



# NEWSLETTER

**May 2013**

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:**

Dan Rice, Chairperson  
Dave Slover, Vice-Chairperson  
Matt Brown, Member  
Everett Jones, Member  
Kate Propp, Member

---

### ***COC Election Nomination Period***

June 17 through August 1, 2013, is the period for nominating farmers and ranchers as candidates for the Local County Committee. This year's election will be held in Local Administrative Areas (LAA) #3 and (LAA) #4.

LAA #3 is in Washakie County and includes everything in the Nowood River drainage. Mr. Dan Rice has served the maximum three terms in LAA #3 and will leave the County Committee in 2014. FSA appreciates his dedicated service to the area producers.

LAA #4 is in Hot Springs County and includes everything west of the Big Horn River that does not get their irrigation water from the river. Mr. Matt Brown's is currently the county committee member for LAA #4 and his position is up for reelection.

FSA encourages all eligible producers to nominate themselves, or another eligible producer to run for office.

Nomination forms (FSA-669A's) are available:

- At <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>, scroll down to the links under "Election Materials" and CLICK "2013 Nomination Form".
- By picking up FSA-669A at your local FSA Office.
- By calling your local office and requesting FSA-669A be emailed to you.

### ***2013 DCP Signup Period***

Program sign-ups for DCP and ACRE continue for 2013 crops. 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 2013 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.

### ***2013 Spring Acreage Reporting Deadline***

Deadline July 15, 2013:

All acreage must be reported for a farm, including crops on non-cropland such as hayed or grazed grassland and other cover crops. It is also important to accurately report crops' intended use. Intended use is used to determine eligibility in many FSA programs and cannot be revised after the deadline.

Producers should contact their local FSA county office if they are uncertain about reporting deadlines. In order to meet FSA program eligibility requirements, producers must submit timely filed acreage reports. Reports filed after the established deadlines must meet certain requirements to be accepted and may be charged late fees.

For more information on FSA crop reporting requirements and other programs, visit your local FSA office or visit us online at [www.fsa.usda.gov/wy](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wy).

## ***USDA Announces CRP General Sign-up***

A general sign-up for Conservation Reserve Program began on May 20, 2013 and ends on June 14, 2013. In addition to the general sign-up, there is a restart of sign-up for Continuous Conservation Reserve Program, including the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement Initiative, the Highly Erodible Land initiative, the Grassland Restoration Initiative, the Pollinator Habitat Initiative and other related initiatives. **Sign-up for Continuous CRP began May 13, 2013 and will continue through September 30, 2013.**

CRP is an important sustainability of our groundwater, lakes, rivers, ponds and streams. Through voluntary participation of our farmers and ranchers, CRP helps us to protect our natural resources, preserve wildlife habitat and bring good paying jobs to rural America related to hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation. CRP has a 27-year legacy of successfully protecting the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion and develop wildlife habitat. In return, USDA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. Offers for general sign-up CRP contracts are ranked according to an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). FSA collects data for each of the EBI factors based on the relative environmental benefits for the land offered. FSA uses the following factors to assess the environmental benefits for the land offered: Wildlife habitat benefits resulting from covers on contract acreage; water quality benefits from reduced erosion, runoff and leaching; on-farm benefits from reduced erosion; benefits that will likely endure beyond the contract period; air quality benefits from reduced wind erosion; and cost.

Environmentally sensitive land devoted to certain conservation practices may be enrolled in CRP at any time under continuous sign-up. Offers are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements. Offers for Continuous CRP sign-up are not subject to competitive bidding. FSA provides CRP continuous sign-up participants with annual rental payments, including certain incentives and cost-share assistance: Rental Payments; return for establishing long-term, resource-conserving covers, FSA provides annual rental payments to participants. FSA bases rental rates on the relative productivity of the soils within each county and the average dry land cash rent or cash rent equivalent as guidelines; per-acre annual rental rate may not exceed the calculated rate determined in advance of enrollment. While continuous sign-up acceptance is not determined by a competitive offer process, producers may elect to receive an amount less than the maximum payment rate; cost-share assistance; an upfront signing incentive payment (SIP) up to \$150 per acre; the one-time SIP will be made after the contract is approved and all payment eligibility criteria are met and; a practice incentive payment (PIP) equal to 40 percent of the eligible installation costs for eligible participants who enroll certain practices. The one-time PIP will be issued after the practice is installed, eligible costs are verified and other payment eligibility criteria are met. To be eligible for CRP continuous sign-up enrollment, a producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to submitting the offer, unless: the new owner acquired the land due to the previous owner's death; the ownership change occurred due to foreclosure where the owner exercised a timely right of redemption in accordance with state law or; the circumstances of the acquisition present adequate assurance to FSA that the new owner did not acquire the land for the purpose of placing it in CRP. The land must be eligible and suitable for any of the following conservation practices: riparian buffers; wildlife habitat buffers; wetland buffers; filter strips; wetland restoration; grass waterways; shelterbelts; living snow fences; contour grass strips; constructed wetlands; restoration of aquaculture wetlands; wildlife habitat restoration within approved State Areas for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) projects; salt tolerant vegetation or; shallow water areas for wildlife.

