

July, 2010

Platte County News



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

FSA County Committee Nominations for 2010

From June 15, 2010-the nomination period begins through Aug. 2nd. Farmers and ranchers may nominate eligible peers as candidates for election to the Platte County Farm Service Agency County Committee. LAA-3 is up the election this year. LAA-3 covers the Chugwater, Slater, and East Wheatland areas.

August 2, 2010-Last day to file nomination forms at the local USDA Service Center. The form that you will need to fill out is FSA-669A. Producers may nominate someone that is willing to serve or may nominate themselves. Additionally, organizations representing minority, women farmers or socially disadvantage may nominate candidates.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 5th, and must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Dec 6th, or postmarked by midnight Dec. 6th. 2010.

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet basic eligibility requirements:

- Be a producer with an interest in a farming or ranching operation
- Participate or cooperative in any FSA program provided for by law
- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be of legal voting age
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate
- Not have been:
 - Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
 - Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
 - Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

For further information about the county committee elections, contact the Platte County FSA office.



Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county 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 of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Successor-In-Interest

Many FSA programs will allow payments to be made to heirs or successors when a program participant passes away. Additionally, contracts in programs such as CRP must be revised to reflect the successor(s) to a deceased participant's interest.

In the event of an FSA program participant's death, it is important that FSA be notified. Entities and joint operations that participate in FSA programs also need to notify FSA if a shareholder or member passes away. FSA benefits are reported to IRS and maintaining current, accurate records about participants is vital to ensuring that those payments are reported correctly.

Compliance Spot Checks

Compliance spot checks will be conducted on 2010 crops. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans and so on for review, a nationwide selection of producers is employed. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program and others.

For more information about the spot check selection procedure, contact your local Farm Service Agency office.

Timely Filing of Loss

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all Crops, including grasses. **Failed acreage-must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop.** For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a **CCC-576 (Notice of Loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when loss becomes apparent.**

If filing for **Prevented Planting**, an acreage report and **CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.**

Youth Loans

FSA makes loans to individual rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, FFA, and similar organizations.

Each project must be part of an organized and supervised program of work. The project must be planned and operated with the help of the organization adviser, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

Each year, many young entrepreneurs take advantage of these loans and gain valuable business experience in the process. For more information contact Dixie Mount, Farm Loan Officer, at 307-322-4050.

Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 2** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

Estate Method — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

DCP Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

Default Method — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

CRP Participants Provisions

USDA has made provisions for CRP participants to lease land for Gas, Oil, or Mineral Rights Exploration. Before you as a producer engage in the exploration or leases you need to contact the County Office because there are specific guidelines that you are required to follow. In the case of Wind Turbines County Committee may authorize the installation of windmills, wind

turbines, and wind monitoring towers or other wind-powered generation equipment on CRP acreage on a case by case basis. You will need to contact the County Office to be to get the specific guidelines that you are required to follow.

General CRP Signup

There will be a General Signup this summer. But the date for the signup has not been announced.

Transition Incentives Program (TIP)

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 amendments to the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, authorized \$25 million for the voluntary transition of land enrolled under an expiring CRP contract from a retired or retiring owner or operator to a beginning or SDA farmer or rancher to return the land to production for sustainable grazing or crop production.

Producers if you are interested in this program you may contact the FSA office for further information.

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

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

August 2, 2010	Final Date for FSA-669A's to be Post Marked for COC Nominations
August 2, 2010	Request for Reconstitution must be by August 2, 2010
September 6 th	Labor Day Office Closed
October 11 th	Columbus Day Office Closed
November 5 th	Ballots Mailed to Eligible Voters
November 11 th	Veterans Day Holiday Office Closed
November 25 th	Thanksgiving Day Office Closed
December 6 th	Ballots to be returned to County Office
Continues	Continuous CRP sign up
Continues	Farm Stored Facility Loan Program

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

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