



NEWSLETTER



Niobrara County Service Center

905 S. Main; Lusk, WY 82225

Phone: (307) 334-3454

Fax: (307) 334-3539

Niobrara Conservation District

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Terry Browder

Matt Dockery

Kevin Gaukel

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Dale Jordan

Staff

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Natural Resources Conservation Service

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August 2011

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.blackfarmerscase.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

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.

Timely Filing of Loss

To maintain eligibility in disaster programs a timely filed Notice of Loss is required on all crops.

Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance- Producers 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.

Emergency Loss Assistance Program - Producers that suffer eligible livestock, honey bee, or farm-raised fish losses shall file a notice of loss either 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent or 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss occurred – whichever is earlier.

Livestock Indemnity Program - Producers who suffer livestock death losses must file a notice of loss within 30 days of the date loss is apparent and an application for payment within 30 days of the end of the calendar year.

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.

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.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program 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 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.

Important Dates to Remember	
September 5	Labor Day Holiday – Office Closed
Within 15 days of noticing Loss	File CCC - 576 NAP Notice of Loss
Continues	Continuous CRP Signup

NIOBRARA COUNTY FSA OFFICE
PO BOX 720
LUSK, WY 82225