



United States Department of Agriculture

MAY 2013

Sheridan – Johnson County FSA Office
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Johnson County Office Day: First
Wednesday of each month.

Buffalo USDA Service Center
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FSA Office Personnel:
Linda Benzel, CED
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:

May 27, 2013 – Memorial Day
Holiday. County Office closed
May 20th to June 14, 2013 – CRP
General Sign-up
June 3, 2013 – 2013 ACRE Sign-
up period ends
July 4, 2013 – Independence Day
Holiday – Office Closed
July 15, 2013 – 2013 Spring
Planted Crop Acreage Reporting
Deadline.
July 15, 2013– **NAP Production**
deadline for 2012 hay crop.
August 2, 2013 – 2013 DCP Sign-
up period ends

Attention Sheridan-Johnson County Producers •••••

Due to budget constraints our county FSA office will no longer be mailing future newsletters to producers. In order to keep you timely informed of upcoming events, producers are being asked to provide their email address to receive newsletters and other reminders by email. The emails that you provide will be added to our electronic news system, GovDelivery.

Copies of Newsletters will also be available at our county FSA office, the Johnson County NRCS building in Buffalo, and at the Powder River Conservation District office at Kaycee.

2013 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Nomination for candidates for this year's County Committee election will be held for LAA Local Administrative Area number 3 and will be accepted June 3 through August 3, 2013. LAA 3 correlates with school district 3 in Sheridan County and in Johnson County lies north of Township 44N, on the East side of I-90 and I-25 to the Campbell County line. Juaquin Michelina is currently serving his third term as LAA 3 representative to the county committee.

Farmers and ranchers who serve on the committee help with the decisions necessary to administer government farm programs in their counties. Members provide local input and 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.

The nomination form (FSA-669A) is available at our county FSA office or may be obtained online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>. To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected.

2013 DCP Signup Period

FSA began sign-ups for DCP and ACRE for the 2013 crops on Feb. 19, 2013. The DCP sign-up period will end on Aug. 2, 2013; and the ACRE sign-up period will end on June 3, 2013.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2012 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. Compliance requirements remain the same as in previous years regarding weed control on contract acres. As in 2012 there will be no advance payments.

45th CRP General Sign-Up

USDA WILL CONDUCT A FOUR-WEEK GENERAL SIGN-UP FOR THE Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), beginning May 20 and ending on June 14, 2013. CRP protects the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities acre across the United States.

2013 Non-Insurable Assistance Program

- To remain eligible for NAP, a producer must annually report the crop, including: type, variety, location, producer shares, date planted, and the intended use (haying, grazing etc.).
- Once the crop is harvested, the production must also be reported. 2012 hay crop production needs to be filed by **July 15, 2013** in order to be used for payment yield purposed for 2013
- In the event of a crop failure caused by natural disaster, the producer needs to notify the local FSA office by completing a "Notice of Loss" (form CCC-576). The notice of loss must be executed within 15 days of the date the damage became apparent.

Crop reporting season is fast approaching. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. Crop reports are required for DCP contract payments, CRP payments, NAP crop loss payments, and Disaster Program payments.

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. *Our office will soon be mailing appointment cards. If you receive an appointment card and need to reschedule a different time or date, please call our office.*

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

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.

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

►►► NEW 2014 ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINES ◀◀◀

Native Range, Apiculture, Perennial Forage, PRF, Fall Wheat and all other Fall Seeded Small Grains	November 15, 2013
Honey	January 2, 2014
Established Stand Alfalfa Seed, Fall Alfalfa Seed	January 15, 2014
Spring Alfalfa Seed, Spring Barley, Corn, Dry Beans, Forage Seeding, Millet, Spring Oats, Potatoes, Sugar Beets, Sunflowers, Spring Wheat, and all other crops	July 15, 2014

Please note: For crop year 2013 only, the November 15th deadline has been extended to July 15, 2013. There will be no late filed fees charged for 2013 crop reports filed by the extended deadline.

Over the Counter Channel (OTCnet)

FSA/CCC is moving toward OTCnet, an electronic method for processing customer check payments. When a check is submitted for payment either in person or through the mail, the check will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt. Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information.

<http://fms.treas.gov/otcnet/legal.html>

What is OTCnet?

OTCnet is a Web-based online application process for converting paper checks presented to FSA into electronic debits to the producer's bank account. It presents many benefits, such as reducing lost/misplaced checks and paper handling. This improves customer relations, speeds the check clearing process, and reduces the potential for human error.

How will my check be handled?

The check will be scanned into the system and voided. The customer will not receive the check back from FSA. FSA will hold checks for up to 14 calendar days to ensure that the item was successfully processed, and then FSA will shred the check.

How quickly will funds be transferred from my account?

The transfer of funds from your account could occur within 24 hours. Therefore, you should be sure that you have sufficient funds in your account to process the transaction. If you do **not** have sufficient funds, we may initiate the transaction again.

How will this transaction appear on my account statement?

The transfer of funds will be reflected on your account statement. The transaction may be recorded in a different place on your statement than where your checks normally appear, such as under "other withdrawals" or "other transactions".

What are my rights if there is a problem with the transaction?

You have protections under Federal law for an unauthorized electronic fund transfer from your account. You should contact your financial institution immediately if you believe that the transaction reported on your account statement was not properly authorized or is otherwise incorrect.

MILC Program Extended

Dairy producers enrolled in the Milk Income Loss Contract program (MILC) will have their contracts automatically extended through Sept. 30, 2013. There is no need to re-enroll in the program.

The production start month previously selected by an operation is applicable for FY 2013. Starting March 1, 2013, all production start month changes must be made according to normal start month selection provisions.

Normal start month provisions: Changes must be made on or before the 14th day of the month before the selected MILC production start month, except as otherwise provided during the applicable sign-up phase. A dairy operation cannot select a MILC production start month for any month that has already begun, except as otherwise provided; has already ended or; milk was not produced by the dairy operation.

Please call the FSA office and make an appointment if you decide to make changes.

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1949 Sugarland Drive, Suite 126
Sheridan, WY 82801-5720

Important Dates to Remember

- **May 27, 2013** – Memorial Day Holiday – County Office Closed
- **May 20th to June 14, 2013** – CRP General Sign-up
- **June 3, 2013** – 2013 ACRE Sign-up period ends
- **June 7, 2013** – 2011 SURE application deadline
- **July 4, 2013** – Independence Holiday – County Office Closed
- **July 15, 2013** – 2013 Spring Planted Crop Acreage Report Deadlin.
- **July 15, 2013** – 2012 Production Deadline for crops covered under 2013 NAP
- **August 2, 2013** – 2013 DCP Sign-up period ends

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“Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities and wish to file either an EEO or program complaint, please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish). Persons with disabilities, who wish to file a program complaint, please see information above on how to contact us by mail directly or by email. If you require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) please contact USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).”

“If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/compliant_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866)632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or e-mail at program.intake@usda.gov.”

