



PLATTE COUNTY NEWSLETTER



October 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
E. John Watson
Britt Wilson
Ruth Cundall, advisor

Staff

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

COC Meetings

January 6, 2011
March 17, 2011
June 16, 2011
September 22, 2011
November 17, 2011
December 8, 2011

2011 DCP Final Payments

DCP payments for 2011 participants will be issued after Oct. 1, 2011. These payments will be deposited directly into participating producers' personal bank accounts.

If there are any unearned payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the October Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program payments.

2012 DCP Sign-Up

Enrollment for the 2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) will begin Jan 23, 2012 and will continue through June 1, 2012. Producers can make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or they can visit the FSA office to complete their 2012 DCP contract.

Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices.

2011 CRP Rental Payments

CRP Rental payments to be issued after Oct 1, 2011. These payments will be deposited directly in participating producers' personal bank accounts. If there are any unearned payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the October payments.

Acreage Spot Check Determinations and Notification

Each year the Farm Service Agency completes spot checks of acreage reports. Acreage reports are an integral part of farm program participation. Acreage spot checks are completed to ensure accurate acreage reports are used in farm program computations.

FSA will conduct spot checks on a selected number of farms in each state. All acreage determinations will be completed using the FSA Geographic Information System official acreages.

After farms are spot checked, a Notice of Determined Acreage will be sent to the farm operator. Producer notifications will be issued by FSA as spot checks are completed. Questions concerning determined acres should be directed to your local FSA office for further explanation.

County Committee Elections

Watch your mailbox for the official county office committee election ballot starting early in November. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters starting Nov. 4, 2011. If for some reason you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office.

Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on Dec. 5, 2011.

FSA Disaster Assistance

The Farm Service Agency would like to remind crop and livestock producers throughout states that have recently experienced severe damage from heavy rains, flooding, wildfires and tornadoes that FSA programs are available to assist with recovery. 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. Producers who have suffered a disaster loss due to the recent severe weather conditions must give "Notice of Loss" within 30 days of the date that the loss becomes apparent. "Application for Payment" must then be filed before January 31st of the year following the loss. Notice of loss can be done at the FSA Office in person, or by telephone.

Both programs require a Notice of Loss to be filed by the earliest of:

- 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent to the participant (LIP or ELAP) or
- October 31, 2011 (ELAP only)

A signed application for payment for LIP and ELAP must be received no later than January 31, 2012.

NRCS Assistance

NRCS would like to inform any producer who has recently had any grazing land or pasture effected by fire that these lands could qualify for EQIP or WHIP programs. The deadline to sign up for these programs is **December 1, 2011**. Anybody interested must meet the AGI requirements of the Farm Bill and have at least \$1,000 of Agriculture commodities sold. If you have any questions about these programs or any general questions about any resource concerns give Bailey Rapp, District Conservationist for NRCS a call. He can be reached at **307-322-9060 ext 118** or just stop by the office.

Emergency Conservation (ECP)

Platte County has been approved to take applications for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) for Fencing. Those producers who have lost fences because of fires or flooding for the 2011 crop year may apply for cost share assistant. The sign up for the ECP program will start on **October 17th and run through November 16th 2011**. You may contact the Platte County FSA Office by stopping in at 1502 Progress Court or by calling the office at **307-322-4050**.

Dates for NAP Coverage for 2012

For biennial and perennial forage crops regardless of intended use, the application closing date shall be December 1st, of the year, immediately proceeding the crop year. Biennial and perennial forage crops such as grasses, legumes, & forbs for grazing, forage, seed or any other use the application closing date is **December 1st, 2011**.

For all other crops the application closing date is **April 1st, 2012**.

eNewsletters and eUpdates through GovDelivery!

The Farm Service Agency is providing more cost-effective and resource-conserving options to deliver news, deadlines and bulletins. You have the option to receive information instantly and electronically from your state or local FSA office directly to your farm or ranch. Several states already have GovDelivery for news releases. Take a look at your current state and county options for electronic delivery by visiting the FSA home page at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Click on the small **E-MAIL UPDATES** icon and once you enroll in GovDelivery, you can select electronic subscriptions via e-mail. For more information contact your FSA state office and watch for more news and opportunities to sign up to receive your news quicker and at less cost via e-mail.



[Email Updates](#)

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.

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 may be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to you account and routing numbers.

CREP & Continuous CRP Available

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) allows farmers and ranchers to voluntarily enroll environmentally sensitive land into a program that decreases erosion, restores wildlife habitat and safeguards ground and surface water. CREP is a partnership with federal and state government and is limited to specific geographic areas.

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.

Farm Record Changes

Producers need to provide changes to your farm records at the local FSA office for the 2012 crop year. If you are changing your operation entity type, adding or dropping cropland or farms, or adding entities to your operation, contact the FSA county office by June 1. New owners need to contact the FSA office to determine what programs may be available for them to participate in. Or if the farm they have purchased is under a contract such as CRP and the new producer will need to continue to maintain the terms and conditions of the CRP contract.

Hay Net – Your No-Cost Online Buying and Selling Market

Hay Net is a free, online hay locator service on the FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet>. Producers who want to buy or sell hay can post their ads at no charge to make connections. Hay Net is a popular site for farmers and ranchers who have an emergency need, such as the one caused by the current extreme winter conditions. Individual ads can be posted by producers after completing a simple online registration form.

Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agriculture Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agriculture land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these requirements.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

**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.

October 10, 2011	Office Closed to Observe Columbus Day
November 4, 2011	FSA 669 Voters Ballot sent to all eligible producers. COC Election
November 11, 2011	Office Closed to Observe Veterans Day
November 24, 2011	Office Closed to Observe Thanksgiving Day
December 1 st	NAP Application Closing Date for Biennial and Perennial Forage Crops.
December 5, 2011	COC Ballots for COC Election to be returned to County Office or Post Marked.
December 8, 2011	County Office to Count COC Ballots for Committee Election
December 26, 2011	Office Closed to Observe Christmas Day
Continues	Continuous CRP sign up
Continues	Farm Stored Facility Loan Program Farm Reconstitution, Update Farm Records

Visit our Web site <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, 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 of 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, write to U.S.D.A., Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington DC 20250-9410 or call 1-(800)-795-3272 (Voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer