



**TOWER OUTLOOK**

## MAY 2011

### Crook County FSA Office

307 283-2870 phone  
307 283-2170 fax  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/WY](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/WY)  
**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Office Staff**  
Mike Idler, CED  
Susan Johnson, PT  
Danice Conzelman, PT

**County Committee:**  
Mervin Peterson  
Larry Fowlkes  
Ross Garman  
Roxie Dacar

**Committee Meetings:**  
11:00 a.m. as follows:  
January 19th  
March 16<sup>th</sup>  
May 18<sup>th</sup>  
July 20<sup>th</sup>  
September 21<sup>st</sup>  
December 12<sup>th</sup>

If you wish to attend a committee meeting you should check with our office first, as a meeting date is subject to change for unforeseen reasons.

Meetings are open to the public for items that are available to the public.

### Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have incurred livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality up through October 1, 2011.

Losses of livestock due to adverse weather must be reported on form CCC-914 to the administrative FSA county office **the earlier of:** 1/ 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent or 2/ By October 30, 2011 (Note: this is a date change from the April newsletter). Then, a "filed" Notice of Loss must be finalized by completing an "Application for Payment" (part 2 of form CCC-914) no later than January 30, 2012.

Applications for livestock losses require verifiable documentation of beginning and ending inventory; Records showing the date of death for normal death loss – including type of animal and numbers lost for each date of death; Records showing the date of death for adverse weather event(s) – including type of animal and numbers lost to each weather event; in limited situations statements from third party persons (those that do not have an interest in the operation) may be used – call for details; and records showing the number of livestock in inventory on the date of the adverse weather event.

### 2011 Crop Acreage Reports

"Crop Acreage" reports are a report of the crops planted in your fields. This requirement is being confused with filing a "production report". They are two entirely different things. Production reports have a deadline of July 1<sup>st</sup> as well but are for crop production for the previous year.

Crop Acreage appointments are scheduled and appointment postcards will be mailed out two weeks prior to your scheduled date and time. If you miss your appointment it is

up to you to reschedule. The crop acreage report deadline is **July 1<sup>st</sup>**. Late-filed fees (applicable to any report filed after July 1<sup>st</sup>) start at \$46.00 per farm.

Reports must be filed on all crops in all counties where you have an interest in crop/range land, and must be filed to receive program benefits from FSA.

### 2010 Crop Production

"Production reports" for 2010 crops should be reported by **July 1, 2011**. This deadline is vital for producers participating in the NAP program. Production data is used to establish the payment yield (APH) for the current year. Data not submitted timely (by July 1 of the year after the crop is harvested) will receive a zero yield in the current year APH.

### County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, large or small. 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.

County committees provide local input on commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities, emergency programs and payment eligibility.

*(County Committee Elections continued from page 1)*

FSA county committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decision and operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal rules, regulations and laws.

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

Candidates must not have been: 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.

**Nominations:** Nominees must complete and sign form FSA-669A (attached to this newsletter), or available at FSA offices and online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Nomination forms for the 2011 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA office by close of business on **Aug. 1, 2011**.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy.

Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2 is up for election this year. LAA 2 Boundary description is as follows: (that area north of the following: I-90 (from the South Dakota border) to Sundance, at Sundance along Highway 14 to Cabin Creek Road, along Cabin Creek Road to Oshoto, at Oshoto north to Oshoto Road then westerly along Oshoto Road to D Road, south along D Road to Dead Man Road and westerly along Dead Man Road to Campbell County line; and that area south of the following: Highway 24 (from South Dakota border) to Hulett, at Hulett along highway 112 to New Haven Road, along new Haven Road to Mule Creek Road, following Mule Creek Road to Grazing Association Road and along Grazing Association Road to the Campbell County line.

**DCP Signup Deadline:** Signup for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (crop bases) Program continues through **June 1, 2011**. Late-filed applications will not be approved. Contact our office to ensure your farm(s) is/are enrolled.

**ACRE Option to the DCP Program:** The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. The **June 1, 2011**, signup deadline is mandatory for all participants. Late-filed applications will not be approved.

A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee

calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss.

The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. In exchange for participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20%, and marketing loan rates are reduced by 30%.

### **Prevented from Planting Crops / Failed Acreage**

"Prevented Planting" is the inability to plant the intended crop acreage with proper equipment by the final planting date because of natural disaster.

To be considered timely, producers who request prevented planting acreage credit must report the "prevented" acreage on the FSA-578 crop report and complete CCC-576 Part B within 15 days after the final planting date. The final planting dates for NAP crops are: 5/15 – Soybeans; 5/20 - Barley hay, Peas (Garbanzo, Chick) for hay; 5/31 – HRS Wheat hay, Oat hay, Millet hay, Corn forage, Sorghum hay, Rye hay and Triticale hay. The final planting dates for Crop Insurance crops are: 5/20 – Barley grain, Oats grain, HRS Wheat grain; 5/31 – Corn forage (silage).

Many crop insurance policies have "prevented planting" clauses in them that require you to file prevented planting reports on a FSA-578 crop report form.

"Failed Acreage" **must be reported as failed before the disposition of the crop.** 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 and not a management decision.

### **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.

Producers 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 NRCS 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.

FSA-669A  
(03-24-10)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Farm Service Agency

**NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION**

1. NAME OF NOMINEE (Type or Print Nominee's Full Name)	<b>TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE</b>	
	4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED	

2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE	5. COUNTY	
	6. LAA	7. STATE

<p><b>3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION:</b></p> <p><i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</p>	<p><b>8. NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION:</b></p> <p><i>If this nomination is by other than self, the following eligible voter or representative of a community based organization hereby nominates the afore-named person to be a candidate in the next County FSA Committee election for the county.</i></p>
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3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	3B. DATE	8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR	8B. DATE
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.		<i>(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required).</i>	

**9. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE**

**VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES:** The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.

<b>ETHNICITY</b>	<b>RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)</b>	<b>GENDER</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM**

Complete the form as follows:

- ITEM 1** Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:
  - A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
  - B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
  - C. Willing to serve if elected.
- ITEM 2** Enter the nominee's current address.
- ITEM 3** The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.
- ITEMS 3A & 3B** The nominee must sign and date.
- ITEMS 8A & 8B** The nominator must sign and date. *(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required.)*
- ITEM 9** Completing this item is voluntary.

**ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 2, 2010.**

**NOTE:** The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a - as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-348). The information will be used to obtain nominees for election to the County FSA Committee. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for County Personnel Records, USDA/FSA-6. Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility for nomination for election to the County FSA Committee.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. **RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.**

## Farm Reconstitutions

At FSA, 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. If multiple owners and/or operators do not agree about program participation and want to separate acres by programs, for example to enter only a segment of property into the new ACRE program, then producers should inquire about a reconstitution of the farm at the local FSA office.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. NOTE: to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1, 2011** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

Fact sheets for FSA programs can be found at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>; click on **Newsroom**, then **Fact Sheets**.

### Important Dates:

May 30...Memorial Day Holiday-Office Closed

June 1...DCP / ACRE Signup Deadline

July 1...2011 Crop Report Deadline

July 1...2010 Crop Production Reporting Deadline

July 29...2009 SURE Program Signup Deadline

Ongoing...Record Livestock “Normal Death Losses”

NOW...File 2011 LDP Page 1 “Request to Participate” - Before Losing Beneficial Interest

Within 30 Days from when loss is apparent...File Notice of Loss on Livestock Deaths from Adverse Weather events

*The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of 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, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or 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, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*