

Sheridan – Johnson County FSA Office  
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Sheridan, WY 82801

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Toll Free Number:  
1-866-262-4396

FSA Office Personnel:

Tom Byrd, CED  
Linda Benzel, PT  
Janice Wheeler, PT

County Committee Members:

Celia Bolinger, Chairperson  
William White, Vice Chairperson  
Robert Belus  
Sanitiago Curuchet  
Juaquin Michelena



**Dates to Remember:**

**Feb. 16, 2009** – Office closed for President's Day

**Feb. 27, 2009** – Lamb Referendum deadline

**March 15, 2009** – Crop Insurance deadline for spring *insurable* crops

**April 1, 2009** – Last Day to enroll Spring Seeded *Non-insurable* NAP Crops.

**June 1, 2009** – DCP Signup Deadline



# Sheridan - Johnson

## FEBRUARY 2009

### COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to William White and Santiago Curuchet. William White was re-elected to serve as representative for Local Administrative Area #1, and Santiago Curuchet, was re-elected to serve as representative for Local Administrative Area # 5.

Our office staff would like to thank the election voters for taking time to complete the election ballot. The committee held their organization meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. For 2009 Celia Bolinger will serve as Committee Chairperson, William White will serve as Committee Vice Chairperson; and Robert Belus, Santiago Curuchet, and Juaquin Michelena will serve as regular members.

### **USDA Sets Date for Lamb Referendum**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced that it will offer lamb producers, feeders, and first handlers the opportunity to vote in a nationwide referendum on whether to continue or terminate the Lamb Promotion, Research, and Information Order, authorized under the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996. The referendum will be held Feb. 2, 2009 – Feb 27, 2009.

The referendum will be conducted at USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices. To be eligible to vote, persons must certify and provide documentation, such as a sales receipt or remittance form, which shows they have been engaged in the production, feeding, or slaughtering of lambs during the period, Jan. 1, 2008, through Dec. 31, 2009.

Beginning Feb. 2, 2009, and continuing through Feb. 27, 2009, persons eligible to vote should obtain form LS-86 from a county FSA office either in person, by mail, fax, or via the Internet at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsmarketingprograms>. The form must be returned or postmarked no later than Feb. 27, 2009.

**Foreign Buyers Notification:**

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of United States agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. FSA administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties up to 25% of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

**Foreign Person Rule:**

A foreign individual is someone who is not a citizen of the United States or a lawful alien possessing a valid Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551 or I-151). A foreign entity is a corporation, trust, estate, limited partnership, limited liability company, or other similar organization that has more than 10 percent of its beneficial interest held by individuals who are not citizens of the United States or lawful aliens possessing a valid Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551 or I-151). In addition to the requirements for "person" and "actively engaged in farming," the following significant contributions must be provided by an individual or entity considered to be a "foreign person." An individual determined to be a "foreign person" must provide a significant contribution of land, capital, and active personal labor.

Each foreign individual who is a member of an entity determined to be a "foreign person" must provide active personal labor to enable the entity to provide a significant contribution of active personal labor.

**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.

**Power of Attorney:**

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., we have a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information. If you want a crop loan, a power of attorney form will need to be completed for husband and wife, if both do not come into the office to sign the forms on the day the loan is disbursed.

**Change in Farming Operation or Address:**

Producers are reminded to notify this office to report change in address or ownership. This is vital to assist this office in keeping records.

**Change in Direct Deposit Account:**

The Debt Collection Act of 1996 mandates that payments from FSA be directly deposited into a producer's checking or savings bank account. It is important that any change in the producer's account such as type of account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

**Submission of Applications via E-Government:**

As required by the Freedom to E-File Act, USDA provides customers with the option to electronically access, fill out, and print paper forms and transmit those forms and other documents to their local Service Center. Customers may also obtain secure payment summary information. A secure website is offered. Log on to: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> to register for a Customer ID and password.

**Controlled Substance:**

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance may be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting, possessing or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium poppies and other drug producing plants.

**Under-Represented Groups:**

FSA solicits and accepts nominations of under-represented groups such as females and minority (American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander) producers for county committee representation.

**Spousal Signature**

A husband and wife may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) programs in which either has an individual interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office from either spouse. Exceptions include claim

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
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**Cash-rent Tenant:**

A cash-rent tenant rule applies to any producer that rents land from another producer for cash or a crop share guaranteed as the amount of the commodity to be paid in rent. The rule also applies to any producer who rents land for zero dollars or who farms the land in exchange for compensation other than cash, such as controlling weeds on land not owned, or barter arrangements. Any cash-rent tenant shall be ineligible to receive payment unless the cash-rent tenant makes a significant contribution of active personal labor to the farming operation; or a significant contribution of active personal management **and** a significant contribution of equipment. A cash-rent tenant must also meet all applicable requirements to be considered "actively engaged in farming."

**Youth Loans:**

Remember FSA makes operating loans to individual rural youths age 10 through 20 to establish and operate income producing projects. These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H Clubs, FFA, or a similar organization or with a vocational teacher or county extension agent. The project must be an organized and supervised program of work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. Contact your local FSA office for more details

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Make Sure Your Proper Signature Authorization is on File:**

The Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 required every federal agency to identify programs and activities susceptible to possible improper payments. As a result, FSA has been reviewing every producer's eligibility file to determine who is authorized to sign FSA program documents in representative capacities and if the signature format is proper. If you are contacted by your local FSA Office, you will be asked to provide copies of signed legal documents specific to your organization. The documents that may be requested to verify ownership interest as well as signature authority for the organization are identified as follows:

**Corporation:** Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, Corporate Resolutions, signed corporate meeting Minutes.

**Limited Liability Company:** Articles of Organization, Operating Agreement.

**Limited Liability partnership:** Partnership Agreement.

**General Partnership:** Partnership Agreement, IRS Form 1065 and applicable Schedule K-1.

**Trust:** Trust Agreement.

**Estate:** Last Will and Testament, Court Orders of Appointment containing the signature of an officer of the issuing court, Court-approved certificate or letter of administration containing the signature of an officer of an issuing court, **Joint**

**Venture:** IRS Form 1065 and applicable Schedule K-1

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or 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 for 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 of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."