



**TOWER OUTLOOK**

## NOVEMBER 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:  
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.

### County Committee Voting Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 4, 2011. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on Dec. 5, 2011. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight Dec. 5, 2011.

The candidates are: Ross Garman. Ross is nominated in LAA 2, Crook County, to serve as a committee member. Garman produces forage crops and cattle. Eligible voters in local administrative area 2 who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

**Voter Requirements** - Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, are eligible to vote:

**1.** Legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as any of the following: an individual, an authorized representative of an entity, spouses when property is owned jointly or in community property states.

**2.** Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.

**3.** Participates or cooperates in any FSA program that is provided by law.

**Discrimination Prohibited** No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

### 2012 DCP/ACRE Signup

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment begins Jan. 23, 2012 and ends June 1, 2012.

Here are **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 payments 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 such as:

- Ownership changes
- Producer changes (Individuals and Entities)
- Change in crop shares arrangements

3) Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

### NRCS News

**Private Landowners:** Are you motivated to eliminate the Mountain Pine Beetle problem? If you would like technical and financial assistance to help thin your timber stands, look no further than your local Natural Resource Conservation Service. They are taking Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications until December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 at the USDA Service Center in Sundance. Do not hesitate to call 283-2870 Ext. 3 and have an application sent directly to you.

### NAP (Non-Insured Assistance Program)

December 1, 2011 is the deadline to purchase a NAP policy for crops to be harvested in 2012. This deadline applies to HRW Winter Wheat for forage (hay) or grazing (if winterkill coverage is desired); All Perennials for forage or grazing including: Mixed Grass or Single Variety Grasses; Sanfoin; Clover; Sudan Grass. Alfalfa or Alfalfa/Grass mix for grazing; Grass Varieties for Seed; Honey

April 1, 2012 is the deadline to purchase a NAP policy on spring planted crops for forage or grazing; such as HRS Spring Wheat – which includes HRW Winter Wheat (if winterkill coverage is not desired), Barley, Beans, Corn, Millet, Oats, Peas, Rye, Sorghum, Soybeans, Triticale, etc.,

(NAP program cont.) *Crop coverage* begins, for annual crops, the later of either of the following: 30 calendar days after the date CCC-471 (Application for Coverage) is filed; or the date the crop is planted, not to exceed the final planting date; for Perennial crops and Honey, it begins 30 days after Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> (application closing date); .

## Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 losses begins **Nov. 14, 2011** and will end **June 1, 2012**.

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2010. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties that have incurred at least a 10% crop production or quality loss, or both. All economically significant crops grown by a producer are eligible, **except** grazed crops. Any farm in which disaster-related conditions reduced the actual crop year production on the farm to 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm.

## Marketing Assistance Loans

Marketing Assistance loans are commodity loans available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity, maintaining responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity, and maintaining title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for a loan.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; reporting use of cropland acreage on the farm and ensuring that the commodity meets CCC minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, and exist in a storable and merchantable condition for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program to be eligible for commodity loans.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans.

The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior

authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

## Online Services

Producers with Internet access can fill out a variety of FSA forms online. Producers can also register for secure electronic access that will allow them to electronically sign and transmit some forms directly to the county office staff. If you are new to the website, first you will want to obtain a Level 2 USDA Service Center Customer ID and password at: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> and then click on "**Create an Account Page**" link.

If you already have a Customer ID and password, then click on the following eForms website at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet> and then click on the "**Sign In**" button. A disclaimer window will open and after you read the "Warning message" click on the "Continue" button. Then the USDA Web services page will open to the eAuthentication login page. Enter your login User ID and password and then click on the "Login" button. To sign and transmit forms electronically, you must sign-up and get a User ID and password.

## Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Funds are available for operating loans and to purchase or improve farms or ranches (ownership loans.)

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of socially disadvantaged applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is someone who has been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a member of a group, without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

## Changing Banks

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.

## **Farm Service Agency Offers Producers a Free Online News Service**

***Up-to-the-Minute Farm Program News Direct to Your Email Account or Smartphone (Casper, WY) – November 4, 2011*** - USDA WY Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director, SED Gregor Goertz announced that farmers and ranchers in WY now have a more efficient, timely option for receiving important FSA program eligibility requirements, deadlines and related information.

"FSA is now offering free online communications through our GovDelivery electronic news service," said SED Goertz. "News will now be sent via e-mail right to your home or farm office or to your Smartphone – allowing you to receive immediate notification of farm program news that is pertinent to your agricultural operation," he said.

Through FSA's GovDelivery electronic news service, producers can establish subscriber preferences by choosing to receive federal farm program information by topic, by

state and/or by county. Producers can select as many subscriber options as they want, which allows producers who farm in multiple counties or across state lines to receive updates from each county in which they operate or have an interest.

According to SED Goertz, GovDelivery is a one-stop shop for the most up-to-date USDA program information.

"If, after using this online system, producers no longer wish to receive hardcopy newsletters from their local county office, they should contact the office and make their preferences known," said SED Goertz. "GovDelivery will enable FSA to keep producers better informed and allow us to conserve resources and reduce taxpayer expenses associated with the preparation, printing and distribution of hardcopy newsletters," he said.

To begin using GovDelivery, subscribe online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe> or contact your local office for subscription assistance.

Please contact your local FSA office if you have questions regarding FSA's GovDelivery electronic news service.

Crook County FSA Office  
PO Box 1070  
Sundance, WY 82729



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

**Important Dates:**

Nov. 4...Ballots mailed to LAA2 voters

Nov 14...SURE sign-up begins

Dec 5... COC Election Ballots due back in county office

Jan 23...2012 DCP Enrollment begins

Within 15 days: File NAP Notice of Loss (from disaster occurrence, when loss is apparent, or from harvest date)

Timely...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.*