



# PLATTE COUNTY NEWSLETTER



**November 2011**

## County Committee Voting Begins

### 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

Ballots for this year’s county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 4, 2011. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on Dec. 5, 2011. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight Dec. 5, 2011.

The candidate is:

Ruth Cundall is nominated in LAA #1, Platte County, to serve as a committee member. Cundall resides in the Glendo Area and ranches with her husband.

She is an active member of the Platte County FSA Office and serves as COC Minority Advisor.

Eligible voters in local administrative area #1 who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

**Voter Requirements** - Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, are eligible to vote:

**1.** Legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as any of the following: an individual, an authorized representative of an entity, spouses when property is owned jointly or in community property states.

**2.** Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.

**3.** Participates or cooperates in any FSA program that is provided by law.

Watch your mailbox for the official county office committee election ballot starting early in November. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters starting Nov. 4, 2011. If for some reason you don’t receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office.

Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on Dec. 5, 2011.

Ballots will be counted on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 11:00 A.M. at the COC meeting.

## FSA 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 30 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.

Both programs require a Notice of Loss to be filed by the earliest of:

- 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent to the participant (LIP or ELAP) or
- October 31, 2011 (ELAP only)

A signed application for payment for LIP and ELAP must be received no later than January 31, 2012.

### **NRCS Assistance**

NRCS would like to inform any producer who has recently had any grazing land or pasture effected by fire that these lands could qualify for EQIP or WHIP programs. The deadline to sign up for these programs is **December 1, 2011**. Anybody interested must meet the AGI requirements of the Farm Bill and have at least \$1,000 of Agriculture commodities sold. If you have any questions about these programs or any general questions about any resource concerns give Bailey Rapp, District Conservationist for NRCS a call. He can be reached at **307-322-9060 ext 118** or just stop by the office.

### **Emergency Conservation (ECP)**

Platte County has been approved to take applications for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) for Fencing. Those producers who have lost fences because of fires or flooding for the 2011 crop year may apply for cost share assistant. The sign up for the ECP program will start on **October 17<sup>th</sup> and run through November 16<sup>th</sup> 2011**. You may contact the Platte County FSA Office by stopping in at 1502 Progress Court or by calling the office at **307-322-4050**.

### **Dates for NAP Coverage for 2012**

For biennial and perennial forage crops regardless of intended use, the application closing date shall be December 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011**.

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

### **Reporting Actual NAP production for 2011 APH Yields**

Producers that have harvested forage crops may bring their production evidence into the county office to update production records for the NAP APH Yields. Producers have until July 1<sup>st</sup> to report their previous years production, but may come into the county office anytime after they have harvested and report their production.

### **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.

### **USDA Announces Disaster Assistance Sign up for 2010 Crop Losses**

(Casper, WY) – **October 25, 2011** – WY USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Program Specialist Todd Even today announced that the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program enrollment for 2010 crop year losses begins **November 14, 2011**.

"The SURE program provides a safety net of assistance to producers when disaster strikes, so I encourage Wyoming farmers and ranchers with 2010 crop losses to contact their county FSA office to learn more about the program," said Even.

There are two basic qualification methods for a SURE payment. In the first method, the producer's operation must be located in a county that was declared a 2010 disaster county by the USDA Secretary or in a contiguous county and the natural disaster must have caused at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance in the operation. In the second method, all producers in all counties are eligible for SURE benefits if they had a production loss equal to or greater than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to any qualifying natural disaster.

The following counties received a disaster designation or were contiguous during 2010: Albany, Carbon, Converse, Fremont, Hot Springs, Laramie, Natrona, Park, Sweetwater, Sublette, Teton, and Washakie.

Further eligibility requirements include the stipulation that producers must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for all insurable crops through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. For crops without insurance programs, Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage must have been obtained from FSA. Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of a socially disadvantaged, limited resource or beginning farmer or rancher do not have to meet this risk-management requirement. Forage crops intended for grazing are not eligible for SURE benefits.

For more information on SURE program eligibility requirements contact your nearest county FSA office or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/sure](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure).

## **2012 DCP/ACRE Signup**

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment begins Jan. 23, 2012 and ends June 1, 2012.

Here are IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- 1) All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.
- 2) Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1<sup>st</sup> in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office such as:
  - Ownership changes
  - Producer changes (Individuals and Entities)
  - Change in crop shares arrangements
- 3) Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

## **Adjusted Gross Income Report to IRS – Act Now**

Producers are reminded they must submit an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) verification consent form (CCC-927 or CCC-928) to the IRS to maintain eligibility for 2010 and 2011 program benefits.

The consent form authorizes IRS to verify that a producer's AGI is within the requirements for FSA programs eligibility.

Producers who failed to file these forms before Sept. 2011 will receive a notice from the National Office that the producer is ineligible for 2010 and 2011 payments.

IRS requires written consent from all individuals or legal entities before verification of AGI eligibility can be provided to USDA. Individuals must submit form CCC-927 and legal entities must submit form CCC-928. Without these forms on file, eligible producers will not receive USDA program payments. For more information contact your local FSA office.

## **Making A Plan**

Producers on December 12-13 at the Parkway Plaza Hotel in Casper Wyoming, the Wyoming Agriculture Succession & Estate Transfer Workshop has been scheduled. The Wyoming Stock Growers Association has teamed up with Wyoming Department of Agriculture to offer a workshop. The workshop is to help Wyoming farm and ranch families Make A Plan for agriculture succession and estate transfer on their operations. The Issues are: Legal Issues, Relationship Issues, Financial Planning, Financial Partnerships and Transition Tools. You may contact the Platte County FSA Office for a Brochure or Phone (307)-638-3942, or you may Email: [kosha@wysga.org](mailto:kosha@wysga.org). or look on the WEB: [www.wysga.org](http://www.wysga.org).

# Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Funds are available for operating loans and to purchase or improve farms or ranches (ownership loans.)

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of socially disadvantaged applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is someone who has been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a member of a group, without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

**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.



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**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

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 <sup>st</sup>	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 Observe 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>

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