



FARM SERVICE AGENCY

# Sheridan - Johnson

## July 2011

### Sheridan – Johnson County FSA Office

1949 Sugarland Drive, Suite 126  
Sheridan, WY 82801

(307)672-5846 Ext. 2

Toll Free Number:  
1-866-262-4396

### FSA Office Personnel:

Linda Benzel, Acting CED  
Janice Wheeler, PT

### County Committee Members:

William White, Chairperson  
Juaquin Michelena, Vice  
Chairperson  
Susan Moyes, Regular Member  
Santiago Curuchet, Regular  
Member  
Steve Schuette; Regular Member



### Dates to Remember:

**July 29** – Deadline to report  
pond/reservoir damage in Johnson  
County to Lake DeSmit Conserv.

**July 29** – 2009 SURE Program  
Signup Deadline

**August 1** – Deadline to return COC  
Nomination Form

**August 1** — Deadline to Request  
Farm Reconstitutions

**September 5** – Labor Day Holiday  
– Office Closed

### 2011 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION NOMINATIONS

Due to the importance of county committee members to the local agricultural industry, producers are encouraged to participate in the 2011 FSA county committee election process by nominating an eligible candidate by the August 1, 2011 deadline.

This year's election will be held for LAAs Local Administrative Areas number (1) & (5). William White is currently serving as LAA 1 Chairperson to the county committee, and Santiago Curuchet represents LAA 5 on the committee.

FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues.

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. FSA encourages beginning farmers or ranchers, women farmers or ranchers, and organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities to participate in the County Committee election process.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. This form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve on the committee if elected. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and online at:

[http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/fsa0669a\\_committeeelectform.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_committeeelectform.pdf)

Please note: Nomination forms for the 2011 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on August 1, 2011.

### **Non-Judicial Claims Process for Hispanic & Women Farmers & Ranchers**

If you believe that 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).

### 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 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.

### Successor-In-Interest

Many FSA programs will allow payments to be made to heirs or successors when a program participant passes away. Additionally, contracts in programs such as CRP must be revised to reflect the successor(s) to a deceased participant's interest.

In the event of an FSA program participant's death, it is important that FSA be notified. Entities and joint operations that participate in FSA programs also need to notify FSA if a shareholder or member passes away. FSA benefits are reported to IRS and maintaining current, accurate records about participants is vital to ensuring that those payments are reported correctly

### Compliance Spot Checks

Compliance spot checks will be conducted on 2011 crops. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for review, a nationwide selection of producers is employed. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc.

For more information about the spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local Farm Service Agency office for additional clarification.

### Sodbuster Regulations

Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs.

Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production.

If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates an area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage, before bringing land into production.

In addition, producers and the producer's affiliates have to file an AD-1026 with the staff in the administrative or control county office before any farm program payments can be made. The AD-1026 is the producer's signed certification that HELC, as well as wetland conservation, provisions will not be violated.

### Actively Engaged

USDA has amended the requirements of being 'actively engaged' in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE).

Normally the stockholder or a member of a legal entity **must** make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management for the farming operation. The contributions are to be performed on regular basis, must be identifiable, and separate from the contributions of others.

### Payment Limitations

Anyone that plans to participate in 2011 programs is required to submit a completed CCC-902, CCC-926, and CCC-901, if applicable, for payment eligibility and payment limitation purposes.

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 both to the farming operation.

## ATTENTION LANDOWNERS!!

The Wyoming Water Development Commission (WWDC) is working cooperatively with the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) in compiling information pertaining to stock water ponds/reservoirs that may have been affected by the recent flooding. If you have experienced damage to a stock water pond/reservoir in northern Johnson County, please contact the Lake DeSmet Conservation at 684-2526, ext. 3. The deadline to report is Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

### Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form 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.

### Measurement Service

Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty, or loss of eligibility. Farmers who would like to guarantee the accuracy of their crop plantings and land use acreages can make it official by using the FSA measurement service.

