



# 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

September 2011

### **Grazing Losses Due to Fire or Hail**

Livestock producers may be eligible for benefits under the Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) if they have suffered grazing losses or incurred additional feed expenses due to the wildfires and hail storms this year. To be eligible, producers must have purchased NAP or Federal Crop Insurance coverage on all crops intended for harvest (excluding grazing). Producers that suffer eligible losses must file:

-A notice of loss either 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent or 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss occurred – whichever is earlier.

-An application for payment no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss occurred.

### **COC Election**

COC Election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters in November and must be returned to the county office by the close of business on December 5 or postmarked by midnight December 5, 2011.

Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote. No one can be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status. For additional clarification about county committee elections, contact the county office.

### **Farm Service Agency (FSA) & Risk Management Agency (RMA)**

The RMA (Risk Management Agency) and FSA work together to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse of the Crop Insurance Program. FSA will again be assisting RMA and insurance providers in monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse of Crop Insurance Program to RMA. Producers may report suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse to their local FSA County Office, RMA office, or Office of Investigative General (OIG). FSA will also assist with auditing claims with RMA.

### **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 by either spouse.

### Foreign Investor Reporting

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of United States agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. FSA administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land 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 up to 25% of the fair market value of the property.

### Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

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>	
September 5	Labor Day Holiday – Office Closed
October 10	Columbus Day Holiday – Office Closed
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