

October 2013



NEWSLETTER



Sweetwater/Sublette County FSA Updates

Sweetwater/Sublette County FSA Office

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**Next County Committee
Meeting:** Undetermined

2014 Crop Reporting

Crop reporting deadlines have changed for FSA program purposes due to Congressional direction.

All fall-seeded and perennial crops are to be reported to FSA no later than November 15 of the preceding calendar year. For example, 2014 perennial crops should be reported to FSA no later than November 15, 2013. Spring-seeded crops must be reported to FSA by July 15 of the crop year.

We will schedule sign-up days in Pinedale, Big Piney, Farson and McKinnon, so keep an eye out for your appointment card in the mail. Please call the office if your appointment time and/or date needs to be changed.

Filing for NAP Losses

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting. It may be completed by any producer with an interest in the covered 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), you must file a CCC-576 in the County FSA Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

Even if you believe your losses are less than 50%, you can still file a notice of loss as there may be other programs available to provide loss assistance, at a later date.

NAP Appraisals

If you have hay fields that are not productive enough to hay due to drought, please notify the County Office before you turn livestock out to graze them. We will get an appraisal on the hay losses to calculate your NAP payment eligibility.

NAP Hay Policyholders - Report Your 2013 Production

Customers who have purchased hay policies through NAP must report 2013 production, including bale count, average bale weight, signature and date, no later than July 15, 2014. After submitting your production evidence, we will have to complete FSA-452, requiring your signature.

If you have filed for a NAP hay loss, please report your production ASAP so that the County Office can process your application, be approved by the Committee and issue payments more quickly.

2013 Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) for Drought

Sweetwater and Sublette Counties are approved for water hauling (EC7) and well drilling (EC6) at this time; however, the program is **NOT** funded. This means that filing an application **does not** guarantee cost-share assistance. Application sign-up period is **October 1, 2013 to November 15, 2013**. Please contact the Office for more information.

Water Hauling: National Office has implemented interim rules for water hauling. Please be aware of the following policies that differ from last year's program.

- Cost-share will be limited to 50% of actual cost not to exceed a specified rate for all temporary practices and 75% for permanent practices.
- Water hauling will be calculated as 50% of actual cost not to exceed \$0.02 per gallon of calculated water needs. Water needs will be calculated on expected consumption per 1000 pound live animal weight.

Beef	18 gallons/day/1000 lbs
Sheep/Goats	20 gallons/day/1000 lbs
Horses	10 gallons/day/1000 lbs

Cost-share assistance will not be approved for the following circumstances:

- If water has been hauled to a specific ("field, pasture" etc) 3 of the last 10 years (independent of receiving cost-share)
- Water hauling that may be needed in the future is not eligible, if you believe you will need to haul water to fall pasture due to drought in the summer, it will no longer be eligible for cost-share under the interim rule.
- Water must have been available previous to the drought. If you are hauling water to utilize pasture that you don't normally because of the lack of water, water hauling will not be eligible for cost-share.
- Water hauled to earthen pits, reservoirs etc are not eligible for cost-share.
- Water hauled prior to July 1, 2013 is not eligible for cost-share.

Well Drilling: Well drilling practices are also available for cost-share assistance under 2013 ECP for drought. Eligibility requirements include, but are not limited to:

- Must have had adequate livestock watering system prior to the drought
- Eligible components can include: installing pipe to another water source, water storage tanks/troughs, drilling or deepening wells, permanently installed submersible pumps, solar panels.
- Water facilities primarily for barns, corrals, recreations and/or headquarters are not eligible for cost-share assistance.
- Practices must be maintained for 10 years.
- Cost-share rate for permanent practices is 75% of actual costs, not to exceed a pre-specified \$ per unit.

Please remember that filing an application **does not** guarantee cost-share assistance. Application sign-up period is **October 1, 2013 to November 15, 2013**. Please contact the Office for more information.

Stay In Touch!

Remember to call your County Office if you are experiencing anything that isn't "normal" such as drought, heavy snow/rain, extreme heat/cold, higher than normal livestock death loss, higher than normal feed purchases etc. In many cases there is a limited amount of time for you to report these losses to the County Office to be considered to have a timely filed notice of loss. Remember....we don't know if you don't tell us!

Farmers & Ranchers Serving Farmers & Ranchers

The election of responsible agricultural producers to FSA county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers with large or small operations. It is important that every eligible producer take part in this election because county committees are a

direct link between the farm community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on committees help decide the kind of programs their counties will offer. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

2013 Elections will be held in 1 Local Administrative Areas (LAA). LAA #2 in Sweetwater County is currently represented by Jim Hodder; this area is north of I-80.

November 4 - Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters

December 2 - Ballots must be returned (or postmarked) to the County Office

December 13 - Deadline to count ballots - open to the public

Drought Contingency Plan Workshops for USFS/BLM Permittees

The WY Dept of Ag will host a series of workshops across the state to help permittees develop drought contingency plans for their grazing permits. The workshops are designed to help participants understand the role of drought contingency plans play with respect to their grazing permit and the importance of developing a plan. There will also be a focus on improving dialogue with federal agencies and developing a better understanding of the financial impacts of proactive planning for drought by comparing cost-savings of a contingency plan to costs for emergency feed, transportation and more.

Workshops are from 2 – 5:30 pm. Workshops in our area are as follows: **October 22: Pinedale – Sublette County Library & October 23: Kemmerer – Lincoln County Library**

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).