

November 2013



Included in this newsletter for the Washakie-Hot Springs County Office:

- Acreage Reporting Deadlines
- Conservation Program Reminders
- Breaking New Ground? Check with FSA & NRCS first!
- AGI Compliance Process
- Guaranteed Loan Limit Increase
- Important Dates to Remember

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**Next County Committee  
Meeting:**  
To Be Announced

## **Many Acreage Reporting Dates for 2014 Have Changed!**

Many 2014 acreage reporting dates have changed and late-file fees will be assessed for 2014 late-file acreage reports.

All 2014 native and improved grasses intended for grazing or haying must be reported by November 15, 2013. Please make an appointment with your local FSA office to certify acres and learn about other crop reporting dates such as those for barley, beans, corn, etc.

Producers can apply for 2014 NAP coverage at their local FSA Office using form CCC-471, Application for Coverage. Producers must file the application and service fee by December 1, 2013 and/or April 1, 2014 depending on the crops eligibility for NAP coverage.

## **Conservation Program Reminders**

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants are reminded that annual acreage reports must be filed with your local FSA office. Participants must also remain in compliance with the Conservation Plan of Operations (CPO) for the full term of the CRP contract. Please keep up with scheduled management activities in addition to normal maintenance of the conservation cover.

Producers who suffer damages to agricultural land due to a natural disaster are encouraged to contact their local FSA Office for information on possible restoration assistance. Any changes to farm ownership or operators must be reported as soon as possible in order to avoid a delay or possible loss of benefits.

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## **Breaking New Ground? Check with FSA and NRCS First!**

Agricultural producers are reminded to consult with FSA and NRCS before breaking out new ground for production as doing so without prior authorization may put a producer's federal farm program benefits in jeopardy. This is especially true for land that must meet Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions.

Producers with HEL determined soils must apply tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan. Producers should notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to ensure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not risk your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators can complete form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary.

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## **Navigating the AGI Compliance Process**

FSA, in cooperation with IRS, uses self-certification and consent forms from FSA and NRCS program participants to determine eligibility for programs subject to adjusted gross income (AGI) limitations. If eligibility appears questionable, the program participant will be notified and allowed 30 days to provide one of the following: 1) copies of completed federal tax returns as requested by FSA, 2) a certification of income by a CPA or attorney, or 3) acknowledgment that the AGI limitation was exceeded.

For joint tax returns, FSA is required to use the entire amount reported to IRS, unless a statement by a CPA or attorney is provided to show separate AGI amounts for each of the joint filers.

If determined ineligible, participants have 30 days to appeal. Participants determined ineligible will be required to refund payments subject to the specific income limitation exceeded.

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## **Guaranteed Loan Limit Increase**

The loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program will increase to \$1,355,000 on Oct. 1, 2013. The limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service. 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.

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. Visit your local FSA Office to learn how FSA loans can help your operation throughout the 2014 crop year.

### **Selected Interest Rates for November 2013**

Farm Operating Loan – Direct 2.125%

Farm Ownership Loan – Direct 4.250%

Farm Ownership Loans – Direct Down payment, Beginning Farmer & Rancher 1.5%

Farm Storage Facility Loans – For instance Grain Bins or Hay Barns – 7 year term 2.0%

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## Important Dates to Remember

Thanksgiving – Office Closed - November 28, 2013

Acreage Reports Due - November 15, 2013 (Late filed acreage reports are being accepted.)

NAP Applications Due - December 1, 2013

**Production reporting for perennial and fall seeded crops including forage** - November 15, 2013

Elections - TO BE ANNOUNCED

File Notification of Loss within 15 days after apparent loss of crops - **Immediately**

Apply for a Farm Storage Facility Loan - Anytime

Apply for a Farm Loan - Anytime

**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.**

### **Subscribe to GovDelivery...FSAs Electronic News Service**

In order to remain updated on important FSA information including eligibility requirements & program deadlines, producers must sign-up for the GovDelivery electronic news service – a free, online communications service that allows news to be sent directly to your email address where you can access it 24/7 from your home, farm office or smartphone.

Producers can sign up for FSAs free electronic news service by visiting: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe> or by providing your email address to staff at your local FSA office. Producers who do not have internet access or an email account can pick up a printed monthly newsletter at their local FSA Office.

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