



NEWSLETTER



Niobrara County Service Center

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Niobrara Conservation District

Board Members

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Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Farm Service Agency

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Advisor

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Staff

Tommy Stephens, CED

Kimberly Nusbaum, PT

David Lengel, FLM

August 2012

Drought Disaster Designation

Niobrara County has received a Secretarial Disaster Designation from Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. The designation makes low interest emergency loans available through FSA. The interest rate is 2.25%; please contact David Lengel, Farm Loan Manager at (307) 358-5719, Ext. 2 for additional information.

Emergency Conservation Program

Niobrara County has also been approved to accept Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) applications for cost share assistance with drought emergency measures and water hauling. **If you have already begun a practice you must apply by August 15th.** 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. Please file your application timely to best utilize the program assistance available. The application deadline is September 30th.

Emergency Haying & Grazing of CRP

Due to drought conditions in the county, Emergency Haying or Grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres has been approved. Producers must contact this office to request approval to hay or graze eligible acres before beginning. A modified Conservation Plan to include haying or grazing requirements, as determined by NRCS is also required. The annual rental rate will be reduced by 10% on each acre of CRP hayed or grazed. CRP participants may rent or lease the haying/grazing rights to other eligible producers.

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 3 or postmarked by midnight December 3, 2012.

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.

2013 Crop Report Date Changes

The 2013 crop reporting deadline for all rangeland, perennial hay and fall seeded crops will be November 15, 2012.

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 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.

Important Dates to Remember	
August 15	Final day to apply for cost share assistance on Emergency Livestock Water measures already started
September 3	Labor Day Holiday – Office Closed
September 30	Final day to apply for ECP
Continuing	Signup for Continuous CRP
Within 15 days of noticing Loss	File CCC - 576 NAP Notice of Loss

NIOBRARA COUNTY FSA OFFICE
PO BOX 720
LUSK, WY 82225