

September 2013



September News Items

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Sheridan- Johnson County FSA Updates

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

866-574-1670 fax

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Johnson County Office Day:
First Wednesday of each
month.

Buffalo USDA Service Center
621 Fetterman Street
Buffalo, WY 82834

(307) 684-2526 Ext. 2

County Committee Members:
William White, Chairperson
Juaquin Michelena,
ViceChairperson
Susan Moyes, Regular Member
Raymon Turk, Regular Member
Steve Schuette, Regular
Member.

County Executive Director:

Attention ECP SIGNUP BEGINS for Johnson County Producers

Farmers and ranchers who experienced extreme damage to farmlands due to flash floods may be eligible for assistance from the USDA Emergency Conservation Program. ECP provides emergency funding and technical assistance for repair of farmlands damaged by natural disasters. Some examples of eligible ECP cost share assistance for flood damage includes:

- Removal of debris from farmland
- Restoring of permanent fences
- Grading, shaping, releveling or similar measures.
- Restoring Conservation Structures and other installations.

Applications will be taken at the Sheridan County USDA Service Center from Sept. 1, 2013 thru Sept. 30, 2013.

Please note: Although a signup period has been opened, no word of funding has been received at this time. ECP is subject to funding availability.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Be watching your mailbox for your official county committee election ballot starting early November. This year's election will be held for LAA Local Administrative Area number 3.

Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters on November 4, 2013. Completed and signed ballots must be returned to the county office or postmarked by the close of business on **December 2, 2013**. Newly elected members take office on January 1, 2014.

2014 Crop Report Deadlines

Ø **November 15, 2013** – Apiculture, Perennial Forage, PRF, Fall Wheat (HRW) and all other

Linda Benzel

Fall Seeded Small Grains, and native and tame pasture.

Program Technician:
Janice Wheeler

Ø **January 2, 2014** – Honey covered under NAP.

Farm Loan Manager:
Rob Weppner

Ø **January 15, 2014** – Established Stand Alfalfa Seed, Fall Alfalfa Seed.

Phone:307-682-8843

Ø **July 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.

Next County Committee Meeting: Dec. 5, 2013 at 1:00pm

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.

Filing for NAP Losses

Form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

December 1, 2013 is the application deadline for the 2014 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.

Please Note: Continuous coverage reminder letters for the 2014 crop year will soon be mailed to 2013 NAP policy holders. Producers who have 2013 NAP policies may choose continuous coverage on the same crops for 2014. 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 2014 application for coverage. Make checks payable to CCC, (Commodity Credit Corporation).

FSA NOTIFICATIONS

Highly Erodible Lands and Wetland Compliance

Producers participating in most programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are required to abide by certain stipulations on any land owned or farmed that is highly erodible or that is considered a wetland.

To be in compliance with the highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions, producers must agree, that they **will not**:

- Produce an agricultural commodity on highly erodible land without a conservation system;
- Plant an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland;
- Convert a wetland to make possible the production of an agricultural commodity.

Producers must notify the FSA and update Form AD-1026 if they plan to remove fence rows, convert woodlots to cropland, combine crop fields, divide a crop field into two or more fields, install new drainage, or improve or modify existing drainage. FSA will notify NRCS who will then provide highly erodible land or wetland technical determinations.

To get additional information on highly erodible land and wetland conservation compliance contact the FSA office or the NRCS office at a local USDA Service Center. Additional information about conservation programs offered by FSA can be found online at

www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation, and information on NRCS programs can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>.

Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000. Loans are available for youths 10 years to 20 years of age.

For additional information please contact your county FSA office.

Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. To maintain efficient payment processing, it is critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make with your financial institutions.

If you have made changes to accounts or have changed banking institutions, these changes might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments. When changes like these are made, be sure to contact the FSA county office so we can update our records to ensure efficient and uninterrupted service.

Preventing Fraud

The Farm Service Agency supports the Risk Management Agency in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will continue to refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA.

Producers can report suspected cases to the FSA office, RMA, or the Office of the Inspector General.

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 to purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, FSA has provided priority funding for socially disadvantaged applicants.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that allows producers to designate another person to conduct business at the office. If interested, contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office for more information.

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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.

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.

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into a bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office when an account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases the bank where payments are sent. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to bank accounts and bank routing numbers.

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Drought Contingency Workshops for USFS and BLM Permittees

The Wyoming Department of Agriculture will be hosting a series of workshops across the state to help USFS and BLM permittees develop drought contingency plans for their grazing permits.

The goals of the workshops are to help participants understand the role drought contingency plans play with respect to their grazing permit, and the importance of developing a plan. Participants will also learn about improving dialogue with federal agencies; and better understand the financial impacts of proactive planning for drought.

Workshop Dates (all programs run from 2:00 – 5:30pm.)

- Sept 24th: Rawlins – Carbon County Library
- Sept. 26th: Douglas – Wyoming State Fairgrounds
- Oct. 1st: Buffalo – Johnson County Library
- Oct. 2nd: Sundance – Crook County Library
- Oct. 15th: Worland – Worland Community Center
- Oct. 16th: Lander – Fremont County Library
- Oct. 22nd: Pinedale – Sublette County Library
- Oct. 23rd: Kemmerer – Lincoln County Library

More information about the workshops is available on the WDA website at:

<http://wyagric.state.wy.us/divisions/nrp/mediation-program/drought-workshops>.

Please contact Lucy Pauley by phone (307) 777-8788 or email lucy.pauley@wyo.gov.

Dates to Remember

Sept. 30 - ECP Signup Deadline for Flood Damage

Oct. 14 - Columbus Day Holiday – Office Closed

Nov. 4 - COC Ballots Mailed to Eligible Voters

Nov. 11 - Veterans Day Holiday – Office Closed

Nov. 15 - Crop Report Deadline for – Apiculture, Perennial Forage, PRF, Fall Wheat (HRW) and all other Fall Seeded Small Grains, and native and tame pasture.

Nov. 28 - Thanks Giving Day Holiday – Office Closed

Dec. 1 - NAP Signup Ends

Dec. 2 - Last Day to Return COC Ballots

Jan. 1, 2014 - Newly elected County Committee Members take office

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).