



Sheridan - Johnson

JUNE 2009

Sheridan – Johnson County FSA
Office
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Sheridan, WY 82801

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FSA Office Personnel:

Tom Byrd, CED
Linda Benzel, PT
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County Committee Members:

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



Dates to Remember:

July 1, 2009 — Crop Acreage
Report Deadline

July 1, 2009 – Last day to file
Acreage Production

July 4, 2009 – Independence Day
– Office Closed

August 14, 2009 – DCP Signup
Deadline

August 14, 2009 – ACRE Signup
Deadline

CROP REPORT DEADLINE FAST APPROACHING!

Crop reports are required for participation in many FSA programs, such as DCP (crop base payment program), NAP (Non-insured Assistance Program), CRP (cropland and riparian areas set aside for habitat restoration and preservation), LDP commodity payments, and Disaster Program payments. The annual crop report, form FSA-578 Report of Acreage, must account for all rangeland and cropland on a farm, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage. For the 2009 crop year the deadline to file crop acreage reports is **July 1, 2009**. Crop reports filed after July 1st will be considered late-filed and subject to late-file fees.

To accommodate producers who must travel a greater distance, our office will mail crop reports when possible. For producers who receive appointment cards in the mail, if you are unable to make the scheduled appointment please contact our office staff to reschedule a time that is convenient.

NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

2008 crop production must be reported by **July 1, 2009** in order to be used for Actual Production History (APH) payment yield purposes for a crop covered by a NAP policy. Failure to timely report production can have an adverse impact on the overall crop yield history and payments.

If you have a loss on a covered NAP crop and wish to receive loss benefits from our office, you must file a notice of loss within 15 days of the earlier: 1) date of the disaster event that caused the loss or, 2) when the loss is apparent to you. A notice of loss must be filed for each weather-related event or adverse natural occurrence that causes damage to or loss of the specific crop. Failure to report crop damage or loss in a timely manner will result in ineligibility for Non-Insured Assistance Program payments.

For additional information, the NAP Basic Provisions Document is available for producers through the FSA web site located at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> Or information can be obtained at county FSA offices.

COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

County committee members are a critical component in the operations of our agency. Farmers and ranchers who serve on the committee help with the decisions necessary to administer government farm programs in their counties. They work to make FSA agriculture programs serve the needs of local producers by providing local input into commodity loans and LDP payments; local administration of conservation programs; and reviewing data and information used to establish yields, and loss levels for crop and livestock disaster programs that are specifically tailored to meet the needs of our local producers.

This year's election will be held for LAAs Local Administrative Areas number (2) & (4). LAA 2 correlates with school district 2 in Sheridan County, and LAA 4 is north of Township 44N and on the west side of I-90 and I-25 to the Sheridan County line.

Robert Belus is currently serving as LAA 2 representative to the county committee, and Celia A. Bolinger represents LAA 4 as Chairperson on the committee.

Committee members serve on the board for a three year term not to exceed 9 consecutive years. Producers who are residents in the LAA holding the election and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates.

The nomination form, FSA-669A, is available at the county office or may be downloaded from <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected. The completed nomination form must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Aug. 3, 2009 or postmarked by midnight Aug. 3, 2009.

The election of agricultural producers to FSA county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers - whether an operation is large or small. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the United States Department of Agriculture. If you or someone you know is interested in running for committee just call our office with any questions or comments that you might have and also to obtain a nomination form.

SIGNUP DATE EXTENDED FOR DCP AND ACRE PROGRAMS

The USDA has extended the sign-up deadline from June 1, to Aug. 14, 2009, for both the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and the forthcoming Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. This action gives producers additional time to make an educated decision about staying with DCP for 2009 or participating in ACRE for crop year 2009 and beyond to 2012.

The ACRE program provides eligible producers with a safety net if both farm and state revenue drops. The program targets planted and considered-planted covered commodity crops. For ACRE, the revenue calculations utilize national price figures as well as state and farm yields.

By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments, receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates. The decision to elect ACRE binds the farm to the program through the 2012 crop year.

Changes in Payment Limitations

The payment limitation provisions over the last 39 years have been expanded to more programs. Some of the changes in this area are listed below.

New forms for 2009 and subsequent years

Anyone that plans to participate in 2009 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 prior to 2009 was named CCC-502.

Another change for 2009, all must make a contribution in an entity

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.

Person or Legal Entity Payment Limitations	Limitation (in Dollars)
Program Payment Type	2009/ 2010/ 2011/20012
Commodity Programs	
Counter-cyclical and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE), except peanuts	65,000 <u>1/</u>
Counter-cyclical and Average ACRE payments on peanuts	65,000 <u>1/</u>
Direct payments on covered commodities except peanuts	40,000 <u>2/</u>
Direct payments on peanuts	40,000 <u>2/</u>
Conservation Programs	
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) annual rental payment.	50,000
Cost Conservation Stewardship Program (CSTP) for FY 2009-2012	200,000
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) FY 2009-2012	300,000
Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)	50,000
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)	50,000
Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)	50,000
Disaster Assistance Programs	
Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP); Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP); Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP); Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)	100,000
Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)	100,000
Tree Assistance Program (TAP)	100,000
Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP); Marketing Assistance Loans; Marketing loan gain (MLG)	No limits

Additional information on payment limitations is available at FSA county offices or on line at: www.fsa.usda.gov

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Important Dates to Remember

July 1, 2009	Crop Acreage Report deadline
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Online Services

Producers, if you have Internet access you can electronically log on, fill out and print a variety of FSA paper forms in the comfort of your home as your schedule allows. You can also register for secure electronic access that will allow you to electronically sign and transmit some forms directly to the county office staff. If you are new to the website, first you will want to obtain a Level 2 USDA Service Center Customer ID and password at: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> and then click on "Create an Account Page" link.

USDA eAuthentication is the system used by USDA agencies to enable customers to obtain accounts that will allow them to access USDA Web applications and services via the Internet. This includes things such as submitting forms electronically, filing eLDPs, completing DCP contracts, filling out surveys online, and checking the status of your USDA accounts.

If you already have a Customer ID and password, then click on the following eForms website at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainervlet> and then click on the "Sign In" button. A disclaimer window will open and after you read the "Warning message", click on the "Continue" button.

Then the USDA Web services page will open to the eAuthentication login page. Enter your login User ID and password and then click on the "Login" button. To sign and transmit forms electronically, you must sign-up and get a User ID and password.