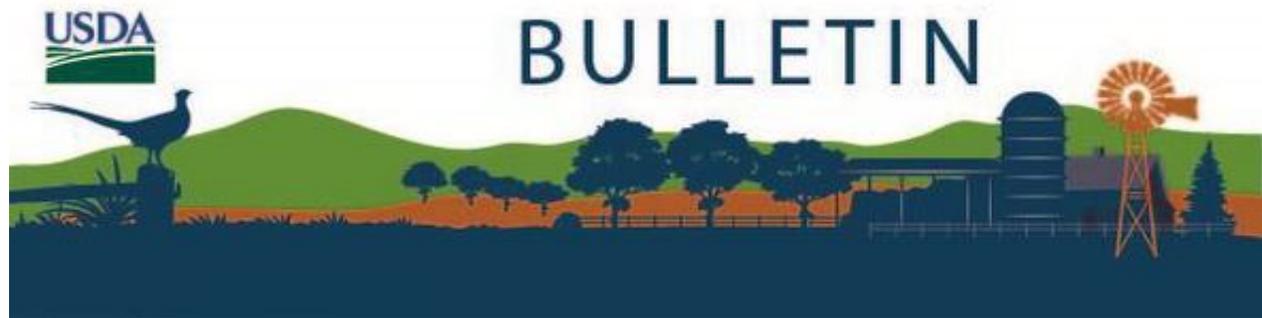


February 2016



Sheridan-Johnson County FSA Updates

- [Attention: NAP Producers - - - -](#)
- [FSA Articles](#)
- [FSA Loans for Targeted Underserved Producers](#)

Sheridan-Johnson County FSA Office

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Program Technicians:
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County Committee:
Steve Schuette
Thaddeus Stoltz
Raymon Turk
Susan Moyes
John Buyok

**Next County Committee
Meeting: To be announced**

Attention: NAP Producers - - - -

The 2016 sign up closing date is fast approaching!

April 1 2016 is the new signup deadline for producers to apply for 2016 NAP coverage for both Spring/Fall Seeded NAP crops, Grass hay and Native Range. The fee for NAP is \$250.00 per crop per county, with a county maximum of \$750.00. For producers with interest in multiple counties, the total fee cannot exceed \$1,875.00.

New NAP Coverage Levels

The 2014 Farm Bill allows producers to purchase higher levels of coverage beyond the catastrophic coverage level for an additional premium. New, limited resource and targeted underserved farmers are eligible for free catastrophic coverage and higher levels of coverage for a significantly discounted premium. Additional coverage must be elected by the producer by the application closing date. Producers who elect additional coverage must pay a premium in addition to the service fee. Please Note: Crops intended for grazing are not eligible for additional coverage.

Producers who have a 2016 NAP policy will need to provide our office with current, signed copies of the following:

- BLM grazing permit/lease and final bill or invoice
- Forest Service grazing permit/lease and final bill or invoice
- State land lease and State land subleases
- Private Leases

FSA Articles

Breaking New Ground

Agricultural producers are reminded to consult with FSA and NRCS before breaking out new ground for production as doing so without prior authorization may put a producer's federal farm program benefits in jeopardy. This is especially true for land that must meet Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions.

Producers with HEL determined soils must apply tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

Producers should notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to ensure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not risk your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators can complete form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary.

Update Your Records

Our FSA office staff is cleaning up our producer record database. Producers participating in FSA and NRCS programs are required to timely report to their county FSA office all changes in farm operations. Producers who have bought or sold land, or added or dropped rented land from their operation must report these changes as soon as possible to maintain accurate records with FSA. If you have any changes of address, an incorrect name or business name on file these will need to be reported to our office as well.

Farm Reconstitutions

When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

- **Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;
- **Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;
- **DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;
- **Default Method** — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

FSA Loans for Targeted Underserved Producers

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or to purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, FSA has provided priority funding for members of targeted underserved applicants.

A targeted underserved applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, targeted underserved groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).