

July 2013



Platte County, WY FSA Updates

Platte County FSA Office
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
Dave Hinman
E. John Watson
Ruth Cundall

Staff

Mike Hofland, CED/DD
Dixie Mount, FLO
Mitzi Mudgett, PT
Joni Reyes, PT
Pammie Rapp, PT

FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

June 17 through Aug. 1, 2013 is the period for nominating farmers and ranchers as candidates for the local COC election. This year, Local Administrative Area 2 which is basically southern and east central Platte county is up for election. Currently, John Watson currently represents this Area on the County Committee. FSA encourages all eligible producers to nominate themselves, or another eligible producer, to run for office. Nomination forms (FSA-669A) are available:

- by picking one up at the County FSA Office,
- by calling the County Office and will send one to you, or,
- at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>, scroll down to the links
- under “Election Materials” and CLICK, “2013 Nomination Form”.

DCP/ACRE SIGNUP FOR 2013

2013 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment opened on Feb. 19, 2013 and closes on Aug. 2, 2013. ACRE sign-up period ended on June 3, 2013.

DCP BASE ACREAGE MAINTENANCE

Producers must protect land enrolled in DCP or the ACRE program from weeds, including noxious weeds, and erosion, including providing sufficient cover if determined necessary by the County Committee.

CRP WEED & PEST CONTROL

CRP participants are required to comply with Wyoming State noxious weed laws as determined by the County Weed & Pest. In addition, participants are required to control other weeds, insects, rodents, or other pests that pose a threat to existing cover or adversely impact other landowners in the area.

It's amazing how Russian Thistle can sprout and grow even as dry

as this year is. After the end of the primary nesting season, July 15, and before they blow, infestations need to be shredded. Failure to comply can result in penalties applied to the annual payment or termination of the contract.

Acreage Reports for 2013/2014 Crops

2013 and subsequent years' acreage reporting deadlines are:

- Spring seeded crops & CRP - July 15
- Perennial Forage, PRF, Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains - Nov 15

This means your 2014 perennial hay crops, winter wheat, and range reporting deadline is Nov. 15, 2013! And late-filed fees will apply to 2014 crops NOT timely filed!

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 can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers. Reporting Requirements for NAP Losses Affected by Disaster Conditions.

For those of you who obtained NAP policies for the 2013 crop year, be aware that loss claims must be timely filed in order to be eligible for payment. You must timely file a notification of loss every time you experience a loss event (such as hail, flood, etc.). This notification must be filed within 15 calendar days of the date the disaster condition occurred or damage to the crop became evident. In case of drought, loss would be evident not later than harvest and if not harvested, then by the end of the crop year. and definitely BEFORE you turn livestock out to graze it. If you expect to get paid, timely file your notification of loss! And then submit your actual production evidence so we can compute a payment.

APPRAISAL REQUIREMENTS for NAP

If you have NAP coverage on your grass hay or small grain hay and it has suffered a loss and you plan to graze some or all of those acres intended for hay, you need to have FSA appraise those acres BEFORE you turn livestock in. And we need a little advance notice to line up an appraiser. That means that producers will be required to contact the County Office before turning cattle on hay fields to be grazed. Appraisals will not be made until after the end of the normal haying season. If you need to turn cattle into hay fields before then, you need to contact the County Office to determine the number of representative sample areas to fence or panel off for later appraisal.

The same goes for millet grain. Before you destroy hay or graze a millet field covered by NAP, it must be appraised to be eligible for a payment. If not appraised, it will NOT be eligible for a payment. Even if the crop hasn't been disaster affected, you will want to have it appraised to maintain your production history.

CRP EMERGENCY HAYING & GRAZING

Platte county has been approved for emergency haying and grazing of CRP in 2013 by the Wyoming State FSA Committee.

1. First and foremost, the CRP participant must apply for this provision and be approved to do so prior to grazing the CRP. The participant will need to meet first with FSA for application and then with NRCS to complete a grazing plan.
2. Once approved, grazing can begin immediately. Grazing must end the sooner of when the grazing plan calls for, or September 30, 2013.
3. For grazing, at least 25% of each field or contiguous CRP field must be left ungrazed for wildlife; or, the participant may elect to graze at no more than 75% of the stocking rate, as determined by NRCS.
4. CRP annual payments will be reduced by 25% on the acres actually grazed.
5. CRP participants that do not own livestock are permitted to lease their CRP to an eligible livestock producer for this purpose. In these cases, the person leasing the CRP is required to review and sign paperwork with FSA before approval is made.

For more information, please contact this office.

COC Meetings

January 30, 2013

June 19, 2013

September 18, 2013

December 8, 2013

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).