

December 2013



County Committee Election
Payment Reductions Due to Sequester
Email Addresses Requested
What is OCTNet
Farm Storage Facility Loans
Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)
Increased Guaranteed Loan Limits
2014 Crop Acreage Reporting (CARS) Deadline Dates
Dates to Remember

FSA - Newsletter - Uinta County, WY

Farm Service Agency
<http://www.usda.gov>

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Phone: (307) 787-3859, Ext. 2
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Business Hours:
Monday thru Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Closed - Federal Holidays

COC Regular Meeting Date
Quarterly - Next Meeting is:
January 22, 2014 / 1:00 P.M.

**Uinta County FSA
Committee:**
J Wesley Lupher, Jr, Chairman
Aaron R Martin, Vice Chairman
Kirk L. Eyre, Member
I. L'nette Iorg, Advisor

County Executive Director:
Karey M. Clark

Program Technician:
Andrea L. Rollins

Farm Loan Manager:
Brian S. Harrell

New COC Election Ballots to be Mailed

New COC Election Ballots will be mailed to eligible producers in LAA#3 on December 20, 2013. The new ballot indicates they are "new" in several places including the outside of the mailing. Please carefully follow the directions to vote, sign and return an eligible ballot, to be counted.

The new (corrected) ballot must be returned to the Uinta County FSA Office or be postmarked by January 17, 2014. The official ballot count will be conducted on January 22, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. at the USDA Service Center.

The ballot count is open to the public and you are welcome to view the process. The newly elected committee member will take office February 18, 2014. Incumbent Kirk L. Eyre's term would have normally expired on December 31, 2013. Mr. Eyre's term has been extended thru January 31, 2014.

Candidates for LAA#3 (Lyman School District Boundary) Area are:

Kirk L. Eyre, incumbent
Clifford D. Martin

FSA would like to thank Mr. Eyre and Mr. Martin for their commitment to this election process.

Every eligible ballot is counted so your vote is important and will be appreciated! Exercise your right to vote!

Note: There was a problem with the initial election ballot print which in turn created the need for FSA to reschedule the voting process nationwide.

FSA Advises Customers of Payment Reductions Due to Mandated Sequester

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is reminding ranchers and farmers who participate in FSA programs to plan accordingly in FY 2014 for automatic spending reductions known as sequestration. The Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA) mandates that federal agencies implement automatic, annual reductions to discretionary and mandatory spending limits. For mandatory programs, the sequestration rate for FY 2014 is 7.2%. FSA is implementing sequestration for the

Riverton, Wyoming
Phone: (307) 856-7524

following programs:

Scheduling an appointment
is recommended

- > Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP);
- > 2011 and 2012 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE);
- > 2013 Average Crop Revenue Assistance Program;
- > 2013 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payments (DCP);
- > Marketing Assistance Loans;
- > Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP);
- > Dairy Indemnity Payment Program (DIP);
- > Sugar Loans;
- > Tobacco Transition Payment Program;
- > Storage, handling; and Economic Adjustment Assistance for
- > Upland Cotton

Email Addresses Important to Receive FSA News

FSA is continuing to implement budgetary controls and FSA Newsletters are no exception! For those of you receiving this GovDelivery (e-mail) newsletter take any opportunities you may have to let your neighbors and friends know that to receive the GovDelivery notifications (by email) an entity, or individuals, will need to have their email address on file with FSA office(s). Instructions on updating subscriptions, modifying a password or e-mail address, or stopping subscriptions at any time are found at the very end of this newsletter. Information is also available at: subscriberhelp.govdelivery.com.

This service is provided at no charge by the USDA Farm Service Agency. In times of continuing budget concerns GovDelivery is a significantly less costly method of getting FSA information out to our customers! Again, please tell your neighbors and friends, etc., about the GovDelivery notifications you are receiving by e-mail. Help FSA spread the word about GovDelivery! Think of all that paper FSA and our readers will save!

The prior FSA newsletter came to you by regular mail from the Kansas City printing office. Because of the cost FSA implemented GovDelivery to save you the taxpayer, and FSA their operating costs. So everyone saves!

