



# NEWSLETTER



## Niobrara County Service Center

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### 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

#### *County Committee*

Bryan Bruch

Monty Finley

Robert Freeman

#### *Advisor*

Carol Geisinger

#### *Staff*

Tommy Stephens, CED

Kimberly Nusbaum, PT

David Lengel, FLM

June 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. A nomination form is included in this newsletter. 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.

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.

### **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.

### **CRP Reminder**

Producers with Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts are reminded that it is your responsibility to establish cover and control the weeds on your CRP acreage. These measures must be accomplished according to NRCS standards and specifications.

Grazing by livestock is not allowed unless approved by the COC under the Managed or Emergency Haying and Grazing Provisions. It is your responsibility to keep livestock off your contract acreage.

**Any unapproved grazing of CRP acreage is a violation that is subject to a penalty and can result in termination of the contract.**

### **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.

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

### **Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELIC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification**

Most FSA programs require compliance with sodbuster and swampbuster provisions. The Sodbuster provisions require producers to follow an approved conservation plan on all highly erodible land, as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), planted to an annual crop in which the producer has an interest. If you plan to plant a different crop on your current cropland, check with NRCS to assure the new crop will qualify under your conservation plan. If you will be breaking up new land or old cropland that has gone back to permanent grass cover, you must contact this office prior to planting a crop. To remain in compliance with sodbuster provisions you must file a revised form AD-1026. We will then delineate the "field" boundary and refer the new land to NRCS for a determination. If the land is determined to be highly erodible you must comply with the conservation plan developed by NRCS. Producers who violate sodbuster provisions risk becoming ineligible for program benefits through USDA. If you will be breaking out new land you must contact FSA first to start the compliance paperwork.

Swampbuster provisions state that converting a wetland to make possible the planting of a crop will result in the loss of all USDA benefits. To avoid this possibility it is strongly recommended that producers check with NRCS before starting to work.

### **Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program**

Signup for the SURE Program for 2009 crop losses started on January 10. The signup goes through July 29, 2011. Please call for an appointment.

At a minimum, to be eligible for the SURE Program, the producer must have purchased or be enrolled in the following for the 2009 crop year (This is called the Risk Management Purchase Requirement or RMPR):

- A plan of crop insurance of at least catastrophic (CAT) level for all insurable crops on all farms.
- And/or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for all non-insurable crops on all farms.

### **Commodity Loans and LDP's**

The 2011 commodity loan rates for Niobrara County are:

- Wheat-HRS \$3.02/Bu.
- Wheat-HRW \$2.79/Bu.
- Corn \$1.97/Bu.
- Barley \$1.92/Bu.
- Oats \$1.32/Bu.

Eligible producers of these crops can obtain a loan or Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) from FSA. The producer must have beneficial interest in order to receive a loan/LDP. Beneficial interest means the grower has (1) control of the commodity, and (2) title of the commodity.

**APPLICATION DEADLINES:** The deadline to apply for either a 2010 loan or LDP is:

Wheat/Barley/Oats March 31, 2011

Corn/Sunflowers May 31, 2011

Wool/Mohair January 31, 2011

FSA-669A  
(03-31-11)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Farm Service Agency

**NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION**

|  |  |          |
|--|--|----------|
| 1. NAME OF NOMINEE (Type or Print Nominee's Full Name) | <b>TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE</b>              |          |
|  | 4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED |          |
| 2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE                                  | 5. COUNTY  |          |
|  | 6. LAA   | 7. STATE |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION:</b></p> <p><i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</p> | <p><b>8. NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION:</b></p> <p><i>If this nomination is by other than self, the following eligible voter or representative of a community based organization hereby nominates the afore-named person to be a candidate in the next County FSA Committee election for the county.</i></p> |
|---|--|

|   |          |  |          |
|---|----------|--|----------|
| 3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE  | 3B. DATE | 8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR   | 8B. DATE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate. |          | <i>(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required).</i> |          |

**9. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE**

**VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES:** The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.

|   |  |                                 |
|---|--|---------------------------------|
| <b>ETHNICITY</b>                                | <b>RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)</b>                   | <b>GENDER</b>                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino     | <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native          | <input type="checkbox"/> Male   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Female |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American                 |                                 |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> White                                     |                                 |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander |                                 |

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM**

Complete the form as follows:

- ITEM 1** Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:
  - A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
  - B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
  - C. Willing to serve if elected.
- ITEM 2** Enter the nominee's current address.
- ITEM 3** The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.
- ITEMS 3A & 3B** The nominee must sign and date.
- ITEMS 8A & 8B** The nominator must sign and date. *(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required.)*
- ITEM 9** Completing this item is voluntary.

**ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 1, 2011.**

**NOTE:** The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a - as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-248). The information will be used to obtain nominees for election to the County FSA Committee. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and non-governmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for County Personnel Records, USDA/FSA-6. Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility for nomination for election to the County FSA Committee.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. **RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.**

### 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.

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.

| <b>Important Dates to Remember</b> |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| July 1                             | Final day to report 2011 acreage                    |
| July 1                             | Final Day to submit 2010 production records for NAP |
| July 4                             | Independence Day Holiday – Office Closed            |
| July 28                            | Final day to apply for 2009 SURE                    |
| Within 15 days of noticing Loss    | File CCC - 576 NAP Notice of Loss                   |
| Continues                          | Continuous CRP Signup                               |

NIOBRARA COUNTY FSA OFFICE  
PO BOX 720  
LUSK, WY 82225