

# Farm Service Agency

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July 2007

## OFFICE STAFF

Annie Bryce – County Executive Director  
Brian Harrell – Farm Loan Manager  
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Mary Lou Wickstrom – Program Technician  
Bessie Rumery-Rico – Program Technician  
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## FSA COMMITTEE

Charles Murray – Member  
Steve Pokorny – Chairman  
John P. Stoll – Vice Chairman

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Sign-up for crop year 2007 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) began October 1, 2006. We encourage producers to enroll their farms in the DCP program as soon as possible, the deadline for 2007 DCP contracts have been extended from June 1<sup>st</sup> to **August 3<sup>rd</sup>**. A late-

file fee of \$100 will only be assessed for farms that are enrolled after August 3, 2007, and before September 28, 2007. Applications signed after September 28, 2007 cannot be approved.

## FORT WASHAKIE OFFICE DAYS

You don't have to come to us, we'll come to you. The FSA program and loan staff is now offering business hours in Ft. Washakie. Appointments are encouraged, so that we can provide necessary forms and/or staff, but you are also welcome to just stop by and we will try to answer any of your questions. Office days will usually be held the first Wednesday of every month, from 1pm to 3pm, at the NRCS trailer next to the WIC building. Our next office day is **August 8<sup>th</sup>**; we look forward to seeing you!

## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS



Nominations for the Fremont County Committee had to be turned into the County Office by **August 1<sup>st</sup>**. The nominees will be announced in the next newsletter. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters **November 2<sup>nd</sup>** and will need to be returned to the Service Center by **December 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

## CROP REPORTS



The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

### CRP & NAP Certification

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

### Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting needs be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

### Failed Acreage:

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The producer certification deadline was July 2<sup>nd</sup>. All farms certifying acreage after July 2<sup>nd</sup> will be assessed a late filing fee. This fee was increased from last year.

## 2007 COMPLIANCE PROCESS

Starting this year a new compliance and spot check selection process will be implemented for the 2007 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers will be made using a statistical sampling method. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc.

State and County Offices shall view and print their producer spot check lists as posted on the designated web site. If an entity is selected from the national database that is no longer farming or participating in the 2007 crop year, a notation shall be made on the spot check list. For more information about the new spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local Farm Service Agency office for additional clarification.

## NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

7CFR 1437.10 (2) Notice of loss and application for payment states - For low yield claims and allowable value loss, the earlier of: 15 calendar days after the damaging weather or adverse natural occurrence, or date loss of the crop or commodity becomes apparent for low yield claims; and 15 calendar days after the normal harvest date.

So the latest date we will consider the CCC-576 to be timely filed is 15 calendar days after the normal harvest date. For instance, if the normal harvest date for grazing is October 15, the producer will need to file for a grazing loss prior to October 30. After that date late filed provisions need to be followed. Refer to 1-NAP par 401C. COC may not approve the notice of loss if time will not permit COC or an authorized representative the opportunity to inspect the specific crop acreage to verify the damage or extent of damage caused by the asserted disaster condition.

**Do not forget to file your Notice of Loss; it has to be filed within 15 days of loss being apparent and no later than 15 calendar days after the normal harvest date.**

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## FARM RECONSTITUTIONS

In Farm Service Agency terms, farms are *constituted* to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator 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 the Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program. If 2007 DCP direct payments have already been issued on the farm, the reconstitution will be effective for 2008 unless the payments are refunded.

## !!IMPORTANT DATES!!

Aug 1	COC Election Nomination Deadline
Aug 1	Final Date to Request a Reconstitution
Aug 3	DCP Deadline
Aug 8	Ft. Washakie Office Day
Aug 16	COC Meeting
Sept 3	Labor Day - Office Closed

## SODBUSTER REGULATIONS

The term “sodbusting” is used to identify the plowing up of erosion-prone grasslands for use as cropland. Sodbuster violations are unauthorized tillage practices on highly erodible lands that converted native vegetation such as rangeland or woodland, to crop production after Dec. 23, 1985.

Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs.

Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production. If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates on a CPA-026 that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage, before bringing land into production. In addition, producers and the producer’s affiliates have to file an AD-1026 with the staff in the administrative or control county office before any farm program payments can be made. The AD-1026 is the producer’s signed certification that HELC, as well as wetland conservation, provisions will not be violated.