Over the Counter Channel (OTCNet)

FSA/CCC has begun using 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.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including HAY, barley, oats, wheat, and renewable biomass.

Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying and handling equipment or the remodeling of existing facilities. Eligible facilities include but are not limited to: new conventional-type cribs or bins, new or remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures, new flat-type storage, and hay and biomass storage facilities.

Terms for loan amounts are as follows:

- \$100,000 or less, the term is 7 years only
- \$100,000.01 to \$250,000, the borrower can specify 7 or 10 years
- \$250,000.01 to \$500,000, the borrower can specify 7, 10, or 12 years.

Farm Storage Facility Loan borrowers eligibility must:

- be a producer of a facility loan commodity
- demonstrate a need for increased storage capacity
- show the ability to repay FSFL through the financial analysis process
- meet all other eligibility requirements.

Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85% of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$500,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required and multi-peril crop insurance coverage for all crops. The interest rate for December is between 2% for 7 year loans, 2.625% for 10 year loans, and 2.875% for 12 year loans.

Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of Federal Crop Insurance (FCIC) is not available. Failure to report production history may result in a reduction of your NAP average yield. Substitute yields are used when actual production history is not provided. The deadline for purchasing NAP coverage on fall seeded crops and permanent cover was December 1, 2013. NAP coverage for spring planted forage crops may be purchased from now until April 01, 2014. Late-filed provisions may apply on a case-by-case basis.

NAP applicants are reminded to timely file your 2013 production history for forage crops covered by NAP.

Increased Guaranteed Loan Limits

Farm Service Agency's maximum loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program increased to \$1,355,000 effective October 01, 2013. The limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

The lending limit is adjusted every year according to an inflation index. The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness will also increase to \$1,655,000.

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.

Uinta County customers may contact Brian S Harrell, Farm Loan Manager, at (307) 856-7524. FLM Harrell travels to Uinta County monthly. To schedule an appointment, or seek answers to any questions concerning Farm Loans, you may contact FLM Harrell directly.

2014 Crop Acreage Reporting (CARS) Deadline Dates

Producers now have until January 15, 2014, to report crops that have a November 15, 2013, or December 15, 2013, reporting deadline without paying a late-file fee. Crops under this waiver include native and improved grasses intended for hay or grazing, and wheat. The Risk Management Agency (RMA) did not grant a waiver so producers need to consult their crop insurance agent for deadlines concerning insured (FCIC) crops.
(Insured crops in Uinta County are: Alfalfa, Alfalfa Grass Mix and Grass Mix Alfalfa.)

To comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, Uinta County producers are encouraged to file an a Crop Acreage Report (CARS) certification by the applicable deadline.

Exceptions that apply to the above acreage reporting dates are:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Documentation must be provided to the Uinta County office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

Additionally, producers can purchase both NAP and RMA coverage for 2014 annual forage crops. Late file fees will be assessed for 2013 crops reported after September 15, 2013, and 2014 crops reported after January 15, 2014. Now is the time to contact the Uinta County FSA Office to timely file your CARS report(s).

Dates to Remember:

December 20	COC Election Ballots Mailed to LAA#3 (Lyman Area) Voters
December 25	Office Closed, Christmas Day Holiday
January 01	Office Closed, News Year's Day Holiday
January 15	Deadline to Report Perennial Forage and Fall Seeded Crops
January 17	COC Election Ballots Postmarked or Returned
January 20	Office Closed, Martin Luther King Holiday
January 22	Uinta County COC Election Ballot Count - Open to the Public - 1:00 P.M,
January 22	Regular County Committee Meeting - USDA Service Center
January 31	Current (LAA#3) COC Member Position Extended to this Date
February 17	Office Closed, President's Day Holiday
February 18	Newly Elected COC Member takes Office

Anytime Update Records, Report Banking Changes, Visit the COF for More Information

HAPPY HOLIDAY'S EVERYONE!

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).