



THE FSA HEARTBEAT

United States Department of Agriculture



PARK COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY

1017 Highway 14A

POWELL, WY 82435

PHONE: (307) 754-9411, Ext. 2

FAX (855) 415-3438

Hours: M-F, 8-4:30 Closed Holidays

April 25, 2014

COUNTY COMMITTEE

Klodette Stroh, Chairperson

Teddy Jones, Vice-chairperson

Michael Hogg, Member

OFFICE STAFF

Kathleen Palazzolo, Acting County Executive Director
Farm Loan Officer

Marcia Shuler, Program Technician

Lorrie Tate, Program Technician

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CONGRATULATIONS TO LEE CRAIG

Lee changed his career path in February, 2014, to become District Director for Wyoming FSA. He will be overseeing 6 County Offices in the State. Lee has worked for the Agency for 30 years. He spent the last 29 years as CED for Park County FSA, formerly known as ASCS, and 1 year in CED training and working out of the Gillette office. He has seen many changes to the AGENCY over the years. He has helped implement several Farm Bills to bring the many commodity programs to the farmers and ranchers of Park County.

2014 FARM BILL

The 2014 Farm Bill makes the Livestock Indemnity Payments (LIP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), and Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP), permanent programs. **SIGN-UP FOR THESE PROGRAMS STARTED APRIL 15, 2014.**

LIP, LFP, & ELAP provides retroactive authority to cover eligible losses back to Oct. 1, 2011.

LIP LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law, including wolves and avian predators. LIP payments are equal to 75% of the market value of the applicable livestock on the day before the date of death of the livestock as determined by the Secretary.

LFP LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire. LFP payments for drought are equal to 60 % of the monthly feed cost for up to five months. LFP payments for fire on federally managed rangeland are equal to 50% of the monthly feed cost for the number of days the producer is prohibited from grazing the managed rangeland, not to exceed 180 calendar days. The grazing losses must have occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011.

ELAP provides payments to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees, and farm-raised fish to help to compensate for losses due to disease (including cattle tick fever), adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary.

Please contact the local FSA office for additional details on the types of information required for an application. Some eligibility restrictions may apply.

REASONABLE ACCOMODATIONS

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call Kathy Palazzolo at 754-9411 Ext 2.

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 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 15, 2014.

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 that you did not have an interest in last year.



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.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE VIOLATIONS

Persons convicted of planting, cultivating, growing, harvesting or storing a controlled substance in any crop year shall be ineligible for federal program benefits during the crop year of conviction and the four succeeding crop years.

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.

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>.

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.

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.



COMMODITY STORAGE LOAN PROGRAM

Farm Service Agency continues to administer the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program. Basic provisions are as follows:

- 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 April, 2014 are 2.125% for a 7 year loan, 2.750% for a 10 year loan and 2.875% for a 12 year loan
- Participants are required to carry crop insurance on crops of economic significance for the term of the loan.

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

As a farmer or rancher, whether you are just starting out or have many years of experience, there are times when you need to borrow money to start, expand, sustain, or make changes to your business. You may be able to obtain a loan or loan guarantee through FSA's Farm Loan Programs if you are a farmer or rancher who is unable to obtain credit elsewhere. FSA loans are temporary in nature. Rural Youth Loans, Beginning Farmers Loans and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

Under the Direct Loan Program the loan types available are: Farm Ownership loans will help you purchase or enlarge a farm or ranch – loan limit is \$300,000; **Operating Loans**, will help you purchase livestock & equipment and annual operating expenses – loan limit is \$300,000; **Microloans** are designed to help small, family operations secure loans for \$35,000 or less. Loans can be used to pay for initial start-up expenses, tools, irrigation, delivery vehicles, annual expenses, to purchase land, livestock equipment, feed, seed and supplies or to construct buildings to make farm improvements. Microloans will be targeted toward small farmers, veterans and disadvantaged producers.

Under the Guarantee Loan program the loan types are Guarantee Farm Ownership and Guarantee Farm Operating. The Guarantee loans are made and serviced by commercial lenders. FSA guarantees the lender's against loss, up to 95%. Loan limit is \$1,355,000.00.

To make an appointment, or if you have questions about the Farm Loan Program, contact Kathy at 754-9411, Extension 2.

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 name 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.

DON'T MISS OUT
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IMPORTANT DATES

- Fourth Wednesdays at 10 am** County Committee meets
- April 15** Sign-up begins for LIP, LFP & ELAPD
- May 31** Stored corn price support loan deadline
- July 15** Final date for acreage reporting
- Prior to selling wool** – Sign-up for Wool LDP
- Prior to selling unshorn lambs** – Sign-up for Lamb Pelt LDP

Office Closed May 26, 2014 for Memorial Day



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INSIDE

- 2014 FARM BILL PROGRAMS
- PAYMENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
- FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS
- FARM LOAN PROGRAMS
- NAP PRODUCTION REPORTING
- SIGN-UP FOR LIVESTOCK DISASTER PROGRAMS
- FARM CHANGES