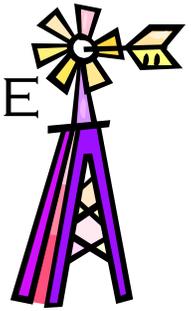




NATRONA/CONVERSE COUNTY WINDMILL



November 2011

County Committee Elections

Eligible voters should have received their official county office committee election ballot by this time. Elections are being held in the southern portion of Natrona and the north half of Converse County. Completed and signed ballots are due, (delivered or postmarked) in the county office by the close of business on **Dec. 5, 2011**. Ballots will be counted on December 9 at 1:30 pm at the scheduled COC meeting. If you have not received a ballot, call of stop in the office to get one. Thank you for taking the time to vote!

NAP (Non-Insured Assistance Program) DEADLINE

The deadline to purchase NAP insurance, which is designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause catastrophic loss of production, and is also an eligibility requirement for some disaster programs, is **December 1, 2011** for crops intending for grazing. Producers who had coverage on 2011 NAP crops may continue coverage on the same crop(s) for 2012 by paying the applicable fee, but are not required to sign the new form. **Grazing crops** include: HRW Winter Wheat for forage (hay) or grazing (if winterkill coverage is desired); All Perennials for forage or grazing including: Mixed or Single Variety Grasses; Sanfoin; Clover; Native and Sudan Grass. Alfalfa or Alfalfa/Grass mix for grazing, Grass Varieties for Seed and Honey coverage must also be purchased by December 1.

April 1, 2012 is the deadline to purchase a NAP policy on spring planted crops for forage or grazing; such as HRS Spring Wheat – which includes HRW Winter Wheat (if winterkill coverage is not desired), Barley, Beans, Corn, Millet, Oats, Peas, Rye, Sorghum, Soybeans, Triticale, etc.. Now is also a good time to report your 2011 crop production for forage crops to establish an actual production history (APH).

eNEWSLETTERS & eUPDATES FROM FSA

In our last newsletter, we talked about a new option for our farmers and ranchers to receive this newsletter and other news, information, deadlines and bulletins. This new tool is called "GovDelivery" and is now available from the USDA / FSA. Just open the FSA home page at www.fsa.usda.gov and click on the E-MAIL UPDATES icon where you can select your

BEGINNING & LIMITED RESOURCE LOANS

FSA has a program to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more that 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Additional program information is available at the local USDA Service Center or visit www.fsa.usda.gov and www.nrcs.usda.gov

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
Leslie Hendry – Member
Neil Forgey – V. Chair
Phil Johnson -- Member
Kem Nicolaysen Member

Staff

Sue Willey – CED
Wanda McLean – PT
Deena McDaniels – PT
Dave Lengel – FLM

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

Natural Resource Conservation Service

NRCS is currently taking applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), and Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP).

Applications received at the NRCS field office by December 1, 2011, will be compiled and ranked for 2012 funding. Examples of projects for EQIP are livestock watering improvements, cross-fencing, and irrigation improvements. EQIP and WHIP can be used to improve sage-grouse habitat by implementing changes in grazing management, marking fences near leks, and installing escape ramps in tanks through the Sage-grouse Initiative (SGI). WRP provides assistance to protect and enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring eligible land from agriculture and GRP helps landowners restore and protect grasslands while maintaining the grazing rights. Stop by the NRCS office for more information on any of our programs.

SURE SIGNUP & ELIGIBILITY

Signup for the 2010 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE) has begun and continues through June 1, 2012. To be eligible for 2010 SURE, you must have suffered weather related crop losses during crop year 2010. The program considers crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. Producers with a farming interest physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. Producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by having obtained a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act which includes Catastrophic Coverage (CAT) or NAP coverage for all economically significant crops. If there is no Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may also be eligible for SURE if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster. For more information on the SURE program, please visit this office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

COMMODITY LOANS AVAILABLE

We remind you of the availability of the commodity loan program. Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans.

2011 loan rates for applicable crops in Converse and Natrona County are:

Wheat HRW \$2.79/bu & 2.81/bu; Wheat HRS \$3.02/bu & 3.04/bu; Corn \$2.03/bu & 2.09/bu;
Barley \$1.92/bu & 1.93/bu; Oats \$1.37/bu; and Sorghum 3.38/cwt.

