



# Sheridan - Johnson

## October 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:

**October 31, 2011** – LIP/ELAP

Notice of Loss Deadline

**November 4, 2011** – County  
Committee Election Ballots mailed

**November 11, 2011** – Veterans  
Day Holiday – Office Closed

**November 24, 2011** –  
Thanksgiving Holiday – Office  
Closed

**December 1, 2011** – NAP  
Application Signup Deadline

**December 5, 2011** – Deadline to  
return COC Ballots

**December 26, 2011** – Christmas  
Day Holiday Observed– Office  
Closed

## Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

**December 1, 2011** is the application deadline for the 2012 Non-Insurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program. NAP provides financial assistance to eligible producers affected by catastrophic crop losses due to natural disasters. FSA's NAP coverage is for non insurable crops not covered by RMA. The fee for NAP is \$250.00 per crop per county, with a county maximum of \$750.00. For producers with interest in multiple counties, the total fee cannot exceed \$1,875.00.

Continuous coverage reminder letters for the 2012 crop year have recently been mailed to 2011 NAP policy holders. Producers who have 2011 NAP policies may choose continuous coverage on the same crops for 2012. Continuous coverage does not require a new CCC-471, Application for Coverage, to be signed. A new application is only required if you are adding/removing a crop from your policy. Please mail or drop off your checks for continuous coverage to our county FSA office and we will process your 2012 application for coverage. Make checks payable to CCC (Commodity Credit Corporation).

### Attention NAP Participants ... Report your 2011 hay production NOW!

Production records for grass hay crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. We recommend producers submit 2011 production records as soon as harvest is complete. If you fail to report your production it could have an adverse impact on the overall crop yield history and payments.

Actual Production records should include bale count, average weight of bales, irrigation practice (NI, IR), field numbers to calculate acreage, and type of hay. **All production records need to be signed and dated by producer.** On request, our office will gladly prepare maps to assist in documenting production at time of harvest.

## 2011 DCP Final Payments

DCP payments for 2011 participants will be issued after Oct. 1, 2011. These payments will be deposited directly into participating producers' personal bank accounts. Producers who received an advance payment will be paid the balance they are due. Those who did not take an advance will be receiving their full payment amount. If there are any unearned payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the final Direct and Counter-cyclical Program payments you are about to receive.

## 2012 DCP and ACRE Sign-Up

Enrollment for the 2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) will begin **Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> and will continue through June 1, 2012**. Producers can make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or they can visit the county FSA office to complete their 2012 DCP contract.

For the 2012 crop year eligible producers will receive guaranteed direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. Payments are calculated using the base acres and payment yields established for the farm. There will be no advance direct payments for 2012.

The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. 2012 ACRE elections may be made any time before **June 1, 2012**.

## ***eNewsletters and eUpdates through GovDelivery!***

The Farm Service Agency is providing more cost-effective and resource-conserving options to deliver news, deadlines and bulletins. You have the option to receive information instantly and electronically from your state or local FSA office directly to your farm or ranch. Several states already have GovDelivery for news releases.

Take a look at your current state and county options for electronic delivery by visiting the FSA home page at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

## 2011 ELAP and LIP Signup

### Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The Livestock Indemnity Program provides assistance to livestock producers for livestock death losses in excess of their normal mortality loss.

To qualify for LIP, eligible losses must be the direct result of an adverse weather event which includes fatalities caused by hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat, and extreme cold. (Please note: drought is not considered an eligible adverse weather event).

For 2011 calendar year losses, livestock owners and contract growers who suffer a loss of livestock shall file a notice of loss the earlier of:

- 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent to the participant.
- **October 31, 2011**

An Application for Payment is completed on a calendar year basis and must be received in the county office no later than **January 31, 2012**.

### Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)

ELAP provides assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish that have losses because of disease, adverse weather or other conditions. Assistance is for losses not covered by other 2008 Farm Bill disaster programs (LFP, LIP, and SURE).

There are two parts to the ELAP application process:

1. A notice of loss
2. Application for payment

For 2011 calendar year losses, producers are required to file a Notice of Loss the earlier of:

- 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent to the participant.
- **October 31, 2011**

A signed Application for Payment must be received in the county office no later than **January 31, 2012**.



## 2012 CROP REPORTS

### NOTICE TO SHERIDAN & JOHNSON COUNTY PRODUCERS.....

Hold on to your hats – Crop Report Season is underway!

The deadline to file your 2012 Crop Report is **July 1, 2012**.

Acreage reports are required for participation in most FSA programs, and can mean a loss of program benefits if not timely filed.

This year our county office will be mailing appointment cards to producers and begin taking crop reports in **November**.

In an effort to eliminate additional travel, we will also be completing other FSA paperwork at this time.

- **NAP grass hay participants** – please bring your APH for any 2011 grass hay production.
- **Producers who had changes in land ownership** – please bring leases, legal descriptions and/or maps for identifying boundaries.

▶▶ Please Note: If you are unable to make your appointment, please call our office to reschedule a time that is more convenient for you.

### Hispanic and Women Farmers

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established.

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.

For additional information contact:

- **Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process:**

[www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov) or call 1-888-508-4429

- **Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation:**

[www.blackfarmercase.com](http://www.blackfarmercase.com) or call 1-866-950-5547

- **Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement:**

[www.IndianFarmClass.com](http://www.IndianFarmClass.com) or call 1-888-233-5506

### Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more that 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program **sponsored by FSA**
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size. Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

***Important Dates to Remember***

**October 31, 2011** – LIP/ELAP Notice of Loss Deadline  
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**November 11, 2011** – Veterans Day, Office Closed  
**November 24, 2011** – Thanksgiving Holiday – Office Closed  
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**December 5, 2011** – Completed and signed COC Election Ballots returned  
**December 26, 2011** – Christmas Day Holiday Observed– Office Closed

**COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**

Be watching your mailbox for your official county committee election ballot starting early next month. This year's election will be held for LAA Local Administrative Area number 1 in Sheridan County, and LAA Local Administrative Area 5, in Johnson County.

Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters on November 4, 2011. Completed and signed ballots must be returned to the county office or postmarked by the close of business on **December 5, 2011**. Newly elected members take office on January 1, 2012.

Santiago (Junior) Curuchet has served as representative to the Ag producers in our communities for the maximum of 9 years. His last day of service will be December 31, 2011.

Our office staff would like to extend our sincere thanks to Junior for the time and effort he provided as representative to our Agricultural communities. We will genuinely miss your presence at our county committee meetings.