THE FSA HEARTBEAT

United States Department of Agriculture

PARK COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY
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POWELL, WY 82435
PHONE: (307) 754-9411, Ext. 2
FAX (307) 754-2761
Hours: M-F, 8-4:30 Closed Holidays

July 2, 2012

COUNTY COMMITTEE

Michael Hogg, Chairperson
Teddy Jones, Vice-chairperson
Jerry Denney, Member

OFFICE STAFF

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

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REPORTING CROP LOSSES

Producers are reminded that they must report losses on Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) crops within 15 days of the date of a disaster occurrence or date that damage to the crop(s) is apparent. Notices of loss that are filed after 15 days (late-filed) may be approved by the county committee if verification of the crop and acreage can be made and if it can be determined that the cause of loss is due to an eligible disaster condition. If a positive verification of the above requirements cannot be made, the late filed Notice of Loss will be disapproved and the producer will not be eligible for payment.

COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the 2012 Park County FSA committee election will be accepted through August 1. FSA county committees are elected by local agriculture producers to administer USDA farm programs at the county level. There are three Local Administrative Areas (LAA) in Park County with one LAA holding an election each year to elect a person to a three-year term. Park County's LAA's consist of Powell/Clarksfork, Cody/Heart Mountain and Meeteetse. The committee election for this year will be held for Local Administrative Area 1, the Powell/Clarksfork LAA, which currently is represented by Jerry Denney. A list of persons who are eligible to run for the county committee is available from this office. If you wish to run or want to nominate a fellow producer for the county committee, please contact this office for a nominating petition. If no nominations are received, the Secretary of Agriculture will complete the slate of nominees.

CROP REPORTING DEADLINE

The deadline to file your FSA acreage reports is July 15. If you are a sugar beet grower, participate in the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP), participate in the Conservation Reserve Program, purchase multi-peril or catastrophic crop insurance or if you participate in other USDA farm programs, you must file an acreage report to remain eligible for benefits. Crop reports are also used in calculating benefits if you suffer a crop loss on a noninsurable crop and apply for benefits under the Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP). You must also file an acreage report of fruits and vegetables for farms that are enrolled in DCP or ACRE. Dry beans are considered a vegetable under the DCP & ACRE rules. You may begin filing your acreage reports as soon as you have completed planting. If you believe you need to file an acreage report, please feel free to call for an appointment or come in to the FSA office at any time and file your acreage report. Late fees will apply to acreage reports that are filed after the July 15 deadline. **FAILURE TO FILE AN ACREAGE REPORT WILL RESULT IN THE LOSS OF USDA BENEFITS.**

REPORTING PRODUCTION FOR NAP

July 15, 2012 is the deadline for turning in crop production history and signing the production worksheet for the Non-insured Assistance Program. Failure to turn in your production evidence will result in a decreased yield guarantee and will decrease program benefits in the event of a crop loss.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLE PLANTING

For farms that are enrolled in the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP), don't forget the regulations concerning the acres of Fruits and Vegetables (FAV's), which includes dry beans grown for commercial or seed purposes. To avoid a payment reduction, liquidated damages penalty or contract termination, FAV acres may not exceed the non-contract acres for the farm. Depending on the farm or producer's FAV history, the penalty that is assessed can range from an acre for acre DCP payment reduction to severe cash penalties and possible termination of the DCP contract. A farm or producer will have a dry bean FAV history if dry beans were grown on the farm or were grown by the producer on any farm, at least once during the years of 1991 through 1995 or 1998 through 2001. An acreage report showing the dry bean acres grown must be on file in this office for the respective year(s). Farms with overplanted FAV's must be withdrawn from DCP prior to August 1 or before harvest of the crop, whichever is earlier, to avoid payment reduction or penalty.

Over the Counter Channel (OTCnet)

FSA/CCC is moving toward OTCnet, an electronic method for processing customer check payments. When a check is submitted for payment, either in person or through the mail, the check will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) and the funds will be debited from the producer's account. OTCnet presents many benefits, such as reducing lost/misplaced checks and paper handling. This speeds the check clearing process and reduces the potential for human error. The check will be scanned and voided and the customer will not receive the check back. FSA will hold checks for up to 14 calendar days to ensure that the item was successfully processed and then the check will be shredded. The transfer of funds from your account could occur within 24 hours. Therefore, you should be sure that you have sufficient funds in your account to process the transaction. If you do **not** have sufficient funds, we may initiate the transaction again. The transfer of funds may be recorded in a different place on your account statement than where your checks normally appear, such as under "other withdrawals" or "other transactions". You have protections under Federal law for an unauthorized electronic fund transfer from your account and you should contact your financial institution immediately if you believe that the transaction reported on your account statement was not properly authorized or is otherwise incorrect. For more information, see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site at **http://fms.treas.gov/otcnet/legal.html**

OFFICE CLOSED

The Park County FSA Office will be closed Wednesday July 4 for Independence Day.

LOW INTEREST GRAIN BIN LOAN PROGRAM

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

- Loans may be made for grain storage structures, grain handling equipment and drying equipment
- Loans will be for new storage or expansion or upgrades of existing storage
- The term of approved loans is 7 or 10 years.
- The interest rate is equivalent to the rate of interest charged on Treasury Securities of comparable maturity.
- Participants are required to carry Multi-peril crop insurance on crops of economic significance.
- **DON'T MISS OUT**

IMPORTANT DATES

July 15 Crop reporting deadline
July 15 NAP production evidence deadline for proven yields
July 4 Office closed, Independence Day
Aug 1 County Committee nominations due
Anytime Report crop losses within 15 days of loss
Prior to selling wool – Sign-up for Wool LDP
Prior to selling unshorn lambs – Sign-up for Lamb Pelt LDP
Anytime Continuous CRP sign-up

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