



# NEWSLETTER



## NOVEMBER 2012

Washakie-Hot Springs FSA Office  
208 Shiloh Road  
Worland, Wyoming 82401  
Phone: 307-347-2456  
FAX: 307-347-8806

**Staff:**  
Sherri Foust, CED  
Bill Morrison, FLM  
Lisa Bower, PT  
Teresa Shelton, PT

**County Committee:**  
Steven Snyder, Chairperson  
Kathy Propp, Co-chairperson  
Matt Brown, Member  
Dan Rice, Member  
Bruce Thurgood, Member

## 2012 Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) for Drought

ECP is designed to provide cost-share assistance to producers who have suffered severe damage to farm and ranch lands as a result of a natural disaster, such as wind erosion, water erosion, floods, tornados, or, in some cases drought. The damage must be severe enough that it would be too costly for the producer to repair without Federal assistance.

Due to severe drought conditions throughout Hot Springs and Washakie Counties, the County Office will be taking sign-ups for cost-share assistance for water hauling, well drilling, pipeline etc. Please understand that 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).

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:

1. Practices may begin no more than 60 days prior to ECP approval. For Hot Springs & Washakie County this means that practices that began before August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 will not be eligible for cost-share assistance.
2. Cost-share may not be approved for more than 60 days.

To file an application you will need to know:

### 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

### 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

The sign-up period for 2012 ECP applications begins on **November 1** and ends on **November 30**.

## COC Election

Producers in **LAA #1**, which is in Washakie County – everything west of the Big Horn River; and **LAA #5**, which is in Hot Springs County – everything east of the Big Horn River, plus those west of the river that get their irrigation water from the river:

- Watch your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters on Nov. 5, 2012. If for some reason you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office.

Completed and signed ballots must be returned to the county office by close of business on Dec.3, 2012.

## Emergency Farm Loans

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters or quarantine.

Emergency loan funds may be used to:

- Restore or replace essential property
- Pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year
- Pay essential family living expense
- Reorganize the farming operation
- Refinance certain debts

Further information and applications for the loan programs described are available at local FSA county offices. Contact your nearest office for an appointment.

## Crop Certification Deadline

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. **The producer certification deadline for perennial forage, winter wheat and range is November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012.** Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program, Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

## Livestock Producers Affected by Disasters Urged to Keep Good Records

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Juan M. Garcia has urged livestock producers affected by natural disasters such as the current drought and fires experienced in Platte County to keep thorough records of their livestock and feed losses, including additional expenses for such things as feed purchases because of lost production and supplies.

“There are extraordinary circumstances caused by a variety of disasters from fires in the west, floods in Florida, Hurricane Isaac in the Gulf region, storms in Mid-Atlantic and drought and heat affecting the heartland,” Garcia said. “Each of these events is causing economic consequences for ranchers and producers including cattle, sheep and dairy operations, bee keepers and farm-raised fish and poultry producers.”

FSA recommends that owners and producers record all pertinent information of natural disaster consequences, including:

- Documentation of the number and kind of livestock that have died, supplemented if possible by photographs or video records of ownership and losses
- Dates of death supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts
- Costs of transporting livestock to safer grounds or to move animals to new pastures
- Feed purchases if supplies or grazing pastures are destroyed.

Secretary Vilsack also reminds producers that the department's authority to operate the 5 disaster programs included in the 2008 Farm Bill expired on Sept. 30, 2011. This includes the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP), the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). Production losses due to disasters occurring after Sept. 30, 2011 are not eligible for disaster program coverage.

Congress is currently considering action on these programs for 2012. We will publicize any change in the status of these programs if and when they occur.

## Timely Filing of Loss

The 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 on **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.

## **Purchasing NAP Coverage for the 2013 Crop Year**

The Non-Insured Assistance Crop Disaster Program (NAP) application deadline for biennial and perennial forage crops, regardless of intended use, is **Dec. 1, 2012**. This includes crops such as wheat hay, grass hay, irrigated meadow pastures and range. The application fee is \$250 per crop per pay type. Covered crops are those crops for which RMA crop insurance is not offered. This coverage is only for losses in excess of 50% of the normal yield.

## **IRS 1099 Changes**

Calendar year 2012 has brought changes to the way FSA reports farm program payments to the producer and to the IRS.

In past years, IRS Forms 1099-G 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 one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more.

The same changes will apply to producers and vendors who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.

## **Increased Guaranteed Loan Limit**

The Farm Service Agency has announced that the loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program has increased to \$1,302,000 as of 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.

## **Farm Storage Facility Loan Program**

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department. Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Farm Service Agency  
PERMIT # G-96

## Dates to Remember

**NOTICE: This is a new deadline - November 15, 2012 – Acreage Reporting Perennial Forage, Fall Wheat, Fall Seeded Small Grains & Range – (examples of perennial forage are hay, grass, fall seeded hay crops).**

December 1, 2012 – NAP Purchase Deadline

December 3, 2012 – Last day to vote in the County Committee Election

December 6, 2012 – County Committee Election votes counted for LAA #1 & LAA #5

July 15, 2013 – Acreage Report for Spring/Summer Seeded Crops

**Loans for 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 and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches. While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of socially disadvantaged groups. A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. 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 only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed agricultural credit elsewhere.

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