### ***Reporting NAP Losses (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program)***

The noninsured 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 crop insurance is not available.

Production records for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than July 15 of the following year. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications. NAP losses must be reported within 15 days of the loss.

## ***Targeted Funds to Socially Disadvantaged and Beginning Farmers***

Each year Congress targets a percentage of farm ownership and farm operating loan funds to socially disadvantaged (SDA) and beginning farmers. For more information, refer to the FSA Fact Sheet, "Loans for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers."

Down payment Program FSA has a special loan program to assist SDA and beginning farmers in purchasing a farm. Retiring farmers may use this program to transfer their land to future generations.

To qualify:

- The applicant must make a cash down payment of at least 5 percent of the purchase price.
- The maximum loan amount does not exceed 45 percent of the least of
  - (a) the purchase price of the farm to be acquired;
  - (b) the appraised value of the farm to be acquired or;
  - (c) \$500,000 (Note: This results in a maximum loan amount of \$225,000).
- The term of the loan is 20 years. The interest rate is 4 percent below the direct FO rate, but not lower than 1.5 percent.
- The remaining balance may be obtained from a commercial lender or private party. FSA can provide up to a 95 percent guarantee if financing is obtained from a commercial lender. Participating lenders do not have to pay a guarantee fee.
- Financing from participating lenders must have an amortization period of at least 30 years and cannot have a balloon payment due within the first 20 years of the loan.

### ***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 barley, oats, wheat, hay, 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 and new or remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.

The 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

To be eligible for a Farm Storage Facility Loan, the borrower 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.

All Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent 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 changes monthly so please contact our office.

### ***Farm Loan Program Information***

Farm Service Agency (FSA) has loan programs that could help farmers and ranchers experiencing financial problems in today's economy of tight profit margins. Several types of loan programs are offered through FSA.

Under the Guaranteed Loan program, FSA guarantees farm ownership, term operating loans, and lines of credit used for annual operating through conventional agricultural lenders for guarantees up to 95%. The guarantee generally allows the conventional lender to provide the applicant with longer terms and lower rates of interest. All applicants must meet certain qualifying criteria to be eligible for guarantees. Farmers and ranchers interested in Guaranteed Loans should apply directly with a conventional lender, who arranges for the guarantee. For those unable to qualify for a Guaranteed Loan, FSA offers Direct Loans, which are made and serviced by FSA officials. Funding is limited for Direct Loans, and applicants must sometimes wait until funds are available. To qualify for a Direct Farm Ownership or Operating Loan, the applicant must meet eligibility criteria and have sufficient repayment ability and loan collateral. FSA will work with you to analyze your situation, provide technical assistance, and tailor loans to meet your needs.

Youth between the ages of 10 and 21 may also apply for a direct loan up to \$5,000 associated with their 4-H, FFA, or other youth organization activities.

Farm Service Agency is an Equal Credit Opportunity Lender. Beginning farmers and members of traditionally underserved gender and ethnic groups are encouraged to apply for guaranteed and/or direct loan assistance from FSA. Each year, farm ownership and operating loan funds are temporarily set-aside to meet the needs of beginning farmers and traditionally underserved groups.

Anyone having questions, please call your local Farm Service Agency in Worland or Thermopolis WY at 307-347-2456.

## **Receive the Newsletter via Email**

Due to the tight budget situation county offices are facing, we are providing more information via email and less newsletters are being mailed to producers. Providing an email address is the best way to stay abreast program changes and updates. If you regularly check your email and would like to get updates electronically please contact the office by telephone 307-347-2456 or by email at [sherri.foust@wy.usda.gov](mailto:sherri.foust@wy.usda.gov) to make your request.

<b>IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:</b>	
June 14	Deadline for General CRP Signup 45
July 4	Independence Day Holiday – Office Closed
July 15	Crop Reporting Deadline
August 1	Deadline for COC Nomination
August 2	Deadline for DCP Signup
Immediately	File Notification of Loss within 15 days of loss of crops
Anytime	CRP Continuous Signup
Anytime	Apply for Farm Storage Facility Loan
Anytime	Apply for a Farm Loan
 <b>Notify County office of any changes in Direct Deposit information, Payment limitation changes, Farm records changes, Banking info changes, etc.</b>	
 <b>Office Hours are from 8:00am to 4:30pm. Producers are urged to call for an appointment, so the office staff can assist you timely.</b>	

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)”

“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, audiotape, 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/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_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 complaint 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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).”