



PARK COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY
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POWELL, WY 82435
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Hours: M-F, 8-4:30 Closed Holidays

January 26, 2012

COUNTY COMMITTEE

Jerry Denney
Michael Hogg
Teddy Jones

OFFICE STAFF

Lee Craig, County Executive Director
Kathleen Palazzolo, Farm Loan Officer
Marcia Shuler, Program Technician
Lorrie Tate, Program Technician

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COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to Teddy Jones, who has been re-elected to serve on the Park County FSA committee for community #2, the Cody/Heart Mountain community. Teddy will continue to serve with Jerry Denney who represents you for the Powell/Clarksfork Community and Michael Hogg who represents you for the Meeteetse community.

DCP SIGN-UP

June 1, 2012 is the deadline to enroll in the 2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) Program. Payments under DCP are based on the acreage base of the program crops on the farm and are paid whether or not you plant the respective crop. Advance direct program payments are not authorized for 2012. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below the crop's target price. Producers who are eligible for the DCP Program are also eligible to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program or the Counter-cyclical Program.

WOOL AND MOHAIR LOANS AND LDP'S

The deadline to sign-up for loan or LDP for wool or mohair that was shorn in calendar year 2011 is January 31, 2012.



SURE SIGNUP

Signup for the 2010 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE) is June 1, 2012. To be eligible for 2010 SURE, you must have suffered weather related crop production losses during crop year 2010. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. Producers with a farming interest that is physically located in a county that was designated a primary disaster county or contiguous county must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. If there is no Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may also be eligible for SURE if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster. Producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or NAP coverage, for all economically significant crops. For more information on the SURE program, please visit this office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

PAYMENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Before payments can be earned, producers must satisfy all program and payment eligibility requirements including, but not limited to filing the necessary forms relating to Payment Limitation, Adjusted Gross Income and Highly Erodible Land/Wetland conservation regulations. Producers are reminded to accurately file the necessary forms in a timely manner or risk delay or loss of program benefits. Based on the information provided, the FSA county committee will make "actively engaged" in farming and other eligibility determinations for program participants.

NAP APPLICATION DEADLINE

The deadline to sign-up for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for spring planted, annual crops is **April 1, 2012**. Producers are reminded about the need for insurance coverage on crops of economic significance in order to remain eligible for Disaster Assistance Programs such as SURE, LFP, TAP, and ELAP. To be eligible for these programs, producers must purchase at least a catastrophic (CAT) level of insurance for all insurable crops or NAP for non-insurable crops. NAP is a federally funded program that provides coverage to producers for non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters. Crops eligible for NAP coverage are those for which crop insurance is not available, including fruits and vegetables, sunflowers, aquaculture, pecans, turf grass and forage crops, to name a few.

NAP PRODUCTION REPORTING

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our 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 and verifiable and need to show crop disposition. All production records must be submitted by July 1, 2012.

FARM CHANGES

In order for us to properly and accurately administer farm programs, it is very important that we have current records of the owners and operators of farms. Farm owners and operators are asked to report changes in farming or ranching operations to this office. This may include the purchase or sale of a farm or the rental of a farm which you did not have an interest in last year. Please report these changes so that we can process applications for program participation in a timely manner and so we can keep you informed regarding program eligibility.

CROP INSURANCE DEADLINE NEARS

Don't forget that the deadline to sign-up for Multi-peril or Federal Crop Insurance is March 15.

SIGNATURE AUTHORITY FOR SPOUSES



For FSA and CCC programs, husbands and wives can sign documents on behalf of each other for programs in which either has an interest unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to this office. Spouses may not grant Power of Attorney for each other and may not sign claim settlements for each other.

REASONABLE ACCOMODATIONS

Special accomodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accomodations are required, please call Lee Craig at 754-9411.

DIRECT DEPOSIT OF PROGRAM PAYMENTS & ACCOUNT CHANGES

Farm program payments earned through this office are required to be paid by direct deposit into a bank account selected by the program participant. If you have completed a direct deposit agreement and had a bank account change, you must notify us of account changes for your payment to be properly deposited.

FOREIGN INVESTORS

The Agriculture Foreign Investment Disclosure Act requires foreign persons or entities who acquire, transfer or hold interest in agricultural land to report these holdings and transactions to the Secretary of Agriculture. Such holdings and changes must be reported within 90 days of any purchase, sale, or change in status or ownership of land. Foreign agriculture investors must report investments to the local FSA office on form FSA-153. Contact this office for more information.



SEEDLING TREES AVAILABLE

The Powell/Clarks Fork, and Cody Conservation Districts are accepting orders for seedling trees and tree protectors. The conservation districts are asking those who are interested in ordering seedling trees to place their order as soon as possible. The more popular species sell out early, so if you wish to order trees, you should do so as soon as possible. Order forms can be obtained from your local conservation district office at 1017 Highway 14A in Powell.

