

JULY 2013



**Washakie-Hot
Springs County FSA
Office**

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**Farm or Ranch Record or Bank Change
Notifications**

Please notify the Washakie-Hot Springs County office of any changes in direct deposit information, or changes to your entity which would cause payment limitation changes. New leases, expired leases, land purchases, sales and trades should be reported in order to keep your farm records up to date.

**ATTENTION: Non-Insured Assistance
Program (NAP) Producers Important Deadline
Change**

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.

Congress had directed FSA and RMA to coordinate acreage reporting deadlines as a convenience to producers. The result is the new acreage reporting deadline for 2014 fall crops has moved to November 15, 2013, including perennial forage crops (hay and pasture). The deadline change has a **BIG** impact on the NAP program. The crop reporting deadline change also moves the deadline for reporting production and application for payment of crop losses on 2013 hay is November 15, 2013. That means that the County Office will need your signed/dated bale count prior to November 15, 2013 so that we can calculate your actual production history on the form FSA-452.

A WHOLE LOT EARLIER THAN PAST YEARS!! So, as soon as you finish baling, please turn your bale count records to the County Office and we'll assist you in completing your FSA-452, production report.

THERE ARE NO LATE FILED PROVISIONS. The County Committee will assign a yield for any NAP crop for which production was NOT reported timely. Assigned yields usually reduce your actual yield. **A reduced proven yield results in reduced payment on losses.**

Filing for NAP Losses. The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed/lower production 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.

Stay In Touch.....with your County Office Staff!

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! Also without a Farm Bill we don't know what disaster programs we will need to be prepared to administer.

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 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-up for DCP continues for 2013 crops. The DCP sign-up period will end on Aug. 2, 2013.

The 2013 DCP program provisions are unchanged from 2012. 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 ACREAGE REPORTING 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.

Continuous CRP

Landowners and producers can now enroll in Continuous CRP. Continuous CRP contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. Interested parties should contact their local FSA Office for more information **Sign-up for Continuous CRP began May 13, 2013 and will continue through September 30, 2013.**

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 at 307-347-2456.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

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 after apparent loss of crops

May 13, 2013 through September 30, 2013: CRP Continuous Signup

Anytime: Apply for Farm Storage Facility Loan

Anytime: Apply for a Farm Loan

Office Hours are from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Producers are urged to call for an appointment, so the office staff can assist you in a timely manner.

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 to make your request.

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).