



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

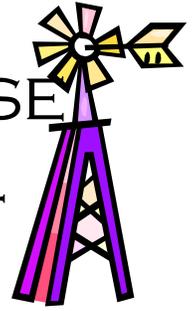
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Sue Willey - CED
Wanda McLean - PT
Deena McDaniels - PT
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Douglas USDA Service
Center
911 S. Windriver Dr.
Douglas, WY 82633
(307) 358-3050

NATRONA/CONVERSE COUNTY WINDMILL



July/August 2012

Secretarial Disaster Designation for Drought

Governor Matt Meade has submitted a request for a Secretarial Disaster Designation in Converse and Natrona Counties. The request has been forwarded to Secretary of Ag, Tom Vilsack. We are not approved yet, but do qualify as being contiguous counties (next to a declared county). This designation will make all farm-sized farm and ranch operators eligible to be considered for 2.25% interest on emergency loans from FSA. If applying for less than \$100,000, the requirement of being unable to obtain credit elsewhere may be waived. Contact Dave Lengle, Farm Loan Manager in Douglas at 307-358-3050 ex 2, for more information. In addition, if you sell or exchange more livestock than you normally would in a given year, because of a drought or other weather-related conditions, you may be able to postpone reporting the gain from the additional livestock sales until the following year. All of the following conditions must be met in order to qualify:

- Your principal trade or business is farming.
- You use the cash method of accounting.
- You can show that, under your usual business practices, you would not have sold or exchanged the additional animals this year except for the weather-related condition.
- The weather-related condition caused an area to be designated as eligible for assistance by the Federal government (Declared Federal Disaster Area).

Emergency Livestock Water

Converse and Natrona Counties were approved to accept Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) applications for cost share assistance for drought emergency measures and water hauling. Unfortunately, the current ECP funds are exhausted, but we can still take applications and hope for extra funds to become available for our use. ECP drought practices are for water enhancement measures to permit grazing of pastures (which still have grass), in which the normal water source is

depleted. This may include well drilling for livestock water and one tank at the well site, solar panels to provide power to pump water for livestock, pipelines from an existing source, spring development and/or water hauling for livestock. The sign up **deadline is September 30, 2012**. Please be advised that any drought emergency measures that have occurred prior to signing an application will require requesting a waiver through the state office and then it is only possible to request a waiver for work that was completed within 60 days of signing the application. Please file your application timely to best utilize the program assistance available and in the mean time, keep good records of your activities, especially miles and gallons for hauling water.

Other Disaster Information

If you have been affected by fire, please notify the FSA office about fence replacement. Also NRCS has received funds for practices that are not eligible under ECP, so contact them too, if your pastures burned and you would like assistance.

DCP Cover Requirements

Fallow acreage on cropland that supports DCP base acres must be protected from wind and water erosion and have the weeds controlled. Violations for not controlling weeds and wind or water erosion will lead to penalties

CCC-633EZ Signed Before Harvest for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP)

The EZ form is a two-part loan deficiency payment request that allows producers to (1) indicate their intentions to receive LDP benefits *before* losing beneficial interest (title and control) in the eligible commodity, and (2) submit a request for an LDP at any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest. An LDP is available if the posted county price is lower than the loan rate.

Once the first page of the form has been signed and submitted, the producer can submit an LDP request by completing page 2 for all harvested commodities, or page 4 for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts. The LDP request can be submitted at any time during the loan availability period, before or after losing beneficial interest. To date there are no LDP's.

Wool, Mohair, & Unshorn Pelts LDP

Producers who file for a Loan Deficiency Payment on wool or unshorn pelts must indicate their intentions to receive LDP benefits on CCC-633EZ (page 1) before the sale or loss of beneficial interest. The LDP request (CCC-633EZ page 4) for benefits can be submitted at any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest. January 1 is the beginning of the crop year for the wool, mohair, and unshorn pelts. The ending of the crop year is December 31. Applications for 2012 LDP's must be filed by January 31, 2013.

2012 DCP and ACRE Signup Extension

Signup for the 2012 DCP/ACRE was held through June 1, 2012. Deputy Administrator Farm Programs has authorized a late file DCP Contract enrollment period through August 1..

Final Crop Reporting Date Changes for 2013 Crops

November 15, 2012 – Perennial Forage, Fall Wheat, and other fall seeded small grains

January 15, 2013 – Established stand alfalfa seed and fall seeded alfalfa

July 15, 2013 – Conservation Reserve Program acreage, Spring alfalfa seed, spring barley, corn, beans, millet, oats, potatoes, sugar beets, sunflowers, spring wheat, and all other spring crops.

Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Reminders

A **Notice of Loss**, CCC-576, must be filed for crop losses within 15 days of the loss event or whenever the loss becomes apparent. Losses not reported timely could result in a loss of eligibility for payment. Nap producers are encouraged to file a Notice of Loss on both hay and grazing acres, if you are continuing to be affected by drought. **Please contact this office before grazing hay land.**

NEW Production Reporting Deadline for NAP. The deadline for 2012 production and subsequent years is **Nov. 15th** for perennial and fall seeded crops including forage crops.

2012 Nominations for Committee Election is Ending

An election for LAA #2 county committee member (all land north of the Burlington Northern Railroad) will be held this year. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected and is available at USDA Service Centers and online at:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669_commiteeelectform.pdf

Nomination forms for the 2012 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on **Aug. 1, 2012**. Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed for the county committee of the office that administers a producer's farm records.

