



**July 2012**

## **Weston County**

### **FSA Office**

1225 Washington Blvd.,  
Suite 2  
Newcastle, WY 82701

(307)746-2701

Phone

(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.

## **Weston County Staff**

Peggy Livingston  
County Executive Director

JoAnn Stearns  
Program Technician

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



## **FSA COC Nomination Deadline**

County committees (COC) play a crucial role in helping county office staff implement Farm Bill programs. Producers can participate in the FSA county committee election process by nominating an eligible candidate by the Aug. 1, 2012, deadline.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and more information about FSA county committee elections is available at:

<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/eForms/FSA669-A.PDF> or the County Office.

During their three-year terms, FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support programs and more. This year's election is for Local Administrative Area # 2, currently represented by Committee Member, Doug Materi.

## **Filing for NAP Losses**

Form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

## **Secretarial Disaster Designation for Drought**

Governor Matt Meade has submitted a request for a Secretarial Disaster Designation in Weston County. The request has been forwarded to Secretary of Ag, Tom Vilsack. If approved, this designation will make all farm-sized farm and ranch operators eligible to be considered for low interest emergency loans from FSA when they are not able to obtain credit elsewhere. In addition, if you sell or exchange more livestock in a given year than you normally would because of a drought or other weather-related conditions, you may be able to postpone reporting the gain from the additional livestock sales until the following year. All of the following conditions must be met in order to qualify.

1. Your principal trade or business is farming.
2. You use the cash method of accounting.
3. You can show that, under your usual business practices, you would not have sold or exchanged the additional animals this year except for the weather-related condition.
4. The weather-related condition caused an area to be designated as eligible for assistance by the Federal government (Declared Federal Disaster Area).

Always consult with your tax advisor to evaluate your individual situation. As soon as we are notified of the outcome of this request, we will inform you.

## Over the Counter Channel (OTCnet)

FSA/CCC is implementing OTCnet, an electronic method for processing customer check payments. When a check is submitted for payment either in person or through the mail, the check will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). Within 24 hours, the funds may be debited from the producer's account. Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following Department of Treasury site for detailed information:

<http://fms.treas.gov/otcnet/legal.html>



### What is OTCnet?

OTCnet is a web-based online application process for converting paper checks presented to FSA into electronic debits to the producer's checking account. Benefits include reducing lost/misplaced checks, less paper handling, improved customer relations, more efficient check clearing process and reducing the potential for human error.

### How will my check be handled?

The check will be scanned into the system and voided. The customer will not receive the check back from FSA. FSA will hold checks for up to 14 calendar days to ensure that the item was successfully processed, and then FSA will shred the check.

### How quickly will funds be transferred from my account?

The transfer of funds from your account could occur within 24 hours. Therefore, you should be sure that you have sufficient funds in your account to process the transaction. If you do **not** have sufficient funds, we may initiate the transaction again.

### How will this transaction appear on my account statement?

The transfer of funds reflected on your account statement may be recorded in a different place on your statement. The transaction may appear under withdrawals" or "other transactions".

### What are my rights if there is a problem with the transaction?

You have protections under Federal law for an unauthorized electronic fund transfer from your account. You should contact your financial institution immediately if you believe that a transaction reported on your account statement was not properly authorized or is otherwise incorrect.

## Loans for the 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 to purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, FSA has provided priority funding for socially disadvantaged applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is a member of a group that has been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a group member 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.

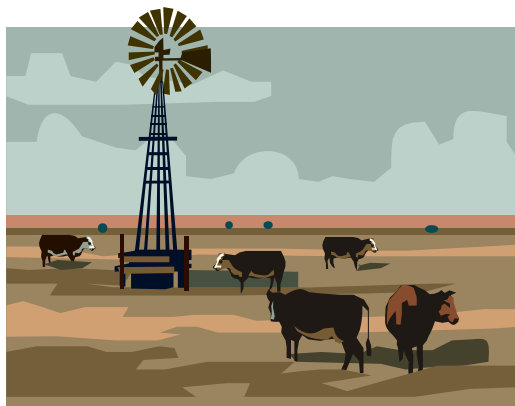
If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

## Emergency Conservation Program Funds

The County Office has requested Emergency Conservation Program funding. If the request for funding is approved, it may provide cost share for producers who need to restore fences, replace water tanks or storage tanks and above ground pipelines that were destroyed by the Oil Creek Fire. In addition to these practices, funding may also be available for water enhancement measures to permit grazing of pastures, in which, the normal water source is depleted. This may include well drilling for livestock water and one tank at the well site, solar panels to provide power to pump water for livestock, and/or water hauling for livestock. As soon as we are notified of the outcome of this request for funding, we will inform you. If funding is received, we will announce a signup period and accept applications at that time. Please contact the County Office if you have concerns or questions about losses.

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We also would like to remind livestock producers to keep thorough records of losses; including additional expenses for such things as livestock feed purchased due to lost supplies. Passage of the 2012 Farm Bill may reactivate disaster programs that expired in September, 2011.



## Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

## Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are advised to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

## Highly Erodible Lands and Wetland Compliance

Producers participating in most programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are required to abide by certain stipulations on any land owned or farmed that is highly erodible or that is considered a wetland.

To be in compliance with the highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions, producers must agree, that they **will not**:

- Produce an agricultural commodity on highly erodible land without a conservation system;
- Plant an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland;
- Convert a wetland to make possible the production of an agricultural commodity.

Producers must notify the FSA and update Form AD-1026 if they plan to remove fence rows, convert woodlots to cropland, combine crop fields, divide a crop field into two or more fields, install new drainage, or improve or modify existing drainage. FSA will notify NRCS who will then provide highly erodible land or wetland technical determinations.

To get additional information on highly erodible land and wetland conservation compliance contact the FSA office or the NRCS office at a local USDA Service Center. Additional information about conservation programs offered by FSA can be found online at [www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation), and information on NRCS programs can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>.

**2013 CROP REPORT  
DATE CHANGES!!!  
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!**

*The 2013 crop reporting deadline for all rangeland, perennial hay and fall seeded crops will be November 15<sup>th</sup>.*



**Weston County FSA  
Office  
1225 Washington  
Blvd., Suite 2  
Newcastle, WY 82701**



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## **Sign Up for FSA Fence Post for Daily Updates**

The Farm Service Agency Fence Post is an online newsletter that is updated on an almost daily basis. It contains articles of interest on the agency's programs and departments, as well as success stories from the field. To access Fence Post visit <http://fsa.blogs.govdelivery.com/>. Producers can sign up for weekly Fence Post updates by putting an email address in box that says "Get Email Updates."

| <b>Selected Interest Rates for<br/>July 2012</b>                     |   |
|--|---|
| 90-Day Treasury Bill   | % |
| Farm Operating - Direct  | % |
| Farm Ownership - Direct  | % |
| Limited Resource   | % |
| Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment,<br>Beginning Farmer or Rancher | % |
| Emergency  | % |
| Farm Storage Facility – 7 year                                       | % |
| Farm Storage Facility – 10 year                                      | % |
| Farm Storage Facility – 12 year                                      | % |
| Commodity Loans 1996-Present   | % |

| <b>Dates to Remember</b> |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Anytime                  | Continuous CRP   |
| Aug 1                    | Last Day to file COC Nomination forms  |
| Aug. 1                   | Last Day to file for Farm Reconstitutions  |
| Nov. 15                  | 2013 Crop Reports due for fall seeded<br>small grains, perennial forage & grazing              |
| Nov. 15                  | Deadline for 2013 NAP coverage for<br>rangeland, perennial hay & fall seeded<br>crop coverage. |