



Sheridan - Johnson November 2012

**Sheridan – Johnson County FSA
Office**
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FSA Office Personnel:

Linda Benzel, CED
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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 5, 2012 – County
Committee Election Ballots mailed
November 15, 2012 – New Crop
Report deadline for fall seeded Crops.
This deadline has been extended.
November 15, 2012 – Last day to
report 2012 NAP hay production –
This deadline has been extended.
November 22, 2012 – Thanksgiving
Holiday – Office Closed
**November 27, 2012 to January 25,
2013** – ECP Signup
December 1, 2012 – NAP Application
Signup Deadline
December 3, 2012 – Deadline to
return COC Ballots
December 25, 2012 – Christmas Day
Holiday – Office Closed
January 1, 2013 – New Year's Day
Holiday – Office Closed

Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

Monday, December 3, 2012 is the application deadline for the 2013 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 2013 crop year have recently been mailed to 2012 NAP policy holders. Producers who have 2012 NAP policies may choose continuous coverage on the same crops for 2013. 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 2013 application for coverage. Make checks payable to CCC (Commodity Credit Corporation).

►► 2012 NAP Payments ◀◀

The FSA County Committee established a 75% county-wide loss for Sheridan County and 85% county-wide loss for Johnson County. Producers who had 2012 NAP coverage and reported their losses will be issued payments based on these percent of loss.

►► New NAP Requirements ◀◀

Prior to issuing NAP payments producers will need to provide our office with signed copies of the following:

- BLM grazing permit/lease and final bill or invoice
- Forest Service grazing permit/lease and final bill or invoice
- State land lease and State land subleases
- Private Leases.

Attention NAP Participants ...

Report your 2012 hay production NOW!

The November 15th deadline for reporting 2012 NAP hay production has been extended. 2012 grass hay crops need to be filed with our office by **July 15, 2013**. We recommend producers submit 2012 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.

County Committee Elections*Be watching your mailbox----*

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**. Newly elected members will take office on January 1, 2013.

2012 Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) for Drought*Attention Sheridan and Johnson County Producers ●●●●●*

Drought assistance for livestock producers in Sheridan and Johnson counties has been approved for **ECP**. Producers who have experienced the loss of adequate water resources due to the effects of severe drought conditions may be eligible for cost share assistance under the Emergency Conservation Program. The signup period to request ECP assistance is scheduled to begin on **November 27, 2012** with a signup deadline of **January 25, 2013**.

Some examples of eligible cost-share practices pertaining to drought conditions are water hauling to livestock, well drilling, pumps, pipeline and/or tanks to provide water to livestock. ECP for drought has special provisions in place:

- Practices may begin no more than 60 days prior to ECP approval. For Sheridan & Johnson County this means that practices that began before September 27, 2012 will not be eligible for cost-share assistance.
- Cost-share may not be approved for more than 60 days.

To file an application you will need to know:

Water Hauling:

1. Number of livestock hauled
2. Number of miles roundtrip
3. Dates hauled, frequency of trips
4. Number of gallons hauled in a normal year

Wells, pumps, pipelines, tanks:

1. Number of wells and estimated depth
2. Number of pumps, 220 vs. solar
3. Number of tanks and estimated size
4. Feet of pipeline, buried or above ground
5. Any other measures requested

Please Note: Filing an application **doesn't** guarantee cost-share assistance. Cost-share assistance will depend on approval and funding granted. The maximum cost-share that is allowed under ECP program provisions is 75% for temporary measures and 50% for permanent measures, not to exceed a predetermined rate (set by County Committee and/or State Committee).



ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINE FOR 2013 FALL CROPS HAS BEEN EXTENDED

November 15, 2012 is the deadline for timely reporting the following crops:

- Apiculture, Perennial Forage, PRF, Native and Tame Pasture, Fall Wheat (HRW) and all other Fall-Seeded small grains.

►► Normally producers filing crop reports after the acreage reporting deadline are charged a late-filed fee. This year because of the delay in announcing new farm bill provisions, the deadline for reporting fall crops has been extended. *For the 2013 crop year **ONLY**, there will be no late-filed acreage reporting fees for reports filed after the November 15th deadline.*

If you have not filed your 2013 crop report for fall seeded and perennial crops, please give our office a call to set up an appointment.

2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance

Program Applications ► The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will continue to accept SURE applications for 2011 crop losses through June 7, 2013. To be eligible for 2011 SURE, you must have suffered weather related crop losses during crop year 2011.

To be eligible for the 2011 SURE Program, producers must have purchased crop insurance on all insurable crops. For crops that are not covered by crop insurance such as pumpkins and cucumbers, producers must have purchased Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage at FSA.

The SURE program takes into consideration all crops grown by a producer nationwide. Producers with a farming interest physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. If there is no Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may also be eligible for SURE if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster.

Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period

► USDA has announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between Sept. 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their applications for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000.

Call center representatives can be reached at 1-888-508-4429. Claimants must register for a claims package (by calling the number or visiting the website) and the claims package will be mailed to claimants. All those interested in learning more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages are encouraged to contact the website or claims telephone number.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Claims Period: Sept. 24, 2012 - March 25, 2013.

Selling Land ► If you plan on selling farmland, you should be aware of several consequences associated with FSA programs. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't continue the CRP contract, you may be required to refund all of the payments you've received to date. Reviewing program implications with your local Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.

FSA Signature Policy ► Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

IRS 1099 Changes

In past years, IRS Forms 1099G would be issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount.

Starting with calendar year 2012, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA are less than \$600 will not receive IRS Form 1099-G. Also producers who receive payments from more than one county will only receive the Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Important Dates to Remember

November 15, 2012 – New Crop Report Deadline for fall seed crops (*This deadline has been extended*)
November 15, 2012–Last day to report 2012 NAP hay production
November 22, 2012–Thanksgiving Holiday – Office Closed
November 27, 2012 to January 25, 2013 - ECP Application Signup Deadline
December 1, 2012 – NAP purchase deadline for 2013
December 3, 2012 –Completed and signed COC Election Ballots returned
December 25, 2012 – Christmas Day Holiday – Office Closed
January 1, 2013 – New Year’s Day Holiday – Office Closed

NRCS EQIP SIGNUP DEADLINE

EQIP signup deadline for 2013 funding is December 21, 2012. FSA Eligibility must be complete and up to date by January 1, 2013 for 2013 consideration. Please contact the Sheridan County USDA Service Center at (307) 672-5846 if you have questions.

Increased Guaranteed Loan Limit

The Farm Service Agency has announced that the loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program will increase to \$1,302,000 on Oct. 1, 2012. The limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The lending limit increases every year according to an inflation index. The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness will also increase to \$1,602,000.

As a reminder, the one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed Farm Ownership and Operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan.

Producers should contact their local FSA County Offices with questions about farm loans.