

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

Johnson County Office Day:  
First Wednesday of each  
month.

Buffalo USDA Service Center  
621 Fetterman Street  
Buffalo, WY 82834  
(307) 684-2526 Ext. 104

FSA Office Personnel:

Linda Benzel, CED Trainee  
Janice Wheeler, PT

County Committee  
Members:

William White, Chairperson  
Juaquin Michelena, Vice  
Chairperson  
Susan Moyes, Regular Member  
Raymon Turk, Regular Member  
Steve Schuette; Regular  
Member

Dates to Remember:

- **November 15, 2012** –  
Crop Report Deadline
- **November 15, 2012** –Last  
day to report 2012 NAP  
hay production
- **December 1, 2012** –  
Deadline to apply for 2013  
NAP coverage
- **December 3, 2012** – Last  
day to return voted County  
Committee ballots to FSA  
County Office
- **January 2, 2013** – (or 30  
days after placement of  
colonies) Crop Report  
Deadline for Honey  
covered under NAP



## Sheridan - Johnson August 2012

### ►►► NEW CROP REPORT DEADLINES ◀◀◀ CROP YEAR 2013

The following are the *NEW 2013* Crop Acreage reporting dates for Wyoming:

- **November 15, 2012** – Apiculture, Perennial Forage, PRF, Fall Wheat (HRW) and all other Fall Seeded Small Grains, and native and tame pasture.
- **January 2, 2013** – Honey covered under NAP.
- **January 15, 2013** – Established Stand Alfalfa Seed, Fall Alfalfa Seed.
- **July 15, 2013** –Spring Alfalfa Seed, Spring Barley, Corn, Dry Beans, Forage Seeding, Millet, Spring Oats, Potatoes, Sugar Beets, Sunflowers, Spring Wheat, and all other crops.

Due to the reduction in the USDA budget, our FSA office will be unable to mail crop reports to producers as we have done in past years. Producers will need to visit the county FSA office to complete Acreage Reports and complete required program/eligibility paperwork.

We realize this may pose a hardship for those of you who must travel a greater distance. To eliminate additional travel we ask that producers who will be visiting the Sheridan area please give us a call in advance and stop by the office to complete the required paperwork.

To serve the Johnson County Ag producers, our staff will continue our office day in Buffalo on the first Wednesday of each month.

- **Wednesday, September 5, 2012**
- **Wednesday, October 3, 2012**
- **Wednesday, November 7, 2012**

To better serve the producers in the Kaycee area, we are also planning off-site visits to Kaycee.

- **Wednesday, September 12, 2012**
- **Wednesday, September 26, 2012.**

Please contact our FSA office if you wish to make an appointment for scheduled days listed above.

**Sheridan County FSA Toll-free Number: (307) 1-866-262-4396**

*Please bring new leases and/or renewed leases to your scheduled appointment.*

➤ **Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)**

**December 1, 2012** is the application deadline for the 2013 Non-Insurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program. NAP provides financial assistance to eligible producers affected by crop losses due to natural disasters. FSA's NAP coverage is for non insurable crops not covered by RMA. This includes rangeland coverage. The application service fee for NAP is \$250.00 per crop per county, with a county maximum of \$750.00. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1,875.00 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

➤ **Reporting Crop Losses for NAP**

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.

- *NAP producers in Sheridan and Johnson counties who were affected by this year's extreme drought conditions and wildfires are urged to contact our FSA office to insure they have a notice of loss on file.*

➤ **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)**

Sheridan County and Johnson County have been approved for the USDA Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) to assist producers in the restoration of permanent fences recently damaged by fire.

Application signup for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) will be **Wednesday, August 15, 2012 through September 13, 2012.**

*Please note: No funds are currently available for Sheridan and Johnson Counties. If funds become available, applications will be reviewed and prioritized by the FSA County Committee.*

➤ **Emergency Haying and Grazing of Conservation Reserve (CRP) Program Acres for 2012**

With prior FSA approval, emergency haying and grazing of CRP acreage may be authorized to provide relief to livestock producers in areas affected by a severe drought. Under this special determination, emergency haying is authorized to August 31, 2012. Emergency grazing is authorized until September 30, 2012.

