



# PLATTE COUNTY NEWSLETTER



**July 2011**

**Platte County FSA**

1502 Progress Court  
Wheatland, WY 82201  
307-322-4050 phone  
307-322-4109 fax  
www.fsa.usda.gov/WY

**Hours**

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

**County Committee**

David Hinman  
E. John Watson  
Britt Wilson  
Ruth Cundall, advisor

**Staff**

Mike Hoffland, DD  
Rick Carroll CED  
Dixie Mount FLO  
Mitzi Mudgett PT  
Joni Reyes PT  
Pammie Rapp PT

**COC Meetings**

January 6, 2011  
March 17, 2011  
June 16, 2011  
September 15, 2011  
November 17, 2011  
December 8, 2011

**Weeds must be Controlled on CRP ACRES**

Just a reminder that weeds on CRP need to be controlled. The Platte County Weed and Pest is working closely with the Farm Service Agency to assist producers in making them aware of the weed conditions on their CRP. Producers may submit to the FSA County office receipts for or billing statements of the completion of the spraying on your property.

**Approved Covers and Practices on DCP Acres**

Producers must protect land enrolled in DCP from weeds, including noxious weeds, and erosion, including providing sufficient cover if determined necessary by the county committee.

Suggested covers: annual, biennial, or perennial grasses and legumes, including sweet sorghums, sorghum grasses and sudan. Volunteer stands, other than weeds. Crop residue from using no till or minimum till practices.

**Disaster Assistance**

The Farm Service Agency would like to remind crop and livestock producers throughout states that have recently experienced severe damage from heavy rains, flooding, wildfires and tornadoes that FSA programs are available to assist with recovery.

FSA administers several important programs that help producers recover from disaster damage and livestock deaths. Among the key programs available to address impacts from disasters are the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP), the Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program.

Fact sheets for all of these programs can be found at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov); click on Newsroom, then Fact Sheets.

Producers who have suffered a disaster loss due to the recent severe weather conditions must give "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of the date that the loss becomes apparent. "Application for Payment" must then be filed before January 31<sup>st</sup> of the year following the loss. Notice of loss can be done at the FSA Office in person, or by telephone.

**Emergency Conservation Program**

Producers, with the Snowpack in the mountains and warm weather coming soon we could be facing a huge run off which could cause extensive flooding. If that happens FSA program Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) may be able to help with damage to meadows with silt and debris, head gates for irrigation purposes that may be washed out and with fencing or some other types of damage. If you suffer any kind of flood damage to your property you need to contact the Platte County FSA

Office as soon as you recognize the damage to see if we can assist you in repairing damages. Assistance for the ECP Program will have to go to WDC for monies so the earlier we know of the damage the sooner the County Office may apply for resources to assist in your needs.

## **COC Election Nominations**

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committee starts with the nomination of eligible candidates.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and online at:

[http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/fsa0669a\\_committeeselectform.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_committeeselectform.pdf)

Nomination forms for the 2011 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1, 2011.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed for the county committee of the office that administers a producer's farm records.

Platte County is currently taking nominations for the County Committee LAA 3 area (northern part of Platte County in the Glendo area) and will continue taking them through August 1, 2011. If you are interested in nominating someone or running yourself, please stop by the Platte County FSA Office and complete a FSA-669A form.

## **Payment Limitations**

Anyone that plans to participate in 2011 programs is required to submit a completed CCC-902, CCC-926, and CCC-901, if applicable, for payment eligibility and payment limitation purposes. The form used previously was called a CCC-502.

### **Contributions**

All partners, stockholders, or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make a contribution, whether compensated or **not** compensated, for active--\*

- personal labor,
- active personal management,
- or a combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation;

\*Note: there are exceptions for spouses.

Additional information on payment limitations is available at FSA county offices or on line at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

## **AGI and the IRS**

USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the verification report that IRS sends to FSA.

The agreement ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs. For 2011 the average AGI would be calculated for the years 2007, 2008, 2009.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service at the address given on the form as soon as possible to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices.

## **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

## **Administrative Information**

### **Farm Operation Changes**

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

### **Bank Account Changes**

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments may be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

### **Agriculture Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA)**

AFIDA requires foreign persons or entities who acquire, transfer, or hold a 5 percent or greater interest in agriculture land or who gross \$1000 or more from any agriculture land report this information to the Secretary of Agriculture. The information must be reported within 90 days. This information must be reported to the local FSA office.

### **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.

### **Reasonable Accommodations**

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairments, or hearing impairment. Please call this office if assistance is needed.

### **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.

### **SURE**

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) began **Jan. 10, 2011 and runs through July 29, 2011. Please call for an appointment.** SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. For SURE, all crops must be covered by crop insurance, NAP or be eligible for waivers. You may contact the Platte County FSA office to see if you qualify for assistance for your losses.

### **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 **Aug. 1** 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.

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

July 29, 2011	Supplemental Revenue (SURE) Program 2009 SURE Ends July 29, 2011
August 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2011	Final Date for County Offices to receive Nomination Form For County Committee Election. Form must be post marked by August 1, 2011
August 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2011	Final Date to request Reconstitutions
September 5, 2011	Office Closed to Observe of Labor Day
October 10, 2011	Office Closed to Observe Columbus Day
November 11, 2011	Office Closed to Observe Veterans Day
November 24, 2011	Office Closed to Observe Thanksgiving Day
December 26, 2011	Office Closed to Observer Christmas Day
Continues	Continuous CRP sign up
Continues	Farm Stored Facility Loan Program Farm Reconstitution, Update Farm Records

**NOTICE  
TO HISPANIC  
AND/OR  
WOMEN  
FARMERS OR  
RANCHERS  
COMPENSATION  
FOR CLAIMS OF  
DISCRIMINATION**

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

To register your name to receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit: [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Visit our Web site <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202)-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint, write to U.S.D.A., Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington DC 20250-9410 or call 1-(800)-795-3272 (Voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer