



Sheridan – Johnson County FSA  
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Sheridan-Johnson County  
Committee Members:

William White, Chairperson  
Juaquin Michelena, Vice  
Chairperson  
Susan Moyes, Regular Member  
Santiago Curuchet, Regular  
Member  
Steve Schuette; Regular Member

Dates to Remember:

**Feb. 1, 2011 – Feb.28, 2011 –**  
Sorghum Checkoff Referendum

**February 21, 2011**– President's  
Day Holiday- Office Closed

**February 28 – March 18, 2011 –**  
Signup for SAFE Program

**March 1, 2011 –** Signup Deadline  
for 2010 feed losses for ELAP

**March 14, 2011 through April 15,**  
**2011 –** CRP General Signup

**April 1, 2011 –** Deadline to  
purchase a 2011 NAP policy for  
spring seeded crops for forage or  
grazing and uninsurable spring  
seeded crops for grain or seed.

# Sheridan - Johnson February 2011

## SORGHUM CHECKOFF REFERENDUM

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced that it will offer producers the opportunity to vote in a nationwide referendum on whether to continue or terminate the Sorghum Checkoff Program. For the program to continue, a simple majority vote in the referendum is required.

Sorghum Checkoff is a national, coordinated, self-help marketing program designed to strengthen the position of sorghum in the marketplace, maintain and expand existing domestic and foreign markets and uses for sorghum, and develop new markets and uses for sorghum.

The referendum will be conducted at USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices beginning February 1, 2011 through February 28, 2011. To be eligible to vote, persons must certify and provide documentation, such as a sales receipt or remittance form, which shows they have been engaged in the production or importation of sorghum during the period, July 1, 2008 through Dec. 31, 2010.

Those interested in participating in the referendum may obtain ballots in person, by mail or facsimile at their local county FSA office, or via the Internet at [www.ams.usda.gov/sorghumpage](http://www.ams.usda.gov/sorghumpage).

## 2011 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

**April 1 2011** is the signup deadline for producers to apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, or NAP coverage. The application and service fee must be filed by the applicable closing date for each of the 2011 spring seeded NAP crops. Eligible crops include annual spring seeded crops for forage or grazing that are not insurable under traditional crop insurance and, also, uninsurable spring seeded crops for grain or seed.

## FSA County Committee Organizational Meeting

The organizational meeting for Sheridan-Johnson county COC members was held on January 13, 2011 to determine the chairperson, vice chairperson and regular members on the county committee for the 2011 calendar year. By unanimous vote, the Sheridan-Johnson County FSA Committee for 2011 will be as follows:

- |                     |                  |      |
|---------------------|------------------|------|
| • William White     | Chairperson      | LAA1 |
| • Juaquin Michelena | Vice Chairperson | LAA3 |
| • Santiago Curuchet | Regular Member   | LAA5 |
| • Steve Schuette    | Regular Member   | LAA2 |
| • Susan Moyes       | Regular Member   | LAA4 |

### Disaster Assistance for Livestock Producers Affected by Ice, Cold and Heavy Snowfall

Wyoming winters can be brutal, with heavy snow, ice, wind, and extreme cold temperatures causing serious damage to livestock and forage. For those farmers and ranchers who have encountered losses this winter, we encourage you to visit your local FSA office.

FSA administers several programs that help producers recover from livestock deaths that are beyond normal mortality rates, losses of purchased and/or harvested forage, and with the additional costs of providing or transporting feed. Among the key programs that FSA offers are the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). Both of these programs require producers to file a notice of loss with their local FSA office within 30 calendar days from when the loss is apparent to the producer.

Accurate and detailed record keeping is important to ensuring eligibility. Producers are requested to document the number and kind of livestock that have died as a direct result of winter storms and timely notify their local FSA office of these losses. In addition, producers who encounter situations that require transporting additional feed to their livestock are encouraged to keep a documented record of these added costs.

Fact sheets for these two programs can be found at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>; click on **Newsroom**, then **Fact Sheets**.

#### Signup Deadline Extension for 2010 ELAP

Due to policy revisions on ELAP, Wyoming has extended the ELAP signup deadline for calendar year **2010** feed losses until **March 1, 2011**. If you have not filed a notice of loss or application for payment under ELAP for 2010 feed losses, please contact your local county FSA Office for assistance.

## Additional Land in SAFE Program Approved For Northeastern Wyoming

The USDA has approved the addition of 10,000 acres for conservation projects in northeastern Wyoming. 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. A signup period of **February 28 through March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011** has been established and producers with interest in the program should contact their local County 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 received and the best offers will be accepted into the program.

The Safe Program is a voluntary program administered by the Farm Service Agency. It is a cooperative conservation effort, which enables farmers and ranchers to play a key role in protecting wildlife that may be threatened or endangered. With the addition of these Wyoming 'SAFE acres' there will be new opportunities for state and regional agencies, non-profit organizations, farm groups and other conservation partners to work with farmers and ranchers to restore wildlife habitats and conserve rare species before they have to be listed under the Endangered Species Act.

### CRP General Signup Begins March 14, 2011

General signup for the Conservation Reserve program (CRP) will begin on **March 14, 2011** and continue through April 15, 2011. During the signup period, farmers and ranchers may offer eligible land for CRP's competitive general signup at their county Farm service Agency (FSA) office.

Benefits of CRP continue to expand – fresher water, improved air quality, better habitat for wildlife and a huge reduction in soil erosion. These benefits support farmers and ranchers in preserving the natural resources on their land.

Land currently not enrolled in CRP may be offered in this signup provided all eligibility requirements are met. Additionally, current CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall may make new contract offers. Contracts awarded under this signup are scheduled to become effective Oct. 1, 2011.

As administrator of the Conservation Reserve Program, FSA will evaluate and rank eligible CRP offers using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) that assists in calculating the environmental benefits to be gained from the contract. The EBI consists of five environmental factors (wildlife, water, soil, air and enduring benefits). Cost factors are also entered into the equation.

In addition to the general sign-up, FSA's CRP Continuous Sign-up Program is ongoing. Continuous acres represent the most environmentally desirable and sensitive land. For more information contact your local county FSA office or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) and view *Conservation Programs*.

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

***Important Dates to Remember***

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**USDA: No Counter-Cyclical Payments for Certain 2010 Commodities**

USDA Farm Service Agency Wyoming State Executive Director Gregor Goertz has announced that USDA will not issue partial 2010-crop counter-cyclical payments to producers of certain covered commodities. For all covered commodities and peanuts, market price projections exceed levels that would trigger these payments. Payments will not be made to producers of wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, long grain rice, medium grain, rice, soybeans, sunflower seed, rapeseed, canola, safflower, flaxseed, mustard seed, crambe, sesame seed, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas, large chickpeas, and peanuts.

“FSA’s Counter-Cyclical Program provides Wyoming farmers with a safety net during periods of low crop prices. Wyoming farmers work hard and currently the marketplace is rewarding those efforts with higher prices for most commodities,” said SED Goertz. “As such, counter cyclical payments won’t be made at this time.”