Interest rates are minimal (example: the November 2011 rate is 1.125%) and the term of the loan will be end of the 9th month following disbursement. 2011 loans on small grains can be requested through March 31, 2012 and 2011 corn/sunflower loans can be requested through May 31, 2012.

The grower must maintain title and control of the commodity (beneficial interest) while the grain is under loan. Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans. The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification. For more information, contact this office.

HISPANIC AND WOMEN FARMERS & RANCHERS

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established. If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible for compensation. To register for a claims package or for additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process: www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429

Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation: www.blackfarmercase.com or call 1-866-950-5547

Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement: www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506.

Adjusted Gross Income Report Form to IRS

The Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) consent form (CCC-931) must be submitted to the IRS as soon as possible in order to maintain eligibility for 2009 and 2010 program benefits. The consent form only authorizes IRS to verify for FSA whether a payment recipient's AGI meets the eligibility requirements of FSA programs. It does not authorize IRS to divulge any other information to FSA. Program participants who have earned payments in 2009

or 2010 and have failed to file these forms will receive a notice from the FSA national office stating that the producer is ineligible for the payments and that the payments will need to be refunded with interest.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

Program participants convicted under federal or state law of any planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting or storing a controlled substance are ineligible for program payments and benefits. If convicted of one of these offenses, the program participant shall be ineligible during that crop year and the four succeeding crop years for direct and counter-cyclical payments, price support loans, loan deficiency payments, market loan gains, storage payments, farm facility loans, NAP payments or disaster payments.

Program participants convicted of any federal or state offense consisting of the distribution (trafficking) of a controlled substance shall, at the discretion of the court, be ineligible for any or all program payments and benefits: for up to 5 years after the first conviction; for up to 10 years after the second conviction; and permanently for a third or subsequent conviction.

Program participants convicted of federal or state offense for the possession of a controlled substance shall be ineligible, at the discretion of the court, for any or all program benefits, as follows: up to 1 year upon the first conviction and up to 5 years after a second or subsequent conviction

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

“**Lender of First Opportunity**” Farm Service Agency has farm loan programs that are designed to help farmers and ranchers get started and keep going! FSA farm loan programs provide assistance for eligible producers which include: Beginning farmers and ranchers, Rural Youths, Socially Disadvantaged producers, established farmers suffering setbacks and producers with Limited Resources. All loans must meet qualifying criteria to be eligible. Maximum loan amounts are \$300,000 for Direct Farm Ownership and Operating loans; \$1,119,000 for Guaranteed Farm Ownership and Operating loans. Youth loans are available for up to \$5,000 to individual youths to establish and operate income producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H Clubs, FFA and similar organizations. Each fiscal year the agency targets a portion of its direct and guaranteed loan funds to beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers. A beginning farmer is someone who has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years. A socially disadvantaged applicant is someone who is one of a group whose members have been subject to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice. If you have questions regarding the Farm Loan Program or wish to make an

2012 DCP SIGN-UP

Enrollment for the 2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) will begin Jan 23, 2012 and will continue through June 1, 2012. Producers can make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or they can visit the FSA office to complete their 2012 DCP contract.

Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices.

FARM RECONSTITUTIONS

When changes in farm 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.

Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program. Farm Recon methods are:

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. If DCP direct payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded.

/s/ Donna Sue Willey

Natrona/Converse County FSA
 5880 Enterprise Dr. Ste 100
 Casper, WY 82609



Wanda and Deena had another successful year at the Wyoming AG Expo. They educated nearly 800 Natrona County 3rd graders with the question, "How Many Hats Does a Farmer or Rancher Wear?"

Farmers and ranchers have real jobs. They need to be skilled in many vocations. They don't just ride their horses at the rodeo!

elected Interest Rates for November 2011	
CCC borrowing rate	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	2.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.625%
Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency	2.125%
Farm Storage Facility	3.375%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

Dates to Remember	
Nov 24	Office Closed - Thanksgiving
Dec 1	2010 NAP Sign Up End
Dec 5	Deadline to submit election ballots
Dec 9	COC Meeting to count ballots
Dec 26	Office closed - Christmas Holiday
Jan 2	Office closed – New Years Holiday
15 days	After loss to submit claim for LIP or ELAP
30 days	after the loss is apparent for crops
Anytime	Farm Record Changes

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 Sue Willey, CED at (307)261-5436.