



# NEWSLETTER



## Niobrara County Service Center

905 S. Main; Lusk, WY 82225

Phone: (307) 334-3454

Fax: (307) 334-3539

### Niobrara Conservation District

#### *Board Members*

Terry Browder

Matt Dockery

Kevin Gaukel

Mark Groh

Dale Jordan

#### *Staff*

Lisa Shaw

Heidi Sturman

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

#### *Staff*

Robin Allen

JoAnn Wade

### Farm Service Agency

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Robert Freeman

#### *Advisor*

Carol Geisinger

#### *Staff*

Tommy Stephens, CED

Kimberly Nusbaum, PT

David Lengel, FLM

May 2011

### **Acreage Certification**

Time is nearing for producers to certify their 2011 acreage. 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. Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. In Wyoming, crop acreage reports must be certified by the July 1, 2011 deadline.

### **DCP/ACRE Erosion and Cover Requirements**

Cropland that supports DCP base acres must be protected from wind and water erosion and weed control measures may have to be implemented to assure program compliance. If erosion problems exist, the County Committee has the authorization to require treatments such as planting a cover crop or emergency tillage.

**Weed control on these acres is required to prevent the propagation of weeds. Control measures must be implemented timely to achieve the most effective control of weed growth.**

Also, don't forget the regulations concerning the number of acres of Fruits and Vegetables (FAV's), including dry beans, that may be grown without penalty or payment reduction. To avoid a payment reduction, liquidated damages penalty or contract termination, FAV acres may not exceed the non-contract acres for the farm.

### **Timely Filing of Loss**

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required on ALL CROPS INCLUDING GRASSES. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (notice of loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

### **NAP Records**

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with your FSA office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable and need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit each year's production records as soon as harvest is complete.

**All 2010 production records must be submitted by July 1, 2011.**

## **COC Nominations Open**

The County Office Committee (COC) plays a crucial role in helping the county office staff implement Farm Bill programs. Producers are encouraged to participate in the FSA COC election process by nominating an eligible candidate by Aug. 1.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. This form is available at your local FSA Office, or online at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov); select *News & Events* then *County Committee Elections*. Nomination forms for the 2011 COC elections must be postmarked or received in the county office by close of business on August 1, 2011.

This year the election takes place in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1, the southwest portion of the county.

FSA county committee members serve three-year terms and make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Committees consist of three to five members elected by eligible local producers.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning November 4, 2011. Completed ballots must be dropped off or received via mail at the county office by December 5, 2011.

## **2011 Wool & Pelt Loans or LDP's Sign-Up**

Producers have until **January 31, 2012** to request a 9 month Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) or agree to forego the loan for a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) on their Wool or Unshorn Pelts for 2011 crop year. A CCC-633 EZ Loan Deficiency Payment Agreement must be filed before beneficial interest is lost on a commodity. After this agreement is completed a producer may request an LDP on the date beneficial interest is lost or the date of delivery to a storage facility or stored at home where beneficial interest is maintained. Eligible producers of unshorn pelts may also apply for Loan Deficiency Payments. An unshorn pelt is defined as the removed skin and attached wool from a slaughtered lamb that has never been shorn. To be eligible for an LDP for unshorn pelts, producers must have owned the unshorn lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. Immediate slaughter is considered slaughter of the lamb within a 7 to 10 day period, after the loss of beneficial interest. Eligible producers are considered to have lost beneficial interest on the date of delivery or the date of the receipt of payment, whichever comes earliest. The completion of a CCC-633EZ LDP Agreement is also required on unshorn pelts before beneficial interest is lost.

The FSA office is accepting page 1 of the CCC-633EZ, Loan Deficiency Payment Agreement for 2011. These forms were mailed out to producers and must be completed prior to loss of beneficial interest as explained above. If you did not receive this form in the mail, please contact the FSA office. MAL and LDP requests for 2011 graded and ungraded wool and unshorn pelts will be accepted through January 31, 2012.

## **Farm Reconstitutions**

At FSA, farms are "constituted" to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. Another reason is when an owner and operator cannot agree about program participation. A reconstitution 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, reconstitutions must be requested by August 1, 2011 for farms enrolled in specific programs.

## **Attention – All Buyers of Agricultural Products**

It is required that all 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.

## **Farm Record Changes**

June 1, 2011 is the deadline to provide changes to your farm records at the local FSA office for the 2011 crop year. If you are changing your operation entity type, adding or dropping cropland or farms, or adding entities to your operation, contact the FSA county office by June 1.

## **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 advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000. To be eligible the applicant must:

Be a citizen of the United States

Be 10 years to 20 years of age

Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements

Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people

Be unable to get a loan from other sources

Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above

Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

## **Payment Limitation**

Payments will be limited by Direct Attribution. Program payments and benefits are limited to a person or legal entity. Payments made directly or indirectly to a person are combined with the pro rata interest held in any other legal entity that received payments, unless the payments to the legal entity were reduced by the pro rata share of the person. Payments made directly to a legal entity are attributed to those persons that have a direct and indirect interest in the legal entity, unless the payments to the legal entity have been reduced by the pro rata share of the person. The payments are recorded by ID number of the individual or entity. Each legal entity or person must disclose the name and Social Security number of each person and/or the name and Tax ID number of each legal entity that holds or acquires an ownership interest in the legal entity.

The total payments by program are listed below:

### **Commodity Programs**

Counter-cyclical and ACRE 65,000 *1/*

Direct payments 40,000 *2/*

### **Conservation Programs**

CRP annual rental payment 50,000

EQIP 200,000

GRP, WHIP, WRP 50,000

### **Disaster Assistance Programs**

ELAP, LFP, LIP, and SURE 100,000

NAP 100,000

TAP 100,000

*1/* Under ACRE, this amount will be a combined limitation for counter-cyclical and ACRE Payments. If a person or legal entity has a direct or indirect interest in payments earned on a farm participating in ACRE, this limitation will reflect an increase for the amount that the direct payments were reduced.

*2/* If a person or legal entity has a direct or indirect interest in payments earned on a farm that is in ACRE, this limitation will reflect a 20 percent reduction in direct payments on each farm that is participating in ACRE.

## **Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims**

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](http://www.farmerclaims.gov) or call 1-888-508-4429

Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation:

[www.blackfarmercase.com](http://www.blackfarmercase.com) or call 1-866-950-5547

Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement: [www.IndianFarmClass.com](http://www.IndianFarmClass.com) or call 1-888-233-5506.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program 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 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.

#### COC Meetings

The Niobrara County FSA Committee regular meeting date and time is the third Thursday of each month at 1:00 pm.

<b>Important Dates to Remember</b>	
May 30	Memorial Day Holiday – Office Closed
May 31	Loan / LDP Deadline for Feed Grains
June 1	Final day to apply for 2011 DCP & ACRE
July 1	Final day to report 2011 acreage and 2010 production records
Continues	Continuous CRP Signup

NIOBRARA COUNTY FSA OFFICE  
PO BOX 720  
LUSK, WY 82225