

June 2013



## Natrona/Converse County FSA Updates

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### **Casper Service Center**

5880 Enterprise Dr, Ste 100  
Casper, WY 82609

**Office Hours:** 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)  
Phone: 307-261-5436  
Fax: 307-261-5435

### **Farm Service Agency**

County Committee  
Jarad Vollman, Chair  
Neil Forgey, V Chair  
Leslie Hendry  
Philip Johnson  
Kem Nicolayson

### **County Executive Director:**

Donna Sue Willey

### **Program Technicians:**

Wanda McLean  
Deena McDaniels

### **NRCS District Conservationist:**

Kenny Wolfley  
Phone: ext 3

### **Conservation District Manager:**

Lisa Ogden  
Phone: 307- 234-4022 or ext 4

### **Douglas Service Center**

### **General Sign-Up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**

CRP sign-up began May 20 and ends on June 14, 2013. Producers who are accepted can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract (10-15 years). Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP.

### **Continuous CRP**

Landowners and producers can now enroll in Continuous CRP. Continuous CRP contracts have duration of between 10 and 15 years. If you would like cost share to fence out your creek and plant trees, and receive an annual payment not to graze, Continuous CRP may be for you. Interested parties should contact their local FSA Office for more information.

### **Wyoming Counties are Designated as Primary Natural Disaster Areas**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) designated 20 counties in Wyoming as primary natural disaster areas due to damages and losses caused by the recent drought. The counties designated are: Albany, **Converse**, Hot Springs, Niobrara, Big Horn, Crook, Johnson, Park, Campbell, Fremont, Laramie, Platte, Carbon, Goshen, **Natrona**, Sheridan, Sublette, Sweetwater, Washakie, and Weston. Farm operators in these counties may qualify for low interest emergency (EM) loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the April 10th declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the EM loan program, to help eligible

<p>911 S Wind River Dr Douglas, WY 82633 Phone: 307-358-3050</p> <p><b>Farm Loan Manager:</b> Dave Lengel</p> <p><b>NRCS District Conservationist:</b> Tim Schroeder</p> <p><b>Conservation District Manager:</b> Michelle Huntington</p>	<p>farmers recover from adversity.</p> <p>Additional programs available to assist farmers and ranchers include the Emergency Conservation Program, Federal Crop Insurance, and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. Interested farmers may contact their local USDA Service Centers for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at <a href="http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov">http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov</a> or contact Dave Lengel, Farm Loan Manager, in Douglas at 358-3050</p> <p>Producers are reminded that Congress has not funded the five disaster assistance programs authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill for 2013. These are SURE; the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP); the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP); the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP); and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). Production losses due to disasters occurring after Sept. 30, 2011, are not eligible for disaster program coverage.</p>
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**COC Election Nomination Period**

June 17 through August 1, 2013, is the period for nominating farmers and ranchers as candidates for the Local County Committee. This year’s election will be held in Local Administrative Area LAA #1, the Casper Alcova Irrigation District in Natrona and LAA # 5 the area south of I-25 in Converse. FSA encourages all eligible producers to nominate themselves, or another eligible producer, to run for office. Nomination forms (FSA-669A’s) are available:

- At <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>, and scroll down to the links under “Election Materials” and CLICK “**2013 Nomination Form**”
- By picking up FSA-669A at your local FSA Office
- By calling your local office and requesting FSA-669A be emailed to you.

**2013 DCP Signup Period**

Program sign-ups for DCP continues for 2013 crops. **The DCP sign-up period will end on Aug. 2, 2013.** The 2013 DCP program provisions are unchanged from 2012. Compliance requirements remain the same as in previous years regarding weed control on contract acres. As in 2012 there will be no advance payments. Due to reduced budget, DCP contracts will not be mailed. Call the office for your appointment date.

**Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)**

NAP is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available.

Production records for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than July 15 of the following year. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications. NAP losses must be reported within 15 days of the loss.

**2012 APH’s Signature Deadline**

For those producers that had NAP coverage for 2012 on their grass hay or grain hay crops, APH (Actual

Production History) forms need to be completed. Due to drought conditions in 2012, most producers filed losses on these crops and were assigned a replacement yield. The 2012 APH forms MUST be signed by **July 15, 2013**. Please call or stop in the office to get these signed.

#### **Filing A Notice Of Loss**

Producers who suffer a loss on their crops, including crops for grazing, must timely file a Notice of Loss on the form CCC-576. The notice must be filed within 15 days of a loss due to hail, grass hoppers or flooding, for example. Grazing losses should be filed when you determine you have a loss.

#### **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 within 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.

#### **Measurement Service**

Farmers who would like a guarantee on 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 for GPS referencing of the farm. Measurement service is available using digital imagery. If data already exists in a certified database and an on-site visit is not required, there is no charge.

Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty, or loss of eligibility. Producers can request ortho-imagery and CLU (common land unit) coordinates for their land (commonly referred to as a clip) at no charge. This service provides you with both acreages and field boundaries.

#### **LDPs**

Form CCC-633EZs must be completed and returned the form to our office prior to losing beneficial interest in your 2013 wool, honey or other commodities. If beneficial interest is lost on the commodity prior to filing the form and the price is low enough that LDPs (Loan Deficiency Payments) occur, you will not be eligible for payment. As of June 4, 2013, prices are high enough that LDPs are not available.

#### **Successor In Interest**

Many FSA programs will allow payments to be made to heirs or successors when a program participant passes away. Additionally, contracts in programs such as CRP must be revised to reflect the successor(s) to a deceased participant's interest.

In the event of an FSA program participant's death, it is important that FSA be notified. Entities and joint operations that participate in FSA programs also need to notify FSA if a shareholder or member passes away. Since FSA benefits are reported to IRS, maintaining current, accurate records about participants is vital to ensure that those payments are reported correctly.

#### **Land Contract Availability (LC)**

FSA offers LC Guarantees to the owner of a farm who wishes to sell real estate using LC to a beginning

or SDA farmer or rancher. This program is a valuable tool to transfer farm real estate to the next generation of farmers and ranchers. LC's may be part of the estate planning process, such as parents selling farmland to their son or daughter. Financial institutions, tax professionals, attorneys, and escrow agents are involved in implementing many LC's. If you are unable, as a seller, to find an escrow or servicing agent, please contact your local FSA office for a list of agents and more information on this program.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write:  
USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave.,  
SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339  
(Local or Federal relay),  
(866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).