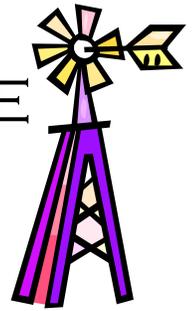




NATRONA/CONVERSE COUNTY WINDMILL



May 2012

Natrona/Converse
County FSA
5880 Enterprise Dr Ste 100
Casper, WY 82609
(307) 261-5436
or
Toll Free 1-866-596-4478
FAX 261-5435

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 Lengle – FLM

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

2012 DCP Signup

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment runs until June 1, 2012. Here are some IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- 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.
- Changes on the farm after the June 1 DCP/ACRE enrollment, **must** be reported to your local FSA office. Changes may include:
 - Ownership changes
 - Producer changes (Individuals and Entities)
 - Change in crop shares arrangements

Note: Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

CRP General Sign-Up

There will be a four-week Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general signup which will begin on March 12, 2012 and end on **April 6**, 2012.

CRP is a voluntary program available to agricultural producers to help them use environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion and develop wildlife habitat. In return participants receive rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. Producers with expiring contracts and producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP. Producers also are encouraged to look into CRP's other enrollment opportunities offered on a continuous, non-competitive, signup basis.

For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, visit a local FSA service center or go online at www.fsa.usda.gov.

NAP Enrollment

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) applications for coverage on spring seeded crops must be filed by **April 1**. Producers are reminded about the need for insurance coverage on crops in order to remain eligible for the agency's Disaster Assistance Programs such as SURE, Livestock Forage Program, Tree Assistance Program, and Emergency Livestock Assistance Program. Producers must purchase at least catastrophic (CAT) level of insurance for all insurable crops.

NAP provides coverage to producers for non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters. Crops eligible for NAP coverage are those crops for which crop insurance is not available, including millet, dry beans, and sunflowers, just to name a few.

More information about NAP may be found on the FSA web site located at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

GovDelivery – Your next step to save time and increase efficiency

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation that saves tax payer dollars. Producers can now enroll in the new GovDelivery email system which provides electronic deadline reminders, bulletins and newsletters instead of printed paper documents through the mail. Producers can subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by visiting www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe. Give it a try right now.

If you no longer wish to receive a paper newsletter, please contact the county office. County Committee ballots and other producer specific notifications will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2010.

Sign-up for 2010 SURE losses ends **June 1, 2012**. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred crop production losses and includes **all** crops grown by a producer nationwide, except grazed crops.
- Any farm on which the actual production on the farm is 50 percent or less than normal, because of disaster-related conditions on the farm for the crop year 2010.

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.

Loans: Land Contract Guarantee Program

The new FSA Land Contract Guarantee Program provides help to beginning farmers by offering guaranteed payments to landowners willing to sell and finance a land purchase to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer. The national program has two options. One guarantees up to three annual installment payments on the contract and the other guarantees 90% of the unpaid principal of the contract. This program can be used in the purchase of land for up to \$500,000. Contact your local FSA office for further details.

Spousal Signatures

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.

An exception to the rule: 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.

Banking Changes?

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. 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. 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

Direct Deposit 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.

Payment Limitations

Anyone who plans to participate in 2012 programs is required to submit a completed CCC-902, CCC-931, and CCC901, if applicable, for payment eligibility and payment limitation purposes.

Contributions

All partners, stockholders, or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make a contribution, whether compensated or **not** compensated, for active--*

- personal labor,
- active personal management,
- or a combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation;

*Note: there are **exceptions** for spouses and some entities . (see below)

Additional information on payment limitations is available at FSA county offices or on line at: www.fsa.usda.gov

Actively Engaged

USDA has amended the rules that govern the requirements to be 'actively engaged' in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by FSA.

Normally the stockholder or a member of a legal entity **must** make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management for the farming operation. The contributions are to be performed on regular basis, must be identifiable, and separate from the contributions of others. The **exception** to this rule for a stockholder or member of a legal entity only occurs when both of the following apply:

- At least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who **are** providing active personal labor or active personal management; and
- The total direct payments received by the legal entity and each of the members does not exceed \$40,000

Online Services

Producers, if you have Internet access you can electronically log on, fill out and print a variety of FSA paper forms from your home, as your schedule allows. You can register for secure electronic access that will allow you to electronically sign and transmit some forms directly to the county office staff. This also includes things such as submitting forms electronically, filing eLDPs, completing DCP contracts, filling out surveys online, and checking the status of your USDA accounts.

If you are new to the website, first you will want to obtain a Level 2 USDA Service Center Customer ID and password at: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> and then click on "**Create an Account Page**" link. If you already have a Customer ID and password, then click on the following eForms website at:

<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet> and then click on the "**Sign In**" button. A disclaimer window will open and after you read the "Warning message", click on the "Continue" button. Then the USDA Web services page will open to the eAuthentication login page. Enter your login User ID and password and then click on the "Login" button.

Submitting an e-Form is convenient. You can access information anytime day or night seven days a week. It's faster and forms along with applications can be submitted and received in the county office in a matter of minutes, not days or weeks.

Measurement Service

Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty, or loss of eligibility. Farmers who would like to guarantee the accuracy of their crop plantings and land use acreages can make it official by using the FSA measurement service.

Producers must file a request with the county office staff and pay the cost of a field visit to have stake and referencing done on the farm. Measurement service can also use digital imagery so that an on-site visit is not required, for a reduced charge. Producers can request ortho-imagery (satellite photo) of their land at no charge. The photos will provide you with accurate acreage of your fields.

IMPORTANT - AGI Reconciliation Process

FSA's **Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Reconciliation Process** begins when FSA is notified that the IRS has not received a valid **"Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information"** form. There are two distinct reasons why a producer appears on an FSA AGI Reconciliation Report: 1) IRS did not receive a consent form from the producer or 2) IRS rejected the consent form.

In these cases the IRS notifies the FSA National Office which then directs the producer's recording FSA County office to reconcile the report. The county office then contacts the producer to complete a **CCC-931 "Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information"**.

It is then the FSA County Office responsibility to mail the completed CCC-931 consent form to IRS. Failure to provide the required **"Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information"** forms may render a producer ineligible for FSA program benefits and require repayment of benefits received.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

March 31	Final date to apply for 2011 wheat, barley, oats loans
April 1	Deadline for all NAP crops except forage and honey
April 6	CRP signup deadline
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 15	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
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.