



NEWSLETTER



January 2011

Platte County FSA

1502 Progress Court
Wheatland, WY 82201
307-322-4050 phone
307-322-4109 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/WY

Hours

Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

David Hinman
John Watson
Britt Wilson
Ruth Cundall, advisor

Staff

Mike Hoffland, DD
Rick Carroll CED
Dixie Mount FLO
Mitzi Mudgett PT
Joni Reyes PT

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to E John Watson, (John) was elected to represent farmers from [T-19-25N R-65W-R71W] on the county committee. John was elected to [his] first] consecutive term. The election results for Local Administrative Area [#3] are:

E John Watson — Elected to the county committee (COC),

Ernest Newton Russell — 1st alternate to COC,

Pat Cullen — 2nd alternate to COC

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

The committee members will hold their organizational meeting in January to determine who will serve as the county committee chairman and vice-chairman.

SURE Signup

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) began **Jan. 10, 2011 and runs through July 29, 2011. Please call for an appointment.** SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. For SURE, all crops must be covered by crop insurance, NAP or be eligible for waivers.

A farm enrolled in SURE is eligible when either:

- a portion of the farm is located in a county covered by a qualifying natural disaster declaration (USDA Secretarial Declarations only) or a contiguous county; or,
- the actual production is less than 50% of the normal production.

Sure is available to eligible producers on:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties that have incurred crop production losses and/or crop quality losses during the crop year. (Platte County is eligible for the 2009 crop year as Laramie County, WY received a Disaster Designation)
- Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50% or less than the normal production of the farm.

At a minimum, to be eligible for the Sure Program, the producer must have purchased or be enrolled in the following for the 2009 crop year:

- A plan of crop insurance of at least catastrophic (CAT) level for all insurable crops on all farms.
- And/or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for all non-insurable crops on the farms.

Note: RMA crop Insurance or NAP coverage on grazing land does not have to be purchased in order to be eligible for SURE. Sure does not pay for losses on crops intended for grazing.

In order to receive payments, the farm must suffer at least a 10% eligible production loss on at least one crop of economic significance. Producers with qualifying losses are eligible to receive 60% of the difference between the Sure Disaster Program Guarantee and the actual farm income.

The Disaster Program Guarantee is determined by totaling the calculated guarantee for each crop. For insured crops, the guarantee is based on the level of coverage the producer has elected.

The Total Farm Revenue calculation includes estimated crop value, Crop Insurance Indemnities, NAP payments, Marketing Assistance Loans/LDP, other disaster payments, and DCP payments (15% of Direct Payments plus Counter-cyclical payments and ACRE payments).

OIL, GAS, WIND AND MINERAL LEASES

Many areas in Wyoming are seeing increased interest in resource development. If you are approached and considering entering into agreements regarding your property and resources; you are strongly encouraged to contact an attorney prior to signature. Agreements are legally binding and often have lengthy duration. Make sure you protect your land, your family, and yourself.

If you participate in USDA programs, we recommend that you contact your local offices **prior to signature** to assist you **assessing the impact of the lease on your program participation**.

IRS Form 1099-G

Producers annually receive CCC-1099-Gs detailing payments producers have received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on CCC-1099-Gs is a service intended to help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producers' responsibilities to report income to IRS.

FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy.

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

2011 DCP/ACRE Signup

Are you planning to participate in the 2011 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program/ACRE? If so, contact the nearest FSA county office to sign a 2011 DCP/ACRE contract (CCC-509). Sign-up begins Oct 1, 2010, and must be completed before June 1, 2011. *Final payments for DCP will be issued in the month of October, 2011.*

Payment Eligibility

Before producers can receive payments, each person must satisfy all other program or payment eligibility requirements including, but not limited to, filing a new farm operation plan or certify to no changes on form CCC-902 E for an entity or form CCC-902 I for an individual, adjusted gross income certification form CCC-926 and an AD-1026 certifying the farm is following an approved conservation system.

NAP Coverage-New Purchase Deadline for 2011 Perennial Forage Crops

The Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance (from an crop insurance agent). Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agriculture commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

The **application deadline date for 2011 NAP** coverage for biennial and perennial forage crops, regardless of intended use, is **December 1, 2010**. Note: this is a date change from **April 1st**. Crops included in this date change are biennial forage (**hay**) crops such as sweet clover; perennial forage crops such as grass varieties, grass/alfalfa mix that are not insurable by crop insurance; and pasture grass for **grazing**. For all other crops (those not biennial or perennial) the application closing date remains the same-**April 1st, 2011** with the following exceptions: Producers who want (winterkill) coverage on HRW Wheat Forage must purchase NAP by **December 1st**. Honey is **December 1st**. Call us for details of what crops to cover under the NAP program.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a (Notice of Loss) with 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

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

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Farm Loan Year End Reviews

Producers that have a farm loan with FSA are reminded they must provide data for their Year-End Analysis to their loan officer each year. Borrowers are urged to provide this information timely so that their files can be maintained.

Applications for FSA Farm Loan Assistance

Farmers and ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Failure to apply early may result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan representative for more details and assistance in applying.

Operating Loan Applications

Farmers that plan to apply for annual operating loan assistance are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Farmers should contact their local FSA office for information

Farming Operation Changes

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

January 10, 2011	Supplemental Revenue (SURE) Program SURE Sign up begins 01/10/2011
January 17 th	Martin Luther King Day Holiday Office Closed 01/17/2011
February 21 st	Presidents Day Office Closed 02/21/2011
April 1 st 2011	Last Day to sign all other crops for NAP, Not Biennial or Perennial
May 30, 2011	May 30, 2011 Labor Day, Office Closed
June 1 st 2011	June 1 st . 2011 Last Day for DCP/ACRE Signup
July 1 st 2011	Last Day to Report NAP Production For 2010 crop year.
July 1 st 2011	Last Day to Report Crop Acreage
Continues	Continuous CRP sign up
Continues	Farm Stored Facility Loan Program

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