



# NEWSLETTER



## **AUGUST 2014**

Washakie-Hot Springs FSA Office  
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Worland, Wyoming 82401  
Phone: 307-347-2456  
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**Staff:**  
Sherri Harvey, CED  
Bill Morrison, FLM  
Lisa Bower, PT  
Teresa Shelton, PT

**County Committee:**  
Everett Jones, Chairperson  
Kate Propp, Vice-Chairperson  
Arnold Pennoyer, Member  
Dave Slover, Member  
Kirk Tolman, Member

**Next meeting: September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.**

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## ***USDA Notifies Producers On Acreage History And Yields***

Written notifications from USDA are underway to farmers that provide updates on their current base acres, yields and 2009-2012 planting history.

Please cross check the letter from USDA with your farm records. If the information is correct, no further action is needed at this time, but if our letter is incomplete or incorrect, contact your local FSA office as soon as possible.

Verifying the accuracy of data on a farm's acreage history is a required early step for enrolling in the upcoming Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) program and the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program. Later this summer, farmers and ranchers will have an opportunity to update their crop yield information and reallocate base acres.

By mid-winter all producers on a farm will be required to make a one-time, unanimous and irrevocable election between price protection and county revenue protection or individual revenue protection for 2014-2018 crop years. Producers can expect to sign contracts for ARC or PLC for the 2014 and 2015 crop years in the spring of 2015.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (includes short grain rice and temperate japonica rice), safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed, and wheat.

Visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) or the local FSA office for information about FSA and the 2014 Farm Bill programs.

## ***Livestock Forage Disaster Program***

The 2014 Farm Bill makes the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) a permanent program and provides retroactive authority to cover eligible losses back to Oct. 1, 2011. LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire. LFP payments for drought are equal to 60 percent of the monthly feed cost for up to five months. LFP payments for fire on federally managed rangeland are equal to 50 percent of the monthly feed cost for the number of days the producer is prohibited from grazing the managed rangeland, not to exceed 180 calendar days. The grazing losses must have occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011.

Sign-up began on April 15, 2014, at your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) service center. Please consult your local FSA office for details.

Eligible livestock producers in Washakie and Hot Springs counties will be eligible for:

- 4 monthly payments for 2012
- 4 monthly payments for 2013

## ***Bank Account Changes***

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into a bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office when an account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases the bank where payments are sent. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to bank accounts and routing numbers.

## ***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 WY at 307-347-2456.

## ***Crop Reporting***

The annual, timely and accurate reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs.

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. Crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. In Wyoming, producers need to file their 2014 acreage reports for spring seeded crops and CRP by July 15, 2014.

**Prevented Planting:** Prevented planting needs be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

**Failed Acreage:** Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

**2014 and subsequent years' acreage reporting deadlines:**

- **Spring seeded crops and CRP-July 15**
- **Perennial Forage, PRF, Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains-November 15**

***This means your 2015 perennial hay/forage crops and winter wheat reporting deadline will be November 15, 2014.***

## ***Farming Operation Changes***

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

## ***NAP Coverage Available for 2015 Crops for Livestock Feed Intended for Grazing***

It is important that producers note that NAP coverage WILL be available for annually planted crops for livestock feed intended for grazing because RMA is not offering CAT level coverage under the Rainfall Index-Annual Forage Insurance Plan. The NAP sales closing date for this insurance is December 1st for crops planted in the fall and April 1st (depending on the crop) for crops planted in the spring.

Please contact your local FSA office for questions concerning NAP or your crop insurance agent for questions concerning RMA crop insurance. A list of agents can be found at [www.rma.usda.gov/](http://www.rma.usda.gov/).

## **2014 Farm Bill**

The new Farm Bill will bring significant changes in programs administered by USDA. At this point, we know few details on the new programs.

We do know that there will be two options available under the farm program:

1. Price Loss Coverage (PLC)
2. Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC)

We do not have the rules, nor do we know when signups will begin.

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) provisions have been changed. Producers whose AGI exceeds \$900,000 will not be eligible to receive benefits from most programs administered by FSA or NRCS.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will continue; however, national acreage caps will be gradually lowered to 24 million acres in 2017 and 2018. **We do not know if, and when, another general CRP signup will take place.** Commodity loans and Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) programs will continue. Stay tuned for updates on program provisions.

## **Microloan Program**

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Individuals who are interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available should contact their local FSA office to set up an appointment with a loan official.

## **Save Time – Make an Appointment with FSA**

As we roll out the Farm Bill programs administered by FSA, there will be related signups and in some cases multiple management decisions that need to be made by you, the producer, in consult with FSA staff. To insure maximum use of your time and to insure that you are afforded our full attention to your important business needs, please call our office ahead of your visit to set an appointment and to discuss any records or documentation that you may need to have with you when you arrive for your appointment. For local FSA Service Center contact information, please visit: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app> .

## **2014 County Committee Election**

This year's election in Washakie County covers LAA 2, which covers everything east of the Big Horn River, not including Ten Sleep.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters around November 3. Instructions for voting will be included. December 1 is the last day to return voted ballots to the county office, or postmarked. Please take some time to vote and select your representative on the County Committee.

## **Commodity Storage Loan Program**

Farm Service Agency continues to administer the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program. Basic provisions are as follows:

- Loans may be made for grain storage structures, grain handling equipment, drying equipment, forage storage structures or cold storage for fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Loans will be for new storage or expansion or upgrades of existing storage
- The term of approved loans is 7, 10 or 12 years.
- The interest rates for August, 2014 are 2.125% for a 7 year loan, 2.625% for a 10 year loan and 2.75% for a 12 year loan
- Participants are required to carry crop insurance on crops of economic significance for the term of the loan.

Washakie-Hot Springs County FSA Office  
 208 Shiloh RD  
 Worland, WY 82401



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

| <b>IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:</b>   |   |
|---|---|
| Livestock Disaster Programs   | 4/15/2014 & then continuous   |
| Labor Day – Office Closed   | 9/1/2014  |
| Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)   | 12/1/2014 for all perennial and all fall planted crops (grasses)  |
| <b>Immediately</b>  | File Notification of Loss within 15 days after apparent loss of crops   |
| Anytime   | Apply for Farm Storage Facility Loan  |
| Anytime   | Apply for a Farm Loan   |
| <b>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.</b> | Subscribe to GovDelivery...FSAs Electronic News Service:<br>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. |
| <b>Selected Interest Rates for September 2014:</b><br><b>Farm Operating Loan – Direct - 2.125%</b><br><b>Farm Ownership Loan – Direct - 3.75%</b>       | Producers can sign up for FSAs free electronic news service by visiting: <a href="http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe">http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe</a> 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.  |
| <b>Farm Storage Facility Loans for August:</b><br><b>Grain Bins – 7 year term - 2.125%</b>  |   |

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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).