderly marketing of commodities throughout the year.

MALs for commodities are considered nonrecourse when the MAL can either be redeemed by the repayment of the MAL or by delivering the pledged collateral to the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) as full payment for the MAL at maturity. MAL repayment provisions specify, under certain circumstances, that producers may repay MALs at less than loan rate (principal) plus accrued interest and other charges. Alternatively, loan deficiency payment (LDP) provisions specify that, in lieu of securing a MAL, producers may elect to receive an LDP.

In order to be eligible for a MAL or LDP, the producer must:

- comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements;
- submit an acreage report to account for all cropland on the farm;
- have and retain beneficial interest in the commodity until the MAL is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity;
- Meet adjusted gross income limitations

In order to be eligible for a MAL or LDP, the commodity must:

- have been produced, mechanically harvested or shorn from live animals by an eligible producer and be in storable condition;
- be merchantable for food, feed, or other uses as determined by CCC;
- meet specific CCC minimum grade and quality standards for nonrecourse MALs.

Once beneficial interest in the commodity is lost, the commodity loses eligibility for a MAL or LDP and remains ineligible even if the producer later regains beneficial interest.

National Loan Rates

Commodity	Production Unit	2010-2012
Wheat	bushel	\$2.94
Corn	bushel	\$1.95
Grain Sorghum	bushel	\$1.95
Barley	bushel	\$1.95
Oats	bushel	\$1.39
Soybeans	bushel	\$5.00
Other Oilseeds	cwt	\$10.09
Dry Peas	cwt	\$5.40
Lentils	cwt	\$11.28
Small Chickpeas	cwt	\$7.43
Large Chickpeas	cwt	\$11.28
Wool, graded	pound	\$1.15
Wool, nongraded	pound	\$0.40
Mohair	pound	\$4.20
Honey	pound	\$0.69

County and regional loan rates are based on each commodity's national loan rate, and vary by county.

MALs mature on the last day of the ninth calendar month following the month in which the MAL is approved. A producer may settle an outstanding nonrecourse MAL:

- before maturity period by repaying the MAL; or

- upon maturity by forfeiting the commodity to CCC.

For all loan eligible commodities (except long and medium grain rice), a producer may repay a MAL any time during the loan period at the lesser of the:

- loan rate plus accrued interest and other charges; or
- alternative loan repayment rates as determined by CCC.

For wheat, feed grains, and oilseeds, the CCC determined county market price is often referred to as the posted county price (PCP). PCPs are established and available at each local USDA Service Center. PCPs are based upon market prices at appropriate U. S. terminal markets, adjusted to reflect quality and location. PCPs are announced daily for wheat, feed grains, soybeans, canola, flaxseed and sunflower seed; and weekly for other oilseeds.

For peanuts, CCC determines national posted prices for four types of peanuts and announces them weekly. For dry peas, lentils and wool, CCC determines and announces regional posted prices weekly. For mohair, large and small chickpeas, CCC determines and announces a national posted price weekly.

County Committee Elections

The FSA is still accepting nominations for election to the County Committee in Local Administrative Areas (LAA) 1 and 5. LAA 1 is located west of Casper in the Alcova irrigation district and LAA 5 is located in South Converse County.

Ballots will be mailed in November and the ballots will be counted on December 9th at the USDA Service Center. I highly encourage all eligible voters to participate in this year's election. If you are unsure of your voting eligibility or are unsure of which LAA you reside, please contact the FSA office and we would be happy to review your voting eligibility. Please contact us prior to ballots being mailed in order to avoid any delays in your receiving a ballot.

Transition Incentives

If you have expiring Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres and are a retiring or retired farmer, the Transition Incentives Program (TIP) will provide an incentive to sell your CRP to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher.

TIP sign-up began on May 17, 2010 and provides annual rental payments to the retiring farmer for up to two additional years after the expiration of the CRP contract, provided the transition is not to a family member.

For eligibility requirements producers should visit the FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

Compliance Spot Checks

Compliance spot checks will be conducted on 2010 crops. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans and so on for review, a nationwide selection of producers is employed. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program and others.

For more information about the spot check selection procedure, contact your local Farm Service Agency office.

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.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Natrona/Converse CO FSA
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Casper, WY 82609

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

August 15th, 2010	Last day to submit nominations for COC elections
August 25th, 2010	Russian Olive Seminar
August 2nd – August 27th, 2010	General CRP Sign-up
September 6th, 2010	Office Closed for Labor Day
15 Days after loss is apparent	Deadline to submit a Notice of Loss for NAP
30 Days after loss is apparent	Deadline to submit a Notice of Loss for ELAP or LIP

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