



Sheridan - Johnson February 2012

Sheridan – Johnson County FSA
Office
1949 Sugarland Drive, Suite 126
Sheridan, WY 82801

(307)672-5846 Ext. 2

Toll Free Number:
1-866-262-4396

Johnson County Office Day:
First Wednesday of each month.

Buffalo USDA Service Center
621 Fetterman Street
Buffalo, WY 82834
(307) 684-2526 Ext. 104

FSA Office Personnel:
Linda Benzel, CED Trainee
Janice Wheeler, PT

County Committee Members:

William White, Chairperson
Juaquin Michelena, Vice
Chairperson
Susan Moyes, Regular Member
Raymon Turk, Regular Member
Steve Schuette; Regular Member

Dates to Remember:

January 23rd thru June 1st –
DCP/ACRE Signup
February 20th – President’s Day
Holiday, Office Closed
April 1st– NAP Sales Deadline for
spring crops.
March 12th thru April 6th — CRP
Signup 43
July 15th – 2012 Crop Report
Deadline

2012 CROP REPORTS

ATTENTION PRODUCERS – – –

Due to the reduction in the USDA budget, our FSA office will be unable to mail crop reports to producers as we have done in past years. Starting with the 2012 crop year producers will need to visit the county FSA office to complete Acreage Reports and complete required program/eligibility paperwork.

We realize this may pose a hardship for those of you who must travel a greater distance. To eliminate additional travel we ask that producers who will be visiting the Sheridan area please give us a call in advance and stop by the office to complete the required paperwork.

To serve the Johnson County Ag producers, our staff will continue to have an office day in Buffalo on the first Wednesday of each month. To better serve the producers in the Kaycee area, we are also planning off-site visits to Kaycee in late April/May.

Be watching your mailbox..... Although it is early in the year, our staff has begun mailing appointment cards to producers in Sheridan and Johnson counties. If you receive an appointment card in the mail and you are unable to make the appointment, please give our office a call and we will schedule a time/place that will work for you.

▶▶▶ NEW CROP REPORT DEADLINES ◀◀◀ FOR 2012 AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS

- **CROP YEAR 2012**
July 15, 2012:
Deadline to report crops for the 2012 crop year.
- **CROP YEAR 2013**

Apiculture, Perennial Forage, PRF, Fall Wheat and all other Fall Seeded Small Grains	November 15, 2012
Honey	January 2, 2013
Established Stand Alfalfa Seed, Fall Alfalfa Seed	January 15, 2013
Spring Alfalfa Seed, Spring Barley, Corn, Dry Beans, Forage Seeding, Millet, Spring Oats, Potatoes, Sugar Beets, Sunflowers, Spring Wheat, and all other crops	July 15, 2013

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► **Signup Dates for CRP General Signup 43**

The next general CRP signup will be held from March 12, 2012 through April 6, 2012. Land that is not currently enrolled in CRP may be offered for enrollment during CRP signup 43. In addition, CRP participants with contracts expiring on September 30, 2012 may submit offers. Accepted contracts for CRP signup 43 will begin on October 1, 2012.

For additional information a signup 43 Fact Sheet is available on FSA's Internet at www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA.

► **2012 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)**

April 1 2012 is the signup deadline for producers to apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, (NAP) coverage. The application and service fee must be filed by the applicable closing date for each of the 2012 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. Eligible producers must pay a service fee of \$250 per crop per administrative county or \$750 per producer per county, not to exceed \$1875 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. For additional information on NAP or other FSA programs, contact your local FSA Office.

►► **County Committee Election Results** ◀◀

Congratulations to William White and Raymon Turk for their election by voters to serve as representatives to our Agricultural Community. William was re-elected to serve a 3-year term on the Sheridan-Johnson County FSA Committee by voters of Local Administrative Area #1 and Raymon was elected to his first consecutive term to represent farmers from Local Administrative Area #5.

Our office staff would like to thank the voters for taking time to complete the election ballot. The election of FSA County Committee members is important to all farmers and ranchers in our agricultural communities. It is *your* involvement that makes the county committee system work.

► **FSA County Committee Organizational Meeting**

The organizational meeting for Sheridan-Johnson county COC members was held on February 9, 2012 to determine the chairperson, vice chairperson and regular members on the county committee for the 2012 calendar year. By unanimous vote, the Sheridan-Johnson County FSA Committee for 2012 will be as follows:

- William White, Chairperson LAA1
- Juakin Michelena, Vice Chairperson LAA3
- Raymon Turk, Regular Member LAA5
- Steve Schuette, Regular Member LAA2
- Susan Moyes, Regular Member LAA4

►► **ATTENTION NAP PRODUCERS** ◀◀

New Deadline Changes for producers filing production reports and filing application for payment.

Production Records and Application For Payment Deadline Examples Except Honey			
2011 NAP Production Records Deadline		2012 NAP Application for Payment Deadlines	
All Crops	July 15, 2012	Fall Seeded Grain & Perennial Forage	November 15, 2012
		Established and Fall Alfalfa Seed	January 15, 2013
		All Others	July 15, 2013

► **2012 DCP/ACRE Enrollment** ◀

Enrollment for the 2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) is underway and will continue through June 1, 2012. **IMPORTANT REMINDERS:**

- All producers planting on **DCP base acres** must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.
- Changes on the farm after the DCP/ACRE enrollment deadline **must** be reported to your local FSA office. This includes: Ownership changes: Producer changes (Individuals and Entities); Change in crop shares arrangements.
- **Note: Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.**

► 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.

► Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report new holdings or their changes in 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 within 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, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

► Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000.

The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans has increased from 1 percent to 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan, for loans obligated after October 1, 2011.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

► Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youth to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

► 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.

► Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

► Actively Engaged

USDA has amended the rules that govern the requirements to be 'actively engaged' in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by FSA.

Normally the stockholder or a member of a legal entity **must** make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management for the farming operation. The contributions are to be performed on regular basis, must be identifiable, and separate from the contributions of others.

The exception to this rule for a stockholder or member of a legal entity only occurs when both of the following apply:

- At least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management; and
- The total direct payments received by the legal entity and each of the members can't exceed \$40,000.

► Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium poppies and other drug producing plants.

► 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.

► Appeal Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree.

Generally, program participants have three choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

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◆◆◆ GovDelivery ► Instant News – Instant Updates ◆◆◆

Farm Service Agency offices are adopting an instant delivery, electronic option. Producers can now enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and reminders via email, rather than costly paper copies delivered through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is working smarter and more efficiently. Conversion to electronic notifications via email helps conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars.

County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers. Subscribe right now to receive your free e-mail updates instantly by going to www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe.

► **Be watching your mailbox! -----**

IRS Form 1099-G

Producers annually receive their CCC-1099-G forms detailing payments producers have received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on the CCC-1099-G form 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.

► **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 contact:

- **Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process:** www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429
- **Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation:** www.blackfarmerscase.com or call 1-866-950-5547