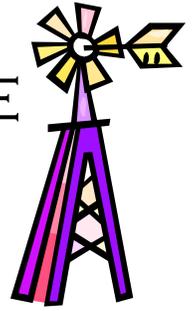




NATRONA/CONVERSE COUNTY WINDMILL



February 2011

Natrona/Converse
County FSA
5880 Enterprise Dr Ste 100
Casper, WY 82609
(307) 261-5436
or
Toll Free 1-866-596-4478

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm
www.fsa.usda.gov

County Committee

Jared Vollman – Chair
Leslie Hendry – Member
Neil Forgey – V. Chair
Phil Johnson - Member

Staff

Donna Sue Willey – CED
Wanda McLean – PT
Deena McDaniels – PT
Dave Lengle – FLM

Douglas USDA Service
Center
911 S. Windriver Dr.
Douglas, WY 82633
(307) 358-3050

SAFE Program Will Protect Endangered or Threatened Species

The addition of 10,000 acres for conservation projects in northeastern Wyoming has been approved. The acreage will be added through a portion of the Conservation Reserve Program called “State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement,” or SAFE. Eligible cropland in Campbell, Converse, Crook, Johnson, Natrona, Niobrara, Sheridan and Weston can be bid into the program. The signup period is February 28 through March 18th. SAFE is a cooperative conservation effort that helps state and regional agencies, non-profit organizations, farm groups and other conservation partner’s work with landowners to restore wildlife habitats. Farmers and ranchers can play a key role in protecting wildlife that may be threatened or endangered, before they have to be listed under the endangered species act. The SAFE program will help sage grouse and many other species of wildlife that rely upon mixed sagebrush and grassland communities in northeastern WY. Persons who are interested in enrolling land in SAFE should visit their local FSA office.

Annual payments and signing incentives are made to producers who are accepted into the program. Offers made during the signup period will be ranked according to the amount of wildlife benefits. Under CRP farmers and ranchers enroll eligible land in 10- to 15-year contracts with USDA. Participants plant appropriate cover such as grasses and trees in crop fields and along streams to help prevent soil and nutrients from running into waterways and affecting water quality. The long-term vegetative cover also improves wildlife habitat and soil quality. For more information about SAFE and other conservation programs, visit your FSA county or state office or go on line at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp>.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

USDA announced that the next general CRP signup will be held from March 14, 2011, through April 15, 2011. Contracts accepted will be effective October 1, 2011. The number of acres accepted will be determined after the signup concludes based

on the environmental benefits and the cost of the acres offered. The CRP offer process for signup 41 is expected to be highly competitive. The national environmental benefits index (EBI) score will be determined after signup concludes.

Election

Neil Forgey was elected to his second, 3 year term on the Natrona/Converse County Committee. Neil represents the southern half of Converse County.

A special election will be held in LAA #3 (south of the railroad in Natrona County). Ballots will be mailed April 20.

Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes, and vines that were lost by natural disasters occurring on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011. To qualify for TAP, orchardists and nursery tree growers must suffer qualifying tree, bush, and vine losses in excess of 15 percent mortality (after adjustment for normal mortality) from an eligible natural disaster for the individual stand and have owned the eligible

trees, bushes, and vines when the natural disaster occurred. Replacement of eligible trees, bushes, and vines within 12 months from the date the application is approved is required. Contact this office for more information.

1099-G: Note Changes

Producers who have received payments in 2010 from FSA should have received a CCC-1099-G. A CCC-1099-G is a report to the Internal Revenue Service about FSA payments made to producers during the previous calendar year. The CCC-1099-G is to help participating producers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the program participant's responsibility to report income to the IRS.

When the CCC-1099-G is received, it should be checked with your records to see that the amounts are correct. Refunds will no longer be reported on the 1099-G, but will be available online from the FSA Financial Inquiries (FSA-FI) web-based database. Program participants with an eAuthentication user ID and password may access their refund information at FSA-FI and select "Inquiry Type 1099/Refund Reports". Refund amounts are displayed on the Producer's Year-to-Date Activity web page.

If you have questions concerning the 1099-G refund information, contact your local FSA office for assistance locating the correct payment data.

2011 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2011 DCP contract.

USDA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. Eligible producers may request advance direct payments.

ACRE

The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net based on 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. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

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. Payments are based on planted or prevented planted acres of commodity crops. In order to receive a payment for the crop, there must be both a state and farm 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. While participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20%, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30%.

The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)-2011

Producers are reminded to "timely" file a notice of loss of livestock deaths due to adverse weather events. Losses can be filed in person at the county office, by fax or can be "phoned" in to the county office. The *Notice of Loss must be filed the earlier of*: 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock was apparent to the participant; or by October 31, 2011 (note: this is a change from previous years). 2011 is the last year for this program and FSA's authority to administer this program ends on October 1, 2012. The application for payment can be completed at any time or by January 30, 2012.

