



### **SWEETWATER/SUBLETTE FSA OFFICE**

**COUNTY COMMITTEE:**

Pete Arambel, Chairman  
Kathy Miller, Vice-Chairperson  
Alonzo Jarvie, Member  
Jim Hodder, Member

79 Winston Dr Suite 110  
Rock Springs, WY 82901  
Phone: (307) 362-3062 FAX: (307) 362-1459  
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**OFFICE STAFF:**

Tommy Stephens, CED  
Bonnie Hueckstaedt, PT  
Mike Hoffland, DD  
Brian Harrell, FLM

MARCH 2007

### **COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION**

The Sweetwater-Sublette County Committee is pleased to announce the hiring of Tommy Stephens for the County Executive Director position. Tommy came to Rock Springs from Homer, Alaska with his wife Teri and sons Zachary and Tucker. He has been with the agency for 20 years. Please feel free to stop in the office and meet Tommy.

### **COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**

The Elections for LAA #4 were finalized in January, with Kathy Miller being reelected to the County Office Committee. Kathy will serve a three year term, with Eric Mickelson as the first alternate and Sandra Milleg as the second alternate. We thank all of you who participated in the election. COC meetings will be held the third Thursday of the month at 1:00pm in the USDA Service Center Conference room.

### **WOOL AND MOHAIR LOANS OR LDPs**

Producers who file for a Loan Deficiency Payment for their wool, must sign a CCC-633EZ (page 1) before they lose beneficial interest in the wool. Producers can then submit an LDP request (CCC-633EZ page 2) for benefits at any time during the LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest.

The crop year for wool, mohair, and unshorn pelts begins on January 1st and runs through December 31<sup>st</sup>. Please contact the office if you have any questions, but please remember that to be safe you should complete the CCC-633EZ, page one before you start to shear.

### **1099-G MAILED FROM KANSAS CITY**

Producers who have received payments from FSA in 2006 should have also received a CCC-1099-G from the Kansas City office. A 1099-G is a report to the Internal Revenue Service about FSA payments made to you in calendar year 2006. These forms should have been received during the last week in January. If you received payment and did not receive a 1099-G, please contact the county office.

## **DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP) SIGNUP**

Signup for the 2007 DCP program is continuing, and producers are required to signup each year. A DCP-509 DCP Contract needs to be signed to receive payments for your base acreage on your farm. Signup runs through June 1, 2007. Late filled applications will be accepted until September 30, 2007 with a \$100 fee per farm. Please call the office and make an appointment to signup.

### **FARM CHANGES**

Remember to notify the county office of any changes in your farming operation for the current farm year. Changes in addresses, farm ownership or operating changes, entity changes as far as members or members' shares, bank account changes, all should be reported as soon as possible. The county office will then be able to update all the necessary forms needed to keep you eligible to participate in Farm Service Agency programs.

### **BANK ACCOUNT CHANGES**

Current policy mandates that all FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. To ensure timely payments producers need to notify the FSA office if your account has been changed, if another financial institution purchased your bank, or you change banks. Payments may be delayed if you do not notify FSA office of changes to your account and routing numbers.

### **SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS**

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA staff directly or by phone.

### **POWER OF ATTORNEY**

For those producers who have a difficult time visiting the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, illness, etc., we have a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the county office. Please contact this FSA county office or any FSA office near you for more information.

### **SODBUSTER, SWAMPBUSTER**

Most FSA programs require compliance with sodbuster and Swampbuster provisions. The Sodbuster provisions require producers to follow an approved conservation plan on all highly erodible land planted to an annual crop as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Be sure to have determinations made on any new land you plan to plant to annual crops. If you plan to plant a different crop on your current cropland, check with NRCS to assure the new crop will qualify under your conservation plan.

Swampbuster provisions state that converting a wetland to make possible the planting of a crop will result in the loss of all USDA benefits. To avoid this possibility it is strongly recommended that producers check with NRCS before starting to work in the fields.

## **PAYMENT LIMITATION / ELIGIBILITY**

The USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. Documents and forms to determine eligibility and limitation, once completed, are reviewed on an annual basis. It is the responsibility of the producer to report changes in the farming operation which may affect payment eligibility and payment limitation.

The following annual payment limitations apply:

1. DCP- \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments
2. Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) - \$450,000
3. Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments - \$75,000.
4. Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program or NAP - \$100,000.

## **FSA SPOT CHECKS**

All member information (CCC-501's) and payment eligibility (CCC-502s) are subject to spot check through our end-of-year review process. If selected for a spot check, producers will be asked to submit proof of their contributions to the operation. Examples include seed, fertilizer and chemical bills; land lease agreements, land contracts or property tax payments; equipment lists; cancelled checks for hired labor or hired management; and any other items the FSA County Committee determines are necessary to make a determination.

The producer is required to provide these items for the spot check so that the FSA County Committee can determine if the farming operation is actually being performed as was reported on the CCC-501 or CCC-502.

## **FARM LOAN PROGRAM NEWS**

FSA makes loans each year to farmers and ranchers who need a helping hand, whether it's a young husband and wife who are ready to buy that first farm, a veteran farmer or a minority farmer facing temporary adversity. FSA provides financial assistance that helps ensure the well-being of American agriculture. All loans must meet qualifying criteria to be eligible. Loans are available under both the Direct and Guaranteed Loan Programs as follows: Direct Loan Program- Farm Ownership Loans, Farm Operating Loans, Emergency Loans, Youth Loans, and Indian Tribal Acquisition Program.

Guaranteed Loan Program- Farm Ownership and Farm Operating.

Beginning Farmer/Rancher Loans and Socially Disadvantaged Loans: These funds are targeted for beginning farmers and ranchers and socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family sized farms and ranches. Beginning farmers are someone who has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years. A socially disadvantaged applicant is someone who is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice. For more information contact the FSA office at 307-362-3062.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Sweetwater-Sublette County FSA Office  
79 Winston Drive, Suite 110  
Rock Springs, WY 82901

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

**July 1<sup>st</sup>----- final date to do crop report**  
**June 1<sup>st</sup>-----final date for DCP enrollment**

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Special accommodations will be made for the physically handicapped, vision or hearing impaired person upon request. If accommodations are required, please call the office at (307) 362-3062.