FARM DIVISIONS and DIVISION OF ACREAGE BASES

When a portion of a farm is sold or otherwise becomes owned by 2 or more persons, we are required to divide the crop contract acres among the resulting farms using one of several options. The designation by landowner method is the method of dividing the parent farm's crop acreage bases in a manner agreed to by the resulting owners. This method may be used when any of the following apply:

- Part of a farm is sold or ownership transferred
- An entire farm is sold to 2 or more persons
- Farm ownership is transferred to 2 or more persons
- Part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred
- A tract is sold to 2 or more persons
- Tract ownership is transferred to 2 or more persons

If you have sold or bought a part of a farm, please notify this office so we can begin the process of dividing the farm and crop acreage bases. You may use the designation by landowner method of distributing the crop acreage bases among the resulting farms if all owners agree in writing.

OFFICE CLOSED



The Park County FSA Office will be closed February 20 to celebrate the birthday of George Washington.



COMMODITY STORAGE LOAN PROGRAM

Commodity Credit Corporation, acting through Farm Service Agency, has reauthorized the farm storage facility loan program. Basic provisions of the reauthorized program are:

- Loans may be made for grain storage structures, grain handling equipment, drying equipment, forage storage structures or cold storage for fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Loans will be for new storage or expansion or upgrades of existing storage
- The term of approved loans is 7, 10 or 12 years.
- The interest rates for Jan. 2012 are 1.375% for a 7 year loan, 2.0% for a 10 year loan and 2.25% for a 12 year loan
- Participants are required to carry crop insurance on crops of economic significance for the term of the loan.

EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT

After nearly 20 years of dedicated service to the farmers and ranchers of Park County, Program Technician Marjorie Parker has chosen to accept an early retirement offer. We wish to take this opportunity to congratulate Marjorie and to thank her for her many years of exemplary service. As a budget cutting measure, Farm Service Agency extended an early retirement offer to FSA employees around the nation. The employees who applied and were accepted under the offer will not be replaced. Please be patient with us as we realign job responsibilities in the Park County FSA office.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTERS

Farm Service Agency is providing a cost effective option for delivering news, deadlines and program information to agriculture producers and others interested in programs administered by FSA. Interested producers now have the option of receiving information electronically from your state or county FSA office. FSA's electronic system of delivering program information, known as GovDelivery, allows you to receive up-to-the-minute federal farm program information directly to your home or farm office email account or smart phone. GovDelivery electronic news service is free and convenient. Contact this office to find out how you can subscribe to GovDelivery today or subscribe online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>.

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS "Lender of First Opportunity"

Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase agricultural land and to finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help eligible producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources. Rural Youth Loans, Beginning Farmers Loans and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA. To make an appointment, or if you have questions about the Farm Loan Program, contact Kathy at 754-9411, Extension 2.

COMMODITY LOAN AVAILABILITY

Producers may request a price support loan for program crops of Wheat, Barley, Oats or Corn. Commodity loans give you an opportunity to obtain funds, using the stored crop as collateral, and have use of the borrowed funds until you are able to market the crop or until loan maturity. Commodity loans are nine month non-recourse loans which may be repaid at either the principal plus interest or the CCC determined value, whichever is less. Upon loan maturity, you must settle the loan either by repaying it or by delivering the commodity to an approved warehouse.

BUYERS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

It is required that 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, the buyer is required to place both the lien holder's and seller's names on the check. 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.



Under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) continuous sign-up, eligible agriculture producers may apply to enroll small acreages of eligible cropland or marginal pastureland in CRP. Participants agree to establish approved conservation practices on eligible land and remove the land from agricultural production in return for annual rental payments for the term of the CRP contract, which can run from 10 to 15 years. A 50% cost-share payment is available to help with the cost of completing approved conservation practices. There is an additional 40% cost-share incentive payment for certain practices. Along with the cost-share and annual rental payments, there is a sign-up incentive payment and an annual maintenance payment. Some eligible practices that can be completed on land enrolled under continuous CRP are: Field Windbreaks, Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife, Shelterbelt Establishment, Filter Strips and Riparian Buffers.

DON'T MISS OUT

IMPORTANT DATES

Second Wednesdays at 10 am County Committee meets

Jan 31 Deadline for 2011 Wool and Pelt LDP

Feb 20 Office Closed, George Washington's Birthday

Mar 15 Crop Insurance Deadline

Mar 31 Stored small grain price support loan deadline

April 1 NAP deadline

May 31 Stored corn price support loan deadline

June 1 DCP sign-up deadline

Prior to selling wool – Sign-up for Wool LDP

Prior to selling unshorn lambs – Sign-up for Lamb Pelt LDP

Anytime Continuous CRP



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