Records / Documentation required include but are not limited to:

1. Records to substantiate adverse weather event death loss(es), AND, normal death losses. These records / documentation must include date of death (or when death was apparent), event that caused death, numbers and livestock type that died. Records made at the time of the event, such as diaries or calving books, etc. work the best for submission of this data. Additionally, third party certifications can

also be used. A third party is someone who does not have a direct interest in the ranching operation. Veterinarians who have been to the place to treat livestock and saw the livestock that died from the recent adverse weather event are a good source for a third party certification. Family members, hired hands, employees, etc. are not eligible to be a third party certification.

2. Records that document the beginning and/or ending inventories – such as bank balance sheets, pregnancy test records, vaccination records, or sales receipts must be submitted. Spot checks may be performed to verify livestock numbers.

Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP)

Producers are encouraged to file form CCC-633 EZ “Page 1” (Request to Participate) as early in the year as possible, even before shearing and definitely before losing beneficial interest. Beneficial Interest is defined as retaining ownership or control of the commodity. Filing Page 1 is the first step to ensuring your eligibility to earn LDP payments on your wool / mohair / unshorn pelts or annually planted crop (wheat, oats, barley, corn, etc.) harvested as hay or grain.

Once beneficial interest is lost the commodity is ineligible for payment in the LDP program. Ensure your eligibility – file Page 1 today!

ELAP Assistance Available

Have you bought extra feed because of winter storms?

Livestock owners are eligible for financial assistance through ELAP if they suffered an eligible loss in a county that was affected by an eligible adverse weather event and has all acres in all counties covered by crop insurance and/or NAP insurance. Eligible livestock losses include losses of purchased forage/feedstuffs, losses of mechanically harvested forage/feedstuffs, and additional costs incurred for providing or transporting feed to eligible livestock. This includes, but is not limited to equipment rental fees for hay lifts and snow removal. The producer must submit the original receipt or summary receipts for the calendar year losses are being claimed AND the previous calendar year for feed losses.

Producers have 30 days from when the losses are apparent to timely file a notice of loss with the county office. Office staff may accept notices of loss by phone, fax, email or in person. Applicants must file an application for payment no later than January 30, 2012 for 2011 losses.

The deadline to file notice of loss and application for payment for 2010 losses has been extended to March 1, 2011. Additional feed purchased above normal quantities during or **after** an eligible adverse weather event or loss condition until additional feed becomes available is now eligible for payment. Contact the county office if you feel you may qualify.

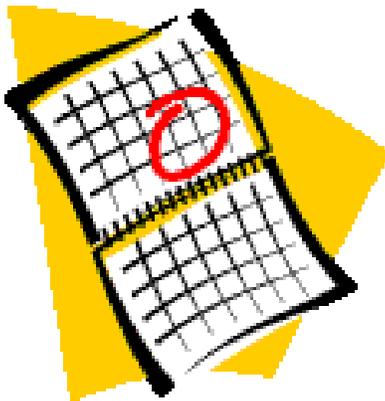
2011 Rural Living Workshops in Casper

The Rural Living in Central Wyoming Program is offering five workshops this season about land management issues. To register call Nancy at 307 235-9400. These workshops are **free to the public** and the schedule follows:

- 1. Coming Soon Invasive Weeds and Grasshoppers** **March 16, 6-8 pm**
At the Agricultural Resource and Learning Center in Casper. (backup date March 24)
- 2. Healthy Horses – Healthy Grasses** **April 6, 6-8 pm**
At the Agricultural Resource and Learning Center in Casper, (backup date April 14)
- 3. Edible Gardens** **April 27, 6-8 pm**
At the Agricultural Resource and Learning Center in Casper, (Backup Date May 11)
- 4. Limit the Threat! Bark Beetles and Firewood** **May 25, 6-8 pm**
At the Agricultural Resource and Learning Center in Casper, (Backup date May 26)
- 5. Forest Health**
June 8, 9 am-2pm at the Nordic Ski Lodge on Casper Mountain.

The Rural Living Program is sponsored by the Natrona County Conservation District, Natrona County Weed and Pest, Wyoming State Forestry, NRCS, Cooperative Extension Service, the Historic Trails RC&D, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality and the US EPA.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 Natrona/Converse CO FSA
 5880 Enterprise Dr. Ste 100
 Casper, WY 82609



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

February 28	SAFE sign up begins
March 1	New ELAP sign up deadline
March 14	CRP Sign Up 41 begins
April 15	End of CRP Sign Up
March 15	Federal Crop Insurance deadline for Spring crops.
May 31	Memorial Day – Office Closed
June 1	Deadline to complete DCP Contract
July 1	Deadline to file Crop Report

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.

Special Accommodations will be made for the physically handicapped, vision- or hearing-impaired person upon request. If accommodations are required, please call Sue Willey, CED at (307)261-5436.