



PLATTE COUNTY NEWSLETTER



August 2011

Disaster Assistance

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 22, 2011
November 17, 2011
December 8, 2011

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; 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 31st 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.

Dates for NAP Coverage for 2012

For biennial and perennial forage crops regardless of intended use, the application closing date shall be December 1st, of the year, immediately proceeding

the crop year. Biennial and perennial forage crops such as grasses, legumes, & forbs for grazing, forage, seed or any other use the application closing date is **December 1st, 2011.**

For all other crops the application closing date is **April 1st, 2012.**

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

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

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 with 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.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

CREP & Continuous CRP Available

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) allows farmers and ranchers to voluntarily enroll environmentally sensitive land into a program that decreases erosion, restores wildlife habitat and safeguards ground and surface water. CREP is a partnership with federal and state government and is limited to specific geographic areas.

Environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) or Continuous CRP will be eligible for annual rental payments and cost-share of up to 50 percent on approved practices. These programs will remain funded, and continue to provide heightened environmental benefits on select areas.

Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and maintaining title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans.

The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

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.

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.

**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

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



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

September 5, 2011	Office Closed to Observe of Labor Day
October 10, 2011	Office Closed to Observe Columbus Day
November 4, 2011	FSA 669 Voters Ballot sent to all eligible producers. COC Election
November 11, 2011	Office Closed to Observe Veterans Day
November 24, 2011	Office Closed to Observe Thanksgiving Day
December 1 st	NAP Application Closing Date for Biennial and Perennial Forage Crops.
December 5, 2011	COC Ballots for COC Election to be returned to County Office or Post Marked.
December 8, 2011	County Office to Count COC Ballots for Committee Election
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

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