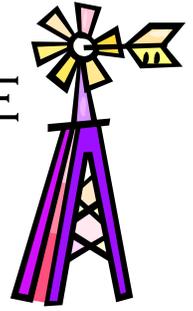




NATRONA/CONVERSE COUNTY WINDMILL



February 2012

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 – Membr

Staff

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

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

County Committee Election Results & Meeting Date

Congratulations to Jarad Vollman and Kem Nicolaysen who were re-elected to represent farmers from Converse LAA 4 and Natrona LAA 3 on the county committee. Jarad was elected to his third consecutive term and Kem to his second. FSA appreciates all of the eligible voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

The committee members held their organizational meeting in December and determined that Jarad Vollman will serve as county committee chairman and Neil Forgey as vice-chairman.

The committee also set the second Monday of the month at 1:00 pm for their normal meeting date. Due to budget constraints, we will be limited to 4 meetings in 2012. If you want to attend a meeting, please call for the date.

Acreage Reporting

We are beginning to process 2012 crop reports for those of you who normally have only grazing and/or hay acres to report. Due to our limited budget, we will not be able to mail the reports to you. Last year, emailing the reports worked very well for us and we thank you for your cooperation. If you are in Casper, or in Douglas on Tuesdays, we would encourage you to stop in the office to complete your paperwork. Advance notice would speed things up for you.

FSA and Crop Insurance now have the same reporting dates, so the July 1st date is no longer applicable. All crops must be reported by **July 15** for 2012. The big change is that bees, perennial forage, Pasture, Rangeland and Forage (PRF), Fall wheat and all other Fall-Seeded small grains, must be filed by **November 15**, 2012 for the 2013 crop year. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Most of our programs require a crop report, so completing a crop report by July 15 may save you time and money in the long run.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The sign-up for recovery payment for 2010 losses under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) runs through **June 1, 2012**. SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters and is available to eligible producers on:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, except grazed crops.
- Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm.

2012 DCP/ACRE Sign-up

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment will begin Jan. 23, 2012 and will end June 1, 2012.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

1) All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.

2) Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1st in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office. This includes: Ownership changes: Producer changes (Individuals and Entities); Change in crop shares arrangements.

Those of you with wheat bases may want to check into the ACRE program for this, the last year. We have seen pretty good prices the last couple years, but now with the drop in price last fall, the potential for an ACRE payment is the highest since the start of the program. With the good weather of the last three years, your APH may also have improved. The proven yield is the hardest part of the program. Ask us about ACRE if you may be interested.

Note: Changes to DCP and ACRE contracts cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

Get GovDelivery – Instant News, Updates

Farm Service Agency offices are adopting an instant delivery, electronic option. Producers can now enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and reminders via email, rather than costly paper copies delivered through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is working smarter and more efficiently. Conversion to electronic notifications via email helps conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars.

County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers. Subscribe right now to receive your free e-mail updates instantly by going to www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe.

Reminder to NRCS and FSA Program Participants

All participants in NRCS and FSA programs are required to annually file eligibility forms with the FSA office. Any person, entity or entity member applying for program benefits **MUST** file a **CCC-931 Average Adjusted Gross Income Statement** with the IRS to be in compliance for Fiscal Year 2012. The CCC-931 replaces the CCC-927 and CCC-928 documents. Submission of FSA-931 to the IRS will now be completed by FSA. We are asking many of you to re-complete the FSA-931 for 2009, 2010 and/or 2011 because they were not filled out exactly to IRS's liking.

The form **AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification** is also a required form for both NRCS and FSA program applicants. If you are applying for benefits through NRCS or FSA be sure to complete these eligibility documents along with any other paperwork that might be necessary through FSA.

Attention All Buyers of Agricultural Products

It is required that buyers of agricultural products check or register with the Secretary of State's Office to determine if there are liens against the seller of the product. If a lien is found you are required to place the lien holder's name on the check as well as that of the seller. Ag products include but are not limited to: Livestock (including horses), crops used for feed (hay, silage, oats, etc.), machinery, equipment, and all other crops. **Failure to place the lien holder's name on the check may result in civil legal action being taken against the buyer of the product. Protect yourself as a buyer!** You may contact the Secretary of State's Office at (307) 777-7311.

Foreign Buyers 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. All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and 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 (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your FSA business. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

Appeal Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree. Generally, program participants have three choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

Hispanic and Women Farmers

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.

IRS Form 1099-G

Producers annually receive their CCC-1099-G forms detailing payments producers have received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on the CCC-1099-G form is a service intended to help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producers' responsibilities to report income to IRS. FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy.

FSA Signature Policy

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 made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact your local FSA office.

Farming Operation Changes

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium poppies and other drug producing plants.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

//Signed// Donna Sue Willey, CED
Natrona/Converse CO FSA
5880 Enterprise Dr. Ste 100
Casper, WY 82609

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***You can now receive news, deadlines and bulletins electronically.
Sign up for GovDelivery at www.fsa.usda.gov ***

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

February 20	Washington's Birthday – Office Closed
March 15	Deadline to sign-up for Multi-peril or Federal Crop Insurance
March 31	Final date to apply for 2011 wheat, barley, oats loans
May 31	Final date to apply for 2011 corn/sunflower loans
June 1	Deadline to provide production evidence for ACRE
June 1	Deadline for DCP/ACRE sign up
June 1	Deadline to apply for 2010 SURE benefits
July 1	Deadline to provide production evidence for 2011 NAP
July 15	Deadline to file Crop Report
30 Days after loss is apparent	Deadline to submit a Notice of Loss for ELAP or LIP
Before beneficial loss	Page 1 for Wool or Grain LCP's
Continuous	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
Continuous	Farm Storage Facility Loans

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.