



NEWSLETTER



Park County FSA Office

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Office Hours

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Office Staff

Darla Rhodes, County Executive Director
Kathleen Palazzolo, Farm Loan Officer
Tom Schambow, Farm Loan Officer
Trainee
Marcia Shuler, Program Technician
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County Committee

Klodette Stroh, Chairperson
Michael Hogg, Vice-Chairperson
Lynn George, Regular Member

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PARK COUNTY NEWSLETTER

October 2015

Crop Reporting

The annual timely and accurate reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs, including ARC/PLC.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. Crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. In Wyoming, producers had until July 15, 2015 to timely file their 2015 acreage reports for spring seeded crops and CRP. Reports can still be filed, but may be subject to a late-filing fee.

2015 and subsequent years' acreage reporting deadlines

- Spring seeded crops and CRP – July 15
- Perennial Forage, PRF, Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains – November 15

This means your 2016 perennial hay/forage crops and winter wheat reporting deadline is November 15, 2015.

2015 County Committee Election

This year's election in Park County covers LAA 1, which includes Powell and the Clarks Fork area.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters around November 9th. Instructions for voting will be included. Ballots must be returned, or postmarked by, December 7th. Please take time to vote and select your representative on the County Committee.

Margin Protection Program – Dairy Registration and Coverage Election Deadline – November 20 Signup Deadline

The registration and coverage election deadline for MPP-Dairy has been extended to **November 20, 2015**. Furthermore, a change has been made in when the total premium fees must be paid. Effective immediately, for 2016 coverage, 100% of the total premium due must be paid by September 1, 2016. Previously, producers had to pay a portion of the premium by Feb. 1st and balance by June 1st. With this change, producers have until **September 1, 2016** to pay the entire premium due.

Ongoing Notice of Loss Filing Requirements

NAP - Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program:

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, documents a producer's loss or damage to a crop or commodity due to an eligible cause of loss, as well as failed acreage and prevented planting. A CCC-576, Notice of Loss must be provided for prevented planting claims, within 15 calendar days after the final planting date established for the crop, and for low yield claims, the earlier of:

- 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence or date of loss or damage to the crop first becomes apparent
- 15 calendar days after the normal harvest date established for the crop.

Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office by the dates previously mentioned. An acreage report must be on file prior to the Notice of Loss being filed.

CRP Grasslands Signup began September 2, 2015

Farmers and ranchers can apply for financial assistance to help conserve working grasslands, rangeland, and pastureland while maintaining the areas as livestock grazing lands.

The initiative is part of the voluntary Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), a federally funded program that for 30 years has assisted agricultural producers with the cost of restoring, enhancing, and protecting certain grasses, shrubs, and trees to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and reduce loss of wildlife habitat. In return, USDA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. CRP has helped farmers and ranchers prevent more than 8 billion tons of soil from eroding, reduce nitrogen and phosphorous runoff relative to cropland by 95 and 95 percent respectively, and even sequester 43 million tons of greenhouse gasses annually, equal to taking 8 million cars off the road.

The CRP-Grasslands initiative will provide participants who establish long-term, resource-conserving covers with annual rental payments up to 75 percent of the grazing value of the land. Cost-share assistance also is available for up to 50 percent of the covers and other practices, such as cross fencing to support rotational grazing or improving pasture cover to benefit pollinators or other wildlife. Participants may still conduct common grazing practices, produce hay, mow, or harvest for seed production, conduct fire rehabilitation, and construct firebreaks, and fences.

With the publication of the CRP regulation, the Farm Service Agency will accept applications on an ongoing basis beginning September 1, 2015, with those applications scored against published ranking criteria, and approved based on the competitiveness of the offer. The ranking period will occur at least once per year and be announced at least 30 days prior to its start. The end of the first ranking period will be November 20, 2015.

For additional information, please call or visit the Park County FSA Office.

KEEP YOUR RECORDS UPDATED

FSA needs to keep records updated at all times. If you have had any of the following changes, please report them to our office so that we can update our records accordingly:

- Individual or business name
- Address
- Phone number
- Bank account
- Sold or purchased property
- Added or dropped leased land

Attention All 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 you are required to place the lien holders name on the check as well as that of the Seller. 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.

FSA Signature Policy

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 staff by either spouse. There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities. Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

Breaking New Ground

Producers requesting USDA benefits are reminded to follow the Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL) provisions provided in the 1985 Food Security Act, as amended. In order to maintain eligibility for USDA programs, all producers planting agricultural commodities on predominantly highly erodible land (HEL) shall ensure they are following tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements according to the provisions of an approved conservation system or conservation plan. Producers should contact their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) prior to breaking new ground to file an AD-1026.

Producers are also reminded to follow the Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions. The 1985 Food Security Act, as amended, states that producers are ineligible for benefits if they plant agricultural commodities on wetlands that were converted after December 23, 1985 or convert a wetland after November 28, 1990, by draining, dredging, filling, leveling, or any other means for the purpose, or to have the effect, of making the production of an agricultural commodity possible.

Annual reviews are conducted by FSA and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to ensure producers follow an approved conservation system or conservation plan on highly erodible land and to ensure that identified wetlands have not been altered. Violations may lead to ineligibility for USDA program benefits.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to eligible producers for 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. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, wildfires, extreme heat or extreme cold.

For 2015, eligible losses must occur on or after January 1, 2015, and before December 31, 2015. A notice of loss must be filed with FSA within 30 days of when the loss of livestock is apparent. Participants must provide the following supporting documentation to their local FSA office no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year for which benefits are requested:

- Proof of death documentation
- Copy of growers contracts
- Proof of normal mortality documentation
- A notice of loss the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss was apparent or by January 30, 2016
- An application for payment by January 30, 2016.

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Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Risk Management Agency (RMA) to Prevent Fraud, Waste, and Abuse

FSA supports RMA in the prevention of fraud, waste, and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will continue to refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse directly to RMA. Producers can report suspected cases to the County Office staff, the RMA office, or the Office of the Inspector General.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the County Office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or if all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.) 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 or TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, Washington, DC, 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.