Emergency Haying and Grazing of CRP Acres

Due to severe drought conditions, Converse County was approved for Emergency Grazing of CRP effective July 6 thru September 30, 2012. Natrona County was approved for both Emergency Haying and Grazing of CRP. Haying ends August 31 and grazing ends September 30, 2012. A payment reduction of 10% will be accessed for emergency haying and grazing. Producers interested in haying and/or grazing CRP must visit the local FSA Office to request approval, before beginning haying or grazing. Producers must also obtain a modified Conservation Plan to include haying or grazing requirements, as determined by the Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS). The haying or grazing plan must be site specific. Please contact the local FSA office for additional information about these special provisions.

CRP Reminder

Producers with Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts are reminded that it is **YOUR** responsibility to establish cover and control the weeds (including Thistles) on your CRP acreage. These measures must be accomplished according to NRCS standards and specifications. Grazing by livestock is strictly forbidden unless approved through county committee. **It is your responsibility to keep all livestock off your contract acreage.**

Acreage Spot Check Determinations and Notification

Each year the Farm Service Agency completes spot checks of acreage reports. Acreage reports are an integral part of farm program participation. Acreage spot checks are completed to ensure accurate acreage reports are used in farm program computations. FSA will conduct spot checks on a selected number of farms in each state. After farms are spot checked, a Notice of Determined Acreage will be sent to the farm operator. Producer notifications will be issued by FSA as spot checks are completed.

Over the Counter Channel (OTCnet)

FSA/CCC is moving toward OTCnet, an electronic method for processing customer check payments. When a check is submitted for payment either in person or through the mail, the check will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt. Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information.

<http://fms.treas.gov/otcnet/legal.html>

What is OTCnet?

OTCnet is a Web-based online application process for converting paper checks presented to FSA into electronic debits to the producer's bank account. It presents many benefits, such as reducing lost/misplaced checks and paper handling. This improves customer relations, speeds the check clearing process, and reduces the potential for human error.

How will my check be handled?

The check will be scanned into the system and voided. The customer will not receive the check back from FSA. FSA will hold checks for up to 14 calendar days to ensure that the item was successfully processed, and then FSA will shred the check.

How quickly will funds be transferred from my account?

The transfer of funds from your account could occur within 24 hours. Therefore, you should be sure that you have sufficient funds in your account to process the transaction. If you do **not** have sufficient funds, we may initiate the transaction again.

How will this transaction appear on my account statement?

The transfer of funds will be reflected on your account statement. The transaction may be recorded in a different place on your statement than where your checks normally appear, such as under "other withdrawals" or "other transactions".

What are my rights if there is a problem with the transaction?

You have protections under Federal law for an unauthorized electronic fund transfer from your account. You should contact your financial institution immediately if you believe that the transaction reported on your account statement was not properly authorized or is otherwise incorrect.

Historical Aerial Photography Available

The United States Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency has been collecting aerial photography of the United States for over half a century. These aerial photos were originally collected to support federal farm programs throughout the United States.

This historic film is now stored at the USDA's Aerial Photography Field Office (APFO) in Salt Lake City, Utah.

USDA aerial photos are high resolution images taken during the growing season and clearly show features such as roads, buildings, vegetation, trees and waterways. Most of these projects covered entire counties over large parts of the U.S. at least once a decade.

The APFO believes that these historic photos would be of great interest to the general public. Because people seeking evidence of historic land use may inquire at their local FSA Service Center, we are conducting a Public Information Campaign to make the FSA Service Centers aware of the services we provide to the public. The APFO is able to print or digitally scan these photos for public use. Print photos and scans start as low as \$13.00 each. APFO can also certify their photos for use as evidence in court for a small fee. Additional information about the APFO and available aerial imagery is available at: www.apfo.usda.gov

New Continuous CRP Initiative

FSA has announced a new conservation initiative HELI, to protect up to 750,000 acres of the nation's most highly erodible croplands by enabling them to plant wildlife-friendly, long-term cover. This initiative will assist producers in targeting their most highly erodible cropland with an erodibility index of 20 or greater. Producers can enroll land on a continuous basis beginning this summer. With the use of soil survey and geographic information system data, local FSA staff can quickly determine a producer's eligibility for the initiative. Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office or visit FSA's website at www.fsa.usda.gov/crp for additional CRP information.

Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization's advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000. Contact your local FSA office for more information.

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LOW INTEREST GRAIN BIN LOAN PROGRAM Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL)

Commodity Credit Corporation, acting through Farm Service Agency, has reauthorized the farm storage facility loan program. Basic provisions of the program are:

- o Loans may be made for grain storage structures, grain handling equipment and drying equipment
- o Loans will be for new storage or expansion or upgrades of existing storage
- o The term of approved loans is 7 or 10 years.
- o The interest rate is equivalent to the rate of interest charged on Treasury Securities of comparable maturity.
- o Participants are required to carry Multi-peril crop insurance on crops of economic significance.

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. For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

USDA Discrimination Cases

The USDA has discrimination cases that involve Hispanics, women, black farmers and Native Americans. For more information on these cases call the respective number:

Hispanic and Women Farmers Claims Process (1-888-508-4429)

Pigford-The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation (1-866-950-5547)

Keepseagle-The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement (1-888-233-5506)

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

August 1	Final date to file Nomination Form FSA-669
August 1	Last date to file Farm Reconstitution
August 1	Last date to for late filed DCP and ACRE
September 3	Labor Day — Office Closed
October 8	Columbus Day Holiday – Office Close
November 15	2013 Crop Reports due for fall seeded small grains, perennial forage & grazing

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.