Producers must file a request with the county office staff and pay the cost of a field visit to have stake and referencing done on the farm. This measurement service uses digital imagery and where an on-site visit is not required, charges are reduced. Producers can request ortho-imagery and CLU covering their land (commonly referred to as a clip) at no charge, providing accurate acreage of an entire field.



## Needing Irrigation Management, Rangeland Management, Wildlife Habitat, Technical Assistance???

### LOCAL CONSERVATION FUNDS NOW AVAILABLE

LAKE DESMET CONSERVATION DISTRICT IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR  
NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION PROJECTS

APPLICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE  
621 WEST FETTERMAN  
BUFFALO WY 82834

**AUGUST 1, 2011**  
**APPLICATION DEADLINE**

#### GENERAL PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Lake DeSmet Conservation District's Natural Resource Cost Share program was created to financially assist landowners in addressing natural resource concerns that will make a positive difference on the land. The focus of the program is to implement priorities identified by the Local Work Group (LWG).

**All projects (Urban and Rural)** within Lake DeSmet Conservation District, as well as projects identified within the Clear Creek Level I Watershed Study are encouraged to apply.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE DISTRICT AT (307) 684-2526, EXT. 101**

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**FSA EMERGENCY LOAN PROGRAM**

A PRESIDENTIAL MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION HAS MADE MONTANA COUNTIES ELIGIBLE FOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE. FARMERS AND RANCHERS MAY QUALIFY FOR EMERGENCY LOANS BASED ON LOSSES CAUSED BY SEVERE STORMS OCCURRING ON APRIL 3, 8, 22, 26 AND 30, 2011; MAY 9-10, 18-21 AND 30, 2011; AND FLOODING RESULTING FROM THOSE STORMS BEGINNING ON APRIL 4, 2011 AND CONTINUING.

**BIG HORN, CAMPBELL, CROOK, PARK AND SHERIDAN** COUNTIES IN WYOMING ARE CONSIDERED CONTIGUOUS COUNTIES TO THE PRIMARY DESIGNATED MONTANA COUNTIES AND ARE THEREFORE, ALSO ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE.

TO QUALIFY FOR PRODUCTION LOSS LOANS, APPLICANTS MUST HAVE SUFFERED AT LEAST A 30 PERCENT LOSS OF THEIR NORMAL PRODUCTION PER ACRE OR NORMAL PER ANIMAL PRODUCTION. PRODUCTION LOSSES ARE CALCULATED FROM AN AVERAGE OF THE THREE YEARS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE DISASTER YEAR ANDY MAY BE MADE FOR AN AMOUNT UP TO 100% OF THE TOTAL ACTUAL CALCULATED PRODUCTION LOSS.

PHYSICAL LOSS LOAN APPLICANTS MUST HAVE SUFFERED SEVERE PHYSICAL LOSSES AFFECTING THE ABILITY OF THEIR OPERATION TO CONTINUE ON A REASONABLY SOUND BASIS. ALL APPLICANTS MUST HAVE SUFFICIENT EQUITY TO SECURE THE LOAN AND THE OPERATION MUST SHOW REPAYMENT ABILITY.

UNDER THE FSA EMERGENCY LOAN PROGRAM, THE AMOUNT AVAILABLE TO QUALIFIED PRODUCERS CANNOT EXCEED THE SUM OF THE PHYSICAL LOSS OR \$500,000 WHICHEVER IS LESS.

THE FSA INTEREST RATE IS THREE AND THREE FOURTHS PERCENT (3.75%), FOR THE ENTIRE AMOUNT OF THE LOAN. FSA EMERGENCY LOANS ARE AVAILABLE ONLY TO OPERATORS OF NOT LARGER THAN FAMILY SIZE FARMS AND OPERATORS UNABLE TO OBTAIN CREDIT ELSEWHERE.

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLYING FOR FSA LOANS UNDER THIS DISASTER DESIGNATION IS FEBRUARY 17, 2012. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, FARMERS AND RANCHERS LOCATED IN THE DESIGNATED COUNTIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTACT THEIR LOCAL FSA COUNTY OFFICE.