

January, 2010

Platte County News

2009 County Committee Election



Platte County FSA
1502 Progress Court
Wheatland, WY 82201
307-322-4050 (phone)
307-322-4109 (FAX)

Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
David Hinman
Darrel Vaughn
Britt Wilson
Ruth Cundall

Staff
Mike Hoffland DD
Rick Carroll CED
Dixie Mount FLO
Celia Herman PT
Mitzi Mudgett PT
Joni Reyes PT



County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to David Hinman. David was elected to represent farmers from LAA #2 district on the county committee. David was elected to his second committee term. The election results for Local Administrative Area 2 are:

David Hinman- Elected to the county Committee (COC)
Dennis Lauck- 1st Alternate to COC
Marty Shepard- 2nd Alternate to COC

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation. The committee members will hold their organizational meeting in January to determine who will serve as the county committee chairman and vice-chairman.

Attention Platte County Producers

Due to the high grasshopper populations found in Platte County in 2009, we are anticipating high populations in 2010. Because of the potential threat we are preparing for a spray program that may involve acreages enrolled in CRP contract. Under CRP contract rules landowners are required to control pests as well as noxious weeds. If a grasshopper spray program is established and spray blocks are constructed it may be critical to have CRP acreage included in order to protect crop and rangelands. Landowners should be aware that they may be required to sign up CRP acres. Please contact Platte County Weed and Pest Office to determine if spray may include your CRP lands.

Change in Farming Operation or Address:

Producers are reminded to notify this office to report change in address or Ownership. This is vital to assist this office in keeping records.

Change in Direct Deposits

All payments from the FSA office are sent through Direct Deposit. If you have or are making changes such as Banks, Type of Account, Routing numbers or account numbers you will need to contact the County FSA office to avoid possible delays on payments.

Foreign Buyers Notification:

The Agriculture Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of United States agriculture land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. FSA administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agriculture land are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties up to 25% of the fair market value of the property.

2010 DCP/ACRE Signup

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP)/ACRE has begun and will continue through June 1, 2010. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2010 DCP contract.

USDA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2010, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment.

Livestock Indemnity Program

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from a natural disaster. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011. The losses must be a direct result of an adverse weather condition, including but not limited to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold, & lightning. Note that drought is not a qualifying event. Eligible livestock are adult/non-adult cattle, buffalo and beefalo, equine, sheep, alpacas, emus, swine, goats, llamas, poultry and domestic elk, deer and reindeer. Ineligible livestock include animals that dies as a result of disease not related to adverse weather, malnutrition or poor handling practices. Payment rates are per head by livestock kind/type and weight range. This program requires records to show Beginning Dates of livestock on hand at the beginning of the adverse weather condition. In the case of losses depending on type of livestock inventory shall be documented with reliable and verifiable documentation. The losses must be documented also with reliable and verifiable documentation to include but not limited to: Veterinary records, calving book, third party verification. Dates and numbers must be documented for beginning inventory and losses during the storms.

Date of Livestock Death: July 13, 2009 to December 31, 2009

Final Date to File a Notice of Loss: 30 Days after death is apparent

Final Date to File Application and **submit data for the 2009 Payment: February 1, 2010**

Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP)

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occurred when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of crops that are not covered by crop insurance. The application deadline has changed beginning with the **2010 crop year**, for all crops in all counties the application closing date for **NAP will be April 1st**, of the applicable year.

SURE-Supplemental Disaster Assistance Programs

Signup for the SURE Program for 2008 crop losses will begin January 4th, 2010.

SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster that occurred in the crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to:

To be eligible for these programs, producers must purchase at least catastrophic risk protection (CAT) level of crop insurance for all insurable crops and/or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for non-insurable crops under SURE, TAP, and ELAP.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from this risk management purchase requirement.

The following are the conditions that trigger SURE payments:

- at least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition. A crop of economic significance is a crop that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5% or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm
- producers in counties declared disaster counties by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or those who show proof of a loss of at least 50% for their farm are eligible to receive SURE payments for crop production or crop quality losses. Losses are measured based on whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

Secretarial Disaster for Platte County

Due to hail storms that damaged crops in Platte County from 06/06/2009 to 08/15/2009 the United States Department of Agriculture has announced Secretarial Disaster Declaration S2958 for Platte County.

Contiguous counties are also included in this disaster designation.

This designation makes farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for assistance from FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program. FSA will consider each application on its own merit by taking into account the extent of losses, security available, and repayment ability.

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 1-307-777-7311.

Special Accommodations: Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

Power of Attorney: For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc. we have a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office.

Appeal Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree.

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.

For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact your local FSA office.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PLATTE COUNTY FSA OFFICE
1502 PROGRESS COURT
WHEATLAND, WY 82201**

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

January 4 th , 2010	Signup for SURE Program begins.
January 18 th 2010	Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Office Closed
February 1 st 2010	Final Date to submit required date for 2009 LIP Payment
February 1st 2010	Final Date for Loan/LDP availability
February 15, 2010	George Washington's Birthday Office Closed
April 1 st 2010	Final Date to purchase 2010 NAP coverage.
Continues	Continuous CRP sign up
Continues	Farm Stored Facility Loan Program

Visit our Web site

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

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