



# NEWSLETTER



October 2011

## 2011 FSA County Committee

### Weston FSA Office

1225 Washington Blvd.  
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Newcastle, WY 82701

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307-746-2870 fax  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/WY](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/WY)

**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### County Staff

**Peggy Livingston**  
County Executive Director

**JoAnn Stearns**  
Program Technician

**Rob Weppner**  
Farm Loan Manager  
307-682-8843  
Ext. 2  
Campbell County Office

## Final DCP & Annual CRP Payments Deposited by October 31

Producers who should be receiving 2011 Final DCP payments or annual CRP payments should watch for payments to be direct deposited into their accounts by October 31. Please let the office know if you believe you are due a payment and didn't receive it.

## 2012 DCP Sign-Up

Enrollment for the 2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) will begin Jan 23, 2012 and will continue through June 1, 2012. Producers can make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or they can visit the FSA office to complete their 2012 DCP contract. Advanced payments are not authorized for 2012 DCP.

## eNewsletters and eUpdates from FSA – watch for more news

The Farm Service Agency is exploring more cost-efficient and resource-conserving options to provide farmers and ranchers with news, information, deadlines and bulletins from your state FSA and from your own county FSA office.

The FSA Office will use your email address and send out Newsletters to you. If you wish to receive future Newsletters by email, please supply the local FSA Office with your email address.

## 2012 County Office Committee Election

Producers in Local Administrative Area 3 will be receiving ballots to elect their COC representative for the next 3 years. LAA3 is currently represented by Ann Wehri. Ann will be leaving the committee at the end of the year. Please join us in a big thank you to Ann for her dedicated service.

Ballots are scheduled to be mailed November 4, 2011. Voters may vote for the nominee listed or 'write in' a candidate of their choosing.

## Hispanic and Women Farmers

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information contact:

- Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims

Process:  
[www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov) or call  
1-888-508-4429.

- Pigford – The Black Farmers  
Discrimination Litigation:

[www.blackfarmercase.com](http://www.blackfarmercase.com)  
or call 1-866-950-5547.

- Keepseagle - The Native American  
Farmers Class Action Settlement:  
[www.IndianFarmClass.com](http://www.IndianFarmClass.com) or call 1-888-  
233-5506.



## IRS Forms

**REMINDER:** Any person, entity or entity member MUST file a CCC-927 and/or CCC-928 with the IRS to be in compliance.

If you did not file the IRS form for the 2009 and/or 2010 year, you may be required to pay back payments that have been earned.

We have a list of producers who either haven't filed or have problems with your filed paperwork. If you think you may not be in compliance with the IRS filing requirements, contact the County Office immediately.

## Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises with financing through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm 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 median size.

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

[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## Farm Loan Program Limits

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000 starting on Oct. 1, 2011.

The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans has increased from 1 percent to 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan, for loans obligated after Oct. 1, 2011.

## NAP (Non-Insured Assistance Program)

**December 1, 2011** is the deadline to purchase a NAP policy for crops to be harvested in 2012. This deadline applies to HRW Winter Wheat for forage (hay) or grazing (if winterkill coverage is desired). All Perennials for forage or grazing including: Mixed Grass or Single Variety Grasses, Sanfoin, Clover, Sudan Grass, Alfalfa or Alfalfa/Grass mix for grazing, Grass Varieties for Seed and Honey.

**April 1, 2012** is the deadline to purchase a NAP policy on spring planted crops for forage or grazing; such as HRS Spring Wheat – which includes HRW Winter Wheat (if winter kill coverage is not desired), Barley, Beans, Corn, Millet, Oats, Peas, Rye, Sorghum, Soybeans, Triticale, etc.

Crop coverage begins, for annual crops, the later of either of the following: 30 calendar days after the date CCC-471 (Application for Coverage) is filed; or the date the crop is planted, not to exceed the final planting date. For Perennial crops and Honey, it begins 30 days after Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> (the application closing date).

## Loans for Socially Disadvantaged

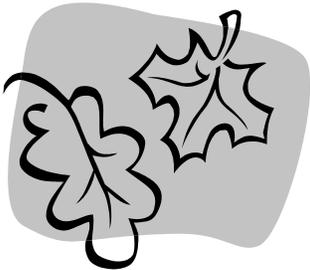
FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or to purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should

contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all of the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.



## Actively Engaged

FSA wants to remind producers about the rules that govern the requirements to be 'actively engaged' in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by FSA. Normally the stockholder or a member of a legal entity must make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management for the farming operation. The contributions are to be performed on a regular basis, must be identifiable and separate from the contributions of others.

The exception to this rule for a stockholder or member of a legal entity only occurs if both of the following apply:

- ❖ At least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management
- ❖ The total direct payments received, both directly and indirectly, by the legal entity and each of the members don't exceed \$40,000.

## Livestock Indemnity Program

LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have incurred livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality up through October 1, 2011.

Losses of livestock due to adverse weather must have been reported on form CCC-914 at the county office the earlier of:

- 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock was apparent or
- By October 29, 2011. The 'filed' Notice of Loss must be finalized by completing part 2 of form CCC-914 no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss occurred – January 30, 2012 for 2011.

Applications for losses require the following:

- 1.) Verifiable documentation of beginning and ending inventory such as receipts for vaccinations, sale barn receipts, etc

- 2.) Records showing all animals lost and what caused the loss (blizzard, normal mortality, etc) including the type and number of animals lost for each date of death.
- 3.) Records showing weather events, and in some situations, statements from 3<sup>rd</sup> party persons (those that do not have an interest in the operation).

Additional Information about LIP and ELAP is available at county FSA offices or online at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)

ELAP provides compensation to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other loss conditions, including losses caused by blizzards and wildfires. ELAP is for losses that are not covered by Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), or Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE).

Eligible producers under ELAP may receive assistance for losses that occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011, during the calendar year in which the loss occurs. Eligible losses include feed losses, physical losses and additional costs incurred in providing feed to eligible livestock. There are two parts to the ELAP application process:

1. A notice of loss
2. Application for payment

An application for payment cannot be filed without a notice of loss.

There are no late filed provisions for ELAP. Producers with eligible losses must timely file an acreage report on grazing land acres, honey bee colonies and farm-raised fish pond acres.

Eligible physical losses of honey bees and honey bee hives due to adverse weather or loss conditions are eligible under ELAP. Producers will be required to provide documentation of beginning and ending inventory of honey bee colonies when claiming a physical loss of honey bees or honey bee hives.

Additional ELAP information is available at FSA county offices or on line at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).



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



Selected Interest Rates for October 2011	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	1.750%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.250%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility	1.500 - 2.375%

Dates to Remember	
Nov 4	Ballots mailed out for COC Election
Nov 11	Veteran's Day – Office Closed
Nov 24	Thanksgiving – Office Closed
Dec 1	NAP Signup Ends
Dec 7	Deadline to return ballots for COC
Dec 7	COC Meeting 1:00 pm
Dec 26	Christmas Holiday – Office Closed
Jan 1, 2012	ELAP Deadline
Jan 30, 2012	LIP Deadline

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.