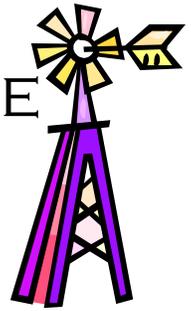




NATRONA/CONVERSE COUNTY WINDMILL



August 2011

Natrona LAA 3 Election

Jon (Kem) Nicolaysen II was chosen as a regular member of the County Committee due to the resignation of Jim Price. A special election for the southern portion of Natrona County was held in May. Thank you to all who took the time to vote.

Low Interest Grain Bin Loan Program

Commodity Credit Corporation, acting through Farm Service Agency has reauthorized the farm storage facility loan program. Basic provisions of this loan program are:

- Loans may be made for corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, oats, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds, pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas, hay, renewable biomass, and cold storage for fruits (including nuts) and vegetables.
- storage structures, handling equipment and drying equipment
- Loans will be for new storage or expansion or upgrades of existing storage
- The term of approved loans is 7 or 10 years. The interest rate is equivalent to the rate of interest charged on Treasury Securities of comparable maturity.
- Participants are required to carry Multi-peril crop insurance on crops of economic significance.

Disaster Assistance

The Farm Service Agency has programs available to assist producers who have experienced damage from recent natural disasters. FSA administers several important programs that help producers recover from disaster damage and livestock deaths. Among the key programs available to address impacts from disasters are the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP), the Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program.

Fact sheets for all of these programs can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov; click on Newsroom, then Fact Sheets. Contact the local FSA county office for details.

Adjusted Gross Income Report to IRS

Producers are reminded they must submit an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) verification consent form (CCC-927 or CCC-928) to the IRS as soon as possible in order to maintain eligibility for 2009 and 2010 program benefits. The consent form authorizes IRS to verify for FSA whether a payment recipient's AGI meets the eligibility requirements for FSA programs.

Producers who fail to file these forms before **Sept. 2011** will receive a notice from the National Office stating that the producer is ineligible for 2009 and/or 2010 payments. IRS requires written consent from all individuals or legal entities before verification of the average AGI can be provided to USDA. Individuals must submit form CCC-927 and legal entities must submit form CCC-928.

Sodbusting

Farmers and ranchers 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 Natural Resources Conservation

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
Kem Nicolaysen Member

Staff

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

Service indicates 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.

Beginning and Limited Resource Loans

FSA has a program to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Additional program information is available at the local USDA Service Center or visit www.fsa.usda.gov and www.nrcs.usda.gov

NOTICE TO HISPANIC AND/OR WOMEN FARMERS OR RANCHERS

COMPENSATION FOR CLAIMS OF DISCRIMINATION

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

To register your name to receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit: www.farmerclaims.gov

The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Hispanic and Women Farmers

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

- **Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process, please visit:** www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429

- **Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation, please visit:** www.blackfarmercase.com or call 1-866-950-5547

- **Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement please visit:** www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506

2010 ACRE Certification Deadline Extended

The deadline for a 2010 production certification to comply with the ACRE provisions for production reports has been extended to the Close of Business (COB) on September 1, 2011. Because of this extension, using a register on Sept. 1, 2011, is **not** authorized. The extension is for completing both the farm benchmark yield (2005 through 2009) and the actual farm yield (2010). For more details contact the local FSA office.

Environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) or Continuous CRP will be eligible for annual rental payments and cost-share of up to 50 percent on approved practices. These programs will remain funded, and continue to provide heightened environmental benefits on select areas.

Continuous CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is a private lands, voluntary, environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll environmentally sensitive acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that

range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment of fences and trees.

To be eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP at any time during the year.

For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments, please contact your local FSA office.

Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; 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 loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable 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 and/or ACRE Programs 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.

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged(SD)

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches. 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 SD applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. For purposes of this program, SD groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders. If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact this FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Controlled Substances

Program participants convicted under federal or state law of any planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting or storing a controlled substance are ineligible for program payments and benefits. If convicted of one of these offenses, the program participant shall be ineligible during that crop year and the four succeeding crop years for direct and counter-cyclical payments, price support loans, loan deficiency payments, market loan gains, storage payments, farm facility loans, NAP payments or disaster payments.

Program participants convicted of any federal or state offense consisting of the distribution (trafficking) of a controlled substance shall, at the discretion of the court, be ineligible for any or all program payments and benefits:

- for up to 5 years after the first conviction
- for up to 10 years after the second conviction
- permanently for a third or subsequent conviction.

Program participants convicted of federal or state offense for the possession of a controlled substance shall be ineligible, at the discretion of the court, for any or all program benefits, as follows:

- up to 1 year upon the first conviction
- up to 5 years after a second or subsequent conviction

Compliance

Compliance and spot checks will once again be utilized during the 2011 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers is used to achieve a statistical sampling of participating producers. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in the Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc.

State and county offices shall view and print their producer spot check lists as posted on the designated web site. If an entity is selected from the national database that is no longer farming or participating in the 2011 crop year, a notation shall be made on the spot check list. For more information about the new spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local office for additional clarification.

eNewsletters and eUpdates from FSA – watch for more news!

The Farm Service Agency is exploring more cost-effective and resource-conserving options to provide farmers and ranchers with news, information, deadlines and bulletins from your state FSA and from your own county FSA office. Take a look at the GovDelivery options now available from the USDA / FSA. Just open the FSA home page at www.fsa.usda.gov and click on the E-MAIL UPDATES icon where you can select your subscriptions. Watch for more news and the opportunity to sign up to receive your news quicker and at less cost via e-mail.

Selected Interest Rates for August 2011	
CCC borrowing rate	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	2.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.625%
Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency	2.125%
Farm Storage Facility	3.375%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

Dates to Remember	
Sept 1	2010 ACRE Certification Deadline
Sept 5	Labor Day – Office Closed
Oct 10	Columbus Day – Office Closed
Dec 1	2012 NAP Sign Up End
15 days	After loss to submit claim for LIP or ELAP
30 days	after the loss is apparent for crops
Anytime	Farm Record Changes

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.