➤ **Emergency Loan Program**

The Emergency Loan Program provides low-interest 2.25 percent loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought and other natural disasters. A secretarial, presidential, or FSA administrator's declaration is required. This designation makes all family-sized farm operators in primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for low interest emergency loans from FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. ***August 15, 2012 the USDA designated Sheridan and Johnson counties as primary natural disaster areas due to damages and losses caused by the combined effects of excessive heat, high winds, drought and wildfires.***

---

➤ Five disaster programs authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill expired on September 30, 2011. These programs include SURE; the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP); the Emergency Assistance for Livestock Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish (ELAP); The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP); and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). Production losses due to disasters occurring after Sept. 30, 2011 are not eligible for disaster program coverage.

---

►► Although it is uncertain what programs will be included in the new Farm Bill; our FSA office is encouraging producers who sustain losses due to natural disasters to accumulate records of their losses as they occur. Suggested documentation would include, but is not limited to:

- Receipts
- Photos of dead livestock
- Date of loss
- Description of cause of loss
- Inventory records
- Purchase records
- Bank or other loan documents
- Tax records
- Veterinarian records
- Rendering truck receipts

**New APH Deadline**  
**NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)**

2012 crop production must be reported by **November 15, 2012** in order to be used for 2013 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.

**USDA Farm Service Agency Notifications**

**Appeal Process** – After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree.

Generally, program participants have three choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

**FSA Signature Policy** – Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact your local FSA office.

**Power of Attorney** – For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has 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.

**IRS Form 1099-G** – Producers annually receive their CCC-1099-G forms detailing payments producers have received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on the CCC-1099-G form is a service intended to help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producers' responsibilities to report income to IRS.

FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy.

**Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged** – FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged groups. A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of a group.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

**Commodity Loans** – Commodity loans, also referred to as Marketing Assistance Loans, are available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for a loan — even if you regain beneficial interest.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans. The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity on certification.

**Maintaining Grain Quality** – Bins are ideally designed to hold a level volume of grain. When bins are overfilled and grain is heaped up, airflow is hindered and the chance of spoilage increases.

Producers who take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored grain as collateral should remember that they are responsible for maintaining the quality of the grain through the term of the loan.

**Unauthorized Grain Disposition** – If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producer's name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call FSA before you haul or use any grain under a commodity loan.



### ***Important Dates to Remember***

- **September 3, 2012** – Labor Day Holiday – Office Closed
- **October 8, 2012** – Columbus Day Holiday – Office Closed
- **November 5, 2012** – COC ballots mailed to producers
- **November 12, 2012** – Veterans Day Holiday – Office Closed
- **November 15, 2012** – Crop Report Deadline for Apiculture, Perennial Forage, PRF, Fall Wheat, and all other fall seeded Small Grains, and Native and Tame Pasture.
- **November 15, 2012** – Last day to report 2012 NAP hay production
- **November 22, 2012** – Thanksgiving Day Holiday – Office Closed
- **December 1, 2012** – Deadline to apply for 2013 NAP coverage
- **December 3, 2012** – Last day to return voted County Committee ballots to FSA County Office
- **December 25, 2012** – Christmas Day Holiday – Office Closed
- **January 2, 2013** – (or 30 days after placement of colonies) Crop Report Deadline for Honey covered under NAP

#### ***COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS***

Producers in local Administrative Area 2 and 4 will be receiving ballots to elect their COC representative for the next 3 years. 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. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters on November 5, 2012 and must be returned, or postmarked, by **December 3, 2012**. Ballots will be counted December 10, 2012, and newly elected members will take office on January 1, 2013.

The election of agricultural producers to FSA county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. 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.

#### **Minority Farm Register – Now Open for Minority Farmers and Ranchers**

Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages minority farmers and ranchers in Wyoming to voluntarily join the USDA Minority Farm Register to receive information and opportunities from USDA agencies. The new Minority Farm Register is an outreach tool designed to reach underserved farmers and ranchers who are not currently enrolled in USDA loan, farm or conservation programs.”

By joining the Register, minority producers may receive outreach materials, newsletters, and program announcements from USDA agencies. They may also receive information and assistance from other USDA-approved outreach partners, such as community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, and minority-serving educational institutions. USDA will carefully control access to and use of the Register.

Registration forms are available in Spanish (AD-2035SP) and English (AD-2035) on the FSA web site [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) under “Forms”.