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# CROOK COUNTY FSA NEWS

JUNE 2007

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**TOWER OUTLOOK**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
CROOK COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY  
P.O. BOX 1070, 117 S. 21st ST.  
SUNDANCE, WYOMING, 82729

OFFICE STAFF:

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OFFICE HOURS: 8:00 - 4:30 (Mon. - Fri.)

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COUNTY COMMITTEE:

MERVIN PETERSON

CASEY MCDONALD

DANNY WHITE

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## ***2007 DIRECT and COUNTER CYCLICAL***

It's time to enroll your farm for the 2007 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (crop base payment program). Signups will be accepted starting October 1, 2006 through August 3, 2007. This year the enrollment deadline has been extended, but the late file deadline will remain September 30<sup>th</sup>. Enrollments from August 4<sup>th</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup> will be assessed a \$100 late fee. Take care of this important matter now. Advance payments will be paid on 22 percent of your total payment with the final payment being 78 percent.

## ***ACREAGE REPORTS***

July 2<sup>nd</sup> is the deadline to file your crop acreage reports. An acreage report includes providing an accurate account of all crops and land uses, including failed and prevented crops. Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented acreage must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date. Crop reports provided after July 2<sup>nd</sup> will be assessed a minimum of \$46.00 per farm.

## ***NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM***

To remain eligible for NAP a producer must annually report the crop to FSA by the required crop reporting deadline. Once the crop is harvested the production must also be reported. This production then becomes part of the actual production history (APH) for yield history and payment purposes. Crop losses must be filed on

form CCC-576 within 15 days of the disaster occurrence or when damage to the crop is evident. Losses reported beyond this 15 day window are subject to spot check and could possibly be ineligible for benefits.

## ***LOSS ADJUSTERS WANTED***

USDA/FSA is looking for loss adjusters that have crop appraising experience. If you wish to partner with the Farm Service Agency please contact Wyoming Farm Service Agency; 951 Werner Ct., Ste 130; Casper, WY; 82601 or call (307) 261-5010.

## ***COC ELECTION NOMINATIONS***

From June 15 through Aug. 1, farmers and ranchers can nominate eligible peers as candidates for election to the Crook County Farm Service Agency County Committee.

This is an important time for Local Administrative Area communities, because county committee members make decisions that have significant effects on you and the area's agricultural sector as a whole.

For example, committee members make decisions on applications for federal farm program and disaster payments. Committee members play a vital role by helping local farmers and ranchers manage tough financial times and natural disasters.

County committee members make many other important decisions that affect local farmers and ranchers, such as whether haying and grazing should be allowed on Conservation Reserve Program land. Talk to a county committee member or the County Executive Director for details on the types of decisions county committee members make.

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet basic eligibility requirements. Contact the county office staff or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections> for details about candidate eligibility. Nomination forms can be obtained at the county office or online at the above address.

Remember, the nomination period runs June 15 through Aug. 1. Voting takes place in the fall. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 2. Dec. 3 is the last day to return voted ballots to the county office. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office Jan. 1, 2008.

If interested, call our office for a nomination form.

### **CONTINUOUS CRP**

Environmentally desirable land devoted to certain conservation practices may be enrolled in CRP at any time under continuous sign up provisions. Offers are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements. Continuous CRP enrollments are not subject to competitive bidding.

To be eligible for Continuous CRP, a producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to submitting the offer. Exceptions to the rule include:

- if the new owner acquired the land due to the previous owner's death;
- the ownership change occurred due to foreclosure where the owner exercised a timely right of redemption in accordance with state law; or
- the circumstances of the acquisition present adequate assurance to FSA that the new owner did not acquire the land for the purpose of placing it in CRP.

To be eligible for placement in CRP, land must be either cropland that has been planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity four of the previous six crop years from 1996 to 2001, and which is physically and legally capable

of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity; or certain marginal pastureland.

The following conservation practices are eligible for Continuous CRP sign up: riparian buffers; wildlife habitat buffers; wetland buffers; filter strips; wetland restoration; grass waterways; shelterbelts; living snow fences; contour grass strips; salt tolerant vegetation; and shallow water areas for wildlife.

All eligible owners and operators, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status, shall have an opportunity to submit requests to place land in CRP. For more information contact the county office staff for details.

### **MEASUREMENT SERVICE RATES**

FSA provides a number of measurement services for our producers that include: measuring crops after planting, measuring fields prior to planting, re-measuring previously measured acreages, verifying crops and disaster conditions and acreages, measuring or sampling farm stored grain and other commodity crops, and verifying crops for late-filed crop reports.

The cost of this service has changed. It is now \$30 for the basic farm fee and \$16 for the first hour and \$8 for every 30 minutes after first hour with a minimum of 1 hour charged.

Items of concern for us in the past have been late-filed crop reports and late-filed NAP notices of loss. Special attention should be paid to both of these items as the associated cost could be somewhat expensive for you.

### **NEW MAPS !**

We are currently making new farm maps from our computer based mapping system. These maps, and the info contained on them, will become the official maps and data that we will use for our program purposes. Some of you have already received your new maps; the rest will be completed over the next few months. Once you receive these new maps please read the letter that accompanies them and take appropriate action if necessary.

### **SIGNING FOR ENTITIES**

To sign FSA forms for trusts, limited liability companies, cooperatives, partnerships or corporations, producers need a document on file at the county office saying you're authorized to sign for the entity. It could be a copy of the articles of partnership or articles of corporation or a valid power of attorney.

You also have to know how you're supposed to sign. In almost all instances, when you are signing for an entity, your signature has to include "by" or "for," indicating you're signing in a representative capacity.

Remember, if you've established an entity for your operation, you can no longer sign forms and contracts as yourself. When you have signing authority for an entity, you have to sign forms on behalf of the entity.

If you have questions about the proper way to sign forms and contracts for your entity, contact the county office staff. We can review the records and help determine the acceptable signature for your situation.

### ***BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCHERS***

If you are a farmer or rancher who has participated in a farming operation for at least three but no more than 10 years, you may qualify for beginning farmer targeted loan funds with Farm Service Agency.

The program is designed to assist these farmers by providing direct and guaranteed loans when they are unable to obtain financing from commercial credit sources.

If you believe this program could be of benefit to you, please contact the county office staff for more information. Our loan officials will welcome your interest.

### ***YOUTH LOAN PROJECTS***

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other youth organizations. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

### **Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:**

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Live in the open country or in a town of less than 10,000 people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office. We'll help prepare and process the application forms and answer any questions you may have about the program. Remember, FSA is an equal opportunity lender.

### ***PREVENTING FRAUD AND WASTE***

The Farm Service Agency and Risk Management Agency are partners in preventing fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to RMA. Producers can report suspected cases to FSA or RMA.

### **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

**July 2...Final Date for NAP Production Evidence for 2006 crops.**

**July 2...Deadline to file Crop Reports**

**July 4...Office Closed – Independence Day**

**Aug. 1...Final date to request a reconstitution**

**Aug. 1...Deadline to file Election Nominations**

**Aug. 3...Final date to enroll in DCP**

**CROOK COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY**

**P.O. BOX 1070**

**SUNDANCE, WY. 82729**

**VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION IS INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER. PLEASE TAKE TIME TO READ THIS MATERIAL AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION. HELP US IN OUR ASSISTING YOU BY DOING YOUR PART AND STAYING INFORMED OF OUR PROGRAMS AND REQUIREMENTS!**

**For more information on any Farm Service Agency program, visit or call our office, or visit the FSA Homepage at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)**

**Have a Nice Day, /s/ Mike Idler, CED**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication or 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 USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice and TDD).