



PLATTE COUNTY NEWSLETTER

January 2012



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
Ruth Cundall

Staff

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

COC Meetings

January 12, 2012
March 15, 2012
June 16, 2012
September 20, 2012
November 15, 2012
December 13, 2012

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Ruth Cundall. Ruth was elected to represent farmers from Township 23/30 Range 65W/70W which includes the Glendo and Dwyer area to serve on the county committee. Ruth was elected to her first term. Other results for Local Administrative Area 1 are: Beverly Renee Smathers— 1st alternate to COC, Doug Derouchey— 2nd alternate to COC. FSA appreciates all of the eligible 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.

2012 DCP/ACRE Sign-up

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment will begin Jan. 23, 2012 and will end June 1, 2012. **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 1st in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office. This includes: Ownership changes: Producer changes (Individuals and Entities); Change in crop shares arrangements.

Note: Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

Get GovDelivery – Instant News, Updates

Farm Service Agency offices are adopting an instant delivery, electronic option. Producers can now enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and reminders via email, rather than costly paper copies delivered through the mail. FSA, like many other organizations, is working smarter and more efficiently. Conversion to electronic notifications via email helps conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers. Subscribe right now to receive your free e-mail updates instantly by going to www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The sign-up for recovery payment for 2010 losses under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) runs through **June 1, 2012**.

SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters and is available to eligible producers on:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, except grazed crops.
- Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm.
- **Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)**
- The noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date.
- Production records for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the acreage reporting date for the crop for the following year (**July 1st, 2012**). FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications. NAP Losses must be reported within 15 days of loss.
- Final Day to purchase NAP Policy for **Spring Seeded Crops is April 1st, 2012**.
- **Foreign Buyers Notification**
- The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report new holdings or their changes in holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.
- All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and 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 (FSA-153) 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.
- **IRS Form 1099-G**
- Producers annually receive their CCC-1099-G forms detailing payments producers have received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on the CCC-1099-G form is a service intended to help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producers' responsibilities to report income to IRS.
- FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy.
- **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.
- **Farming 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 you 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.

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

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.

Adjusted Gross Income Report to IRS – Act Now

Producers are reminded they must submit an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) verification consent form (CCC-931) to the IRS to maintain eligibility for 2009, 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 2009, 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 and legal entities must submit form CCC-931. Without these forms on file, eligible producers will not receive USDA program payments. For more information contact your local FSA office.

For the 2012 crop a new form CCC-931 will need to be completed to be eligible for Program Benefits, Please contact your local FSA Office to complete the new form.

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.

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

January 23 rd 2012	DCP/Acre Sign Up Begins
February 20 th 2012	Office Closed George Washington's Birthday
April 1 st Nap Application	Final Day to Purchase Nap Policy for Spring Seeded Crops
April	Producers May Report Acres For Fall Seeded Crops
July 1 st 2012 Final Crop Reporting	July 1 st 2012 Producer Final Day to Report Crops for the 2012 Crop Year.
July 1 st 2012 Final Day to Report Nap Yields	July 1 st 2012 Final Day for Producers to Report 2011 Production for NAP/APH Yields
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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