



<p>Crook County FSA          PO Box 1070          117 S. 21<sup>st</sup> Street          Sundance, WY          82729          (307) 283-2870 Ext. 2          (307) 283-2170 Fax  <a href="http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA">www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA</a></p>	<p>Office Staff:          Mike Idler, CED          Susan Johnson, PT          Danice Conzelman, PT          Rob Weppner, Farm          Loan Manager - Gillette          (307) 682-8843 Ext. 2</p>	<p>County Committee:          Mervin Peterson, Chairperson          Larry Fowlkes, Vice Chairperson          Ross Garman, Member          Roxie Dacar, Minority Advisor</p> <p>Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.          Monday - Friday</p>
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**CROP ACREAGE REPORTS**

Crop reports are underway. Crop reports ARE required for farms participating in FSA programs such as DCP, NAP, and CRP. Filing timely and accurate acreage reports for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits in a variety of programs. Additionally, failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

We are sending appointment cards out two weeks in advance and only to producers who participate in DCP, NAP and CRP. Producers that do not participate in our programs who wish to file a crop report should contact our office and schedule an appointment to do so.

If you missed your appointment it is up to you to reschedule and meet the **July 1<sup>st</sup>** filing deadline. Crop reports filed after this deadline will be assessed a minimum fee of \$46.00 per farm.

**CROP PRODUCTION REPORTS**

The deadline to file 2009 harvested crop production is **July 1<sup>st</sup>**. NAP participants are required to report 2009 crop production in order to maintain the APH (payment yield) on crops that are covered by a NAP policy.

**COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**

Local Administrative Area 1 is up for re-election this year. Currently, Larry Fowlkes serves as the representative for this area to the county committee.

The county committee system in FSA is unique in that it allows input from local farmers and ranchers into programs administered by the federal government. Local FSA committees address crop, livestock and conservation concerns in a wide variety of programs. Much of the ability to implement a specific disaster program is the result of the local county committee taking action. Your local committee works very hard to provide the services and programs that allow all of our producers the opportunity to participate in.

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long established, with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and to represent all constituents. This means wherever possible, minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for these underrepresented

groups.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria as follows:

1/ Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA. 2/ Be eligible to vote in a county committee election. 3/ Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate.

Causes for ineligibility: 1/ Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee. 2/ Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony. 3/ Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

At this time local FSA offices are taking nominations from individuals who are willing to serve on the county committee. If you have enjoyed the benefits you have received from FSA, especially during the past drought years, then you should consider giving back to the agency. Consider being a candidate for county committee elections and help your fellow farmers and ranchers.

Interested persons need to file nomination form FSA-699A by **August 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Forms may be obtained from our office or from our website at [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/fsa0669a\\_commiteelectform.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_commiteelectform.pdf)

Election Calendar:

Aug. 2, 2010 - Last day to file nomination forms (FSA-669A) at local FSA offices.

Nov. 5, 2010 - Ballots mailed to eligible voters.

Dec. 6, 2010 - Last day to return voted ballots to local FSA offices.

Jan. 1, 2011 - Newly elected county committee members take office.

### **ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME (AGI):**

Written consent (on form CCC-927 or 928) will be required from each producer or payment recipient authorizing IRS to verify compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Note: No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service.

### **NAP LOSS FILING**

The 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. The timely filing of 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), 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.

## 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.

## 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 needed. 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.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

**Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

**Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

**DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

**Default Method** — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

Have a safe summer, *Mike Idler*



*Important Dates to Remember*

<b>July 1</b>	<b>2010 Crop Report Deadline</b>
<b>July 1</b>	<b>2009 Crop Production Deadline</b>
<b>July 5</b>	<b>Office Closed – 4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday</b>
<b>August 2</b>	<b>File Committee Elections Nomination Form</b>
<b>Within 30 days</b>	<b>File Notice of Loss on Livestock Losses when Loss is Apparent (Due to Adverse Weather Event)</b>
<b>Continuous</b>	<b>Report Adverse Weather Conditions and Affect on your Operation</b>
<b>Timely</b>	<b>File Notice of Loss for NAP Crops</b>
<b>Continuous and Timely</b>	<b>Document Livestock Losses due to both Adverse Weather and Normal Reasons</b>

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