



# NEWSLETTER



**Big Horn County**

**408 Greybull Ave - Greybull, WY 82426**

**January 2012**

## **Farm Service Agency**

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307-765-9243 fax  
www.fsa.usda.gov  
Bryan Schoenfelder, CED  
Brenda Miller, PT  
Connie Werbelow, PT

## **Office Hours:**

Monday - Friday  
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

## **County Committee**

Shawn Bullinger, Chairman  
Jan Barnett, Vice-Chairman  
Wilford Tippetts, Member

## **NRCS Staff**

Monte Bush- Greybull, DC  
John Richards- Lovell, DC  
(307)548-7422

## **Conservation District**

Janet Hallsted, Greybull  
Kristen Tilley, Lovell

## **Farm Loan Staff**

Bill Morrison, FLM  
Worland (307)247-2456  
Kathy Palazollo, FLO  
Powell (307)754-9411

## **2012 DCP/ACRE Sign-up**

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment will begin **Jan. 23, 2012** and will end June 1, 2012.

### **IMPORTANT REMINDERS:**

- 1) All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.
  - 2) Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1<sup>st</sup> in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office. This includes: Ownership changes: Producer changes (Individuals and Entities); Change in crop shares arrangements.
- Note:** Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

## **Reminder to NRCS and FSA Program Participants**

All participants in NRCS and FSA programs are required to annually file eligibility forms with the FSA office.

Any person, entity or entity member applying for program benefits **MUST** file a CCC-931 Average Adjusted Gross Income Statement with the IRS to be in compliance for Fiscal Year 2012. The CCC-931 replaces the CCC-927 and CCC-928 documents. Submission of FSA-931 to the IRS will now be completed by FSA.

The form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification is also a required form for both NRCS and FSA program applicants. If you are applying for benefits through NRCS or FSA be sure to complete these eligibility documents along with any other paperwork that might be necessary through FSA.

## **Farming Operation Changes**

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

## **County Committee Election Results**

Congratulations to Wilford Tippetts who was re-elected to represent farmers from the north end of Big Horn County on the county committee. We welcome Wilford back and appreciate his willingness to serve his fellow farmers and ranchers. FSA appreciates all of the eligible voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

## NAP Deadline

The noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date. FSA has two closing dates for 2012 crops. December 1, 2011 for biennial and perennial forage crops, regardless of the intended use and **April 1, 2012** for all other crops.

NAP is for crops that you cannot insure with crop insurance. It provides coverage at 50 percent of the approved production history for the crop. It will pay at 55 percent of the average price for the crop.

## GovDelivery

The FSA is providing more cost-effective and resource-conserving options to deliver news, deadlines and bulletins.

You have the option to receive information instantly and electronically from your state or local FSA office directly to your farm or ranch. Several states already have GovDelivery for news releases. Take a look at your current state and county options for electronic delivery by visiting the FSA home page at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

Click on the small E-MAIL UPDATES icon and once you enroll in GovDelivery, you can select electronic subscriptions via e-mail. For more information contact your local FSA office and watch for more news and opportunities to sign up to receive your news quicker and at less cost via email.

## **ANNUAL NOTIFICATIONS**

### **Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance**

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

### **Controlled Substance**

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

### **Special Accommodations**

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 office staff directly or by phone.

### **Power of Attorney**

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

### **Direct Deposit Changes**

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. To maintain efficient payment processing, it is critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make with your financial institutions.

If you have made changes to accounts or have changed banking institutions, these changes might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments. When changes like these are made, be sure to contact the FSA county office so we can update our records to ensure efficient and uninterrupted service.

### **IRS Form 1099-G**

Producers annually receive CCC-1099-Gs detailing payments producers have received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on CCC-1099-Gs is a service intended to help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producers' responsibilities to report income to IRS.

FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy.

## FSA Signature Policy

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact your local FSA office.

## Farm Loan Programs

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 extend or renew your loan.

## Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

## Customer Statement

January signals the beginning of a new year, and a time to starting thinking about filing taxes. Producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement. The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's at your fingertips and available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs; information on farm loans; and conservation plan and land unit information.

## Payment Limitation

Payments will be limited by Direct Attribution. Program payments and benefits are limited to a person or legal entity. Payments made directly or indirectly to a person are combined with the pro rata interest held in any other legal entity that received payments, unless the payments to the legal entity were reduced by the pro rata share of the person. Payments made directly to a legal entity are attributed to those persons that have a direct and indirect interest in the legal entity, unless the payments to the legal entity have been reduced by the pro rata share of the person.

The payments are recorded by ID number of the individual or entity.

Each legal entity or person must disclose the name and Social Security number of each person and/or the name and Tax ID number of each legal entity that holds or acquires an ownership interest in the legal entity.

The total payments by program are listed below:

| <b>Program Payment Type</b>         | <b>Limitation (In Dollars)</b> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Commodity Programs</b>           |                                |
| Counter-cyclical and ACRE           | 65,000                         |
| Direct payments                     | 40,000                         |
| <b>Conservation Programs</b>        |                                |
| CRP annual rental payment           | 50,000                         |
| EQIP                                | 300,000                        |
| GRP, WHIP, WRP                      | 50,000                         |
| ECP (per disaster)                  | 200,000                        |
| <b>Disaster Assistance Programs</b> |                                |
| ELAP, LFP, LIP, NAP, TAP, and SURE  | 100,000                        |

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

### Important Dates to Remember

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Jan 16  | Office Closed ~ Martin Luther King, Jr. Day |
| Jan 23  | DCP Sign-up begins                          |
| Feb 20  | Office Closed ~ President's Day             |
| April 1 | NAP sales deadline                          |

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all 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, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a 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, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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