

Sweetwater/Sublette County FSA
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Rock Springs, WY 82901
307.362.3062



Sweetwater/Sublette County
July 2009

County Committee Members

Kathy Miller, Chairperson
James Hodder, Vice-chairperson
Ben Arambel, Member
Robert Anderson, Member

FSA Office Personnel

Jennifer Dutton, CED
Bonnie Hueckstaedt, PT
David Zehavi, GIS Intern
Martin Hoffland, DD

Farm Loan Programs

Questions regarding obtaining credit to start or enlarge a farming or ranching operation; financing agricultural operating expenses; or livestock, machinery purchases call:

Brian Harrell, FLM
307.856.7524

Dates to Remember:

June 15 – COC nomination opens
July 13 – LIP signup period opens
August 3 – COC nomination closes
August 14 – DCP & ACRE signup deadline
August 14 – Acreage Report deadline (extension)

2009 Acreage Reporting – DEADLINE EXTENSION

It's that time of year again; time to file your 2009 crop report. Acreage reports are required for participation in many FSA programs. The deadline for filing crop reports has been extended to **August 14, 2009**.

Please stop by the office to file your 2009 acreage report. If you have not filed your 2009 crop reports, please sign them and return to the office ASAP. Final notices have been mailed; we will not be sending any more reminders.

Late filed crop reports will be assessed a fee.

Assistance Provided for Livestock Losses

If you suffered livestock death losses in 2008 and/or 2009 due to eligible adverse weather events, you may be eligible to receive payments from the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Eligible adverse weather events include blizzards, disease, extreme heat or cold, floods and wildfires.

Although forms and procedures to apply for the program are not available at this time, it is important to document the losses.

Third party certification

Written certification by a person who is not affiliated with the farming operation and is not a family member. They must provide name, address, phone number, specific details of knowledge about livestock death, affiliation with producer, the accuracy of claims by producer (ie number and type of livestock and adverse weather condition).

If you believe you may qualify for assistance under LIP, please contact the office. We are expecting to begin taking sign-ups on July 13, 2009; pending release of procedure and regulations.

Please contact the Sweetwater/Sublette County FSA office for more information or with questions.



NAP

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) works as a catastrophic coverage insurance policy. We offer coverage for a variety of crops that are not covered by private insurance. The two most common crops that are covered in Sweetwater and Sublette counties are for pasture and hay. Pasture loss is set by the County Committee and must be concurred by State Committee. The loss is based off two independent assessments of grazing loss throughout the county. All policies are paid according to the established County Average Loss.

Each producer is responsible for completing the following paperwork in order to receive an indemnity:

- ✓ Complete Application for Coverage by December 1st for perennial crops and April 1st for spring seeded crops
- ✓ File a Crop Report no later than July 1st
- ✓ Provide production history to the county FSA office and sign Actual Production History no later than July 1st following harvest of crop
- ✓ Complete Notice of Loss no later than 15 days after a loss is apparent
- ✓ Complete an Application for Payment no later than July 1st of the following year

For hay policies, producers are required to submit productions records annually. All production records must include bale count and bale weight. Hay loss is determined by the amount of hay cut or would have been cut if harvested compared to the producer's Actual Production History. If there is loss and hay is NOT mechanically harvested, an onsite hay appraisal is required to determine production. If the hay will be grazed, the appraisal MUST be done prior to grazing the acreage. If this cannot be accomplished prior to your need for grazing, you may fence out specific samples to be appraised at a later date. Failure to have hay acreage appraised will result in the policy being paid as a grazing policy. A hay policy has the potential to pay significantly better than a grazing policy based on your Actual Production History.



Eligible producers must apply for coverage of non-insurable crops and pay the applicable service fees at their local FSA office. The service fee is \$250 per crop or up to \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Limited resource producers are not subject to annual fees. There are new provisions for nursery crops for the 2010 crop year, for more information contact the county FSA office.

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

FSA makes direct and guaranteed farm ownership (FO) and operating loans (OL) to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank, Farm Credit System institution, or other lender. FSA loans can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed, and supplies. Our loans can also be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements.

"Direct" farm loans are made by FSA with Government funds. We also service these loans and provide our Direct loan customers with supervision and credit counseling so they have a better chance for success. Farm Ownership, Operating, Emergency and Youth loans are the main types of loans available under the Direct program. Direct loan funds are also set aside each year for loans to minority applicants and beginning farmers

FSA guaranteed loans provide lenders (e.g., banks, Farm Credit System institutions, credit unions) with a guarantee of up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. Farmers and ranchers apply to an agricultural lender, which then arranges for the guarantee. The FSA guarantee permits lenders to make agricultural credit available to farmers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria. FSA guaranteed loans are for both Farm Ownership and Operating purposes. Like the Direct Loan Program, a percentage of Guaranteed Loan funds are targeted to beginning farmers and ranchers and minority applicants.

For more information about FSA loan programs visit FSA's website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> or contact the Fremont County FSA office at (307) 856-7524.

County Committee Elections

Since COC elections happen only once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into local administrative areas, or LAAs. Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee.

Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. **Elections are being held for LAA #4. This position is currently held by Kathy Miller. The LAA is north of the Sweetwater/Sublette county line and west of Hwy 191 (see map).**

Nominations

Candidate nominations for the FSA county committee election will be accepted June 15 through Aug. 3, 2009.

Producers who are residents in the LAA holding the election and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates.

The nomination form, FSA-669A, is available at the county office or may be downloaded from <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected. The completed nomination form must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Aug. 3, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 3, 2009.

Voting

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 6, and must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Dec. 7, or postmarked by midnight Dec. 7, 2009.

Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote.

No one can be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

Candidate Eligibility

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate

Not have been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

For additional information, contact the Sweetwater/Sublette County office.



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