

October 2014



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Washakie-Hot Springs County FSA Updates

Washakie-Hot Springs County FSA Office

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Next County Committee

Meeting: November 13th -
2:00pm

ARC/PLC Program

Under the 2014 Farm Bill the annual commodity programs are now the Agriculture Risk Coverage County

Coverage (ARC-CO) or Agriculture Risk Coverage Individual Coverage (ARC-IC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC). 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.

As an owner/operator on a farm, you recently received a form showing the 2008-2012 planting history of grains and oilseeds. This information should be reviewed for accuracy prior to making the decision whether to reallocate bases on the farm. Late filed crop reports for the 2009 through 2012 crop year may be filed with no fee. Reallocated bases are computed based on the average of the individual crops seeded 2009-2012 divided by the total acreage plantings of grain/oilseeds on the farm. No increase from the total effective 2013 base acres is allowed. Crop yields may be proven based on the 2008 through 2012 planted crop for the PLC program. The deadline to make base & yield decisions is 2/27/2015.

Under the **PLC** program payments will be issued when the effective price, determined on a national level, is less than the reference price established for that crop. The crop **does not** have to be planted, payments will be computed based on 85% of the farm's base acres of the applicable commodity and the yield established on the farm.

The **ARC-CO** program payments will be issued when actual county crop revenue of a covered commodity is less than the ARC-CO guarantee and is based on county data not individual farm data. The crop **does not** have to be planted. Payments are computed using 85% of the base acres times the difference between the ARCO-CO guarantee and the actual county crop revenue. The farm, for **ARC-IC** purposes, is the sum of the producer's interest in all of the producer's farms in the state which are enrolled in the ARC-IC program. Payments are issued when the actual farm crop revenue for all covered commodities is less than the ARC-IC guarantee for all covered commodities on the farm. The crop **must be planted** in the current year to be eligible for payment and is limited to 65% of the total base acres on the farm. Dates associated with ARC and PLC that farm owners and producers need to know:

- Sept. 29, 2014 to Feb. 27, 2015: Land owners may visit their local Farm Service Agency office to update yield history and/or reallocate base acres.
- Nov. 17, 2014 to March 31, 2015: Producers make a one-time election of either ARC or PLC for the 2014 through 2018 crop years.
- Mid-April 2015 through summer 2015: Producers sign contracts for 2014 and 2015 crop years.

- October 2015: Payments for 2014 crop year, if needed.

Producers can contact their local FSA office for more information or to schedule an appointment.

USDA REMINDS PRODUCERS OF DEC. 1ST SALES CLOSING DATE FOR NONINSURABLE CROPS

Producers have until Dec. 1, 2014, to purchase coverage through the Noninsurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP).

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields/grazing loss, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters including drought, freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive wind or hurricanes.

The following crops have a NAP application closing date of Dec. 1, 2014: grazing and forage/hay on native and improved grass, honey, potatoes, radishes, grapes, cranberries, alfalfa seed and winter wheat.

In order to meet eligibility requirements for NAP, crops must be noninsurable, commercially-produced agricultural commodity crops for which the catastrophic risk protection level of crop insurance is not available.

In the event of a natural disaster, NAP covers the amount of loss greater than 50 percent of the expected production based on the approved yield and reported acreage.

Eligible producers can apply for coverage using form CCC-471, "Application for Coverage." Producers must file the application and pay a service fee by the Dec. 1st deadline. The service fee is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

Limited resource farmers may request a waiver of the service fee at the time the application for coverage is filed. Producers must recertify their limited resource status for each year that a waiver is requested.

For more information on sales closing dates and NAP, contact your local FSA office.

BEGINNING FARMER LOANS

FSA assists beginning farmers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size farm.

November Farm Loan Interest Rates:

- Farm Operating Loans = 2.750%
- Farm Ownership Loans = 4.125%
- Farm Ownership Down Payment Loans = 1.500%
- Micro Loans = 2.750%
- Youth Loans = 2.750%

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center.

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).