



JANUARY 2011

Sweetwater/ Sublette County

79 Winston Dr. Ste. 110
Rock Springs, WY 82901
307.362.3062
FAX: 307.362.1459

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Jim Hodder
Ben Arambel
Bob Anderson
Penny Chrisman

Office Personnel
Jennifer Dutton, CED
Bonnie Hueckstaedt, PT
Mike Hoffland, DD



MOLES:

Machinery, Operating, Livestock, Expansion and Starting Out Loans

Questions regarding obtaining credit to start or enlarge a farming or ranching operation; financing agricultural operating expenses; livestock and machinery purchases call:

Brian Harrell, FLM
307.856.7524

ELAP Assistance Available

Have you bought extra feed because of storms?

Livestock owners are eligible for financial assistance through ELAP if they suffered an eligible loss in a county that was affected by an eligible adverse weather event and has all acres in all counties covered by crop insurance and/or NAP insurance.

Eligible livestock losses include losses of purchases forage/feedstuffs, losses of mechanically harvested forage/feedstuffs, additional costs incurred for providing or transporting feed to eligible livestock. This includes, but is not limited to equipment rental fees for hay lifts and snow removal. Grazing losses and physical livestock losses may also be covered.

To apply for assistance for additional costs incurred, the producer must submit the original receipt or summary receipts for the calendar year losses are being claimed AND the previous calendar year. Receipts should contain the following information:

- date of feed purchase
- name, address, phone number of vendor
- type and quantity of feed purchased
- cost of feed purchased
- signature of vendor if the vendor does not have a vendor license (ie neighbors).

Producers have 30 days from when the losses are apparent to timely file an application with the county office. Office staff may accept notices of loss by phone, fax, email or in person.



*annual notifications
on page 2 & 3*



Sodbuster, Swampbuster



Most FSA programs require producers to comply with sodbuster/swampbuster provisions. These provisions require that producers follow an approved conservation plan for highly erodible lands planted to annual crops as determined by NRCS.

Be sure to contact NRCS on any new land that you plan to plant to an annual crop to ensure HEL compliance.

Swampbuster provisions state that converting a wetland to plant any crop will result in the loss of all USDA benefits.



Sign for Your Spouse

Husbands and wives may sign on each others behalf for FSA business, unless written request to exclude this option is received by the county office.



Special Accommodations

Please

Special accommodations will be made by request for persons with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are needed, please contact county staff in person or by phone.



Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, heath, etc., we have a power of attorney form available to designate another person to sign your FSA paperwork for you. Update these this year!!!!



Foreign Buyers



The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of US agricultural land report their holding to the Secretary of Agriculture. FSA 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 closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25% of the property fair market value. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate are reminded to notify foreign investors of these requirements.



Controlled Substance

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



FSA Appeal Process

After a FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services and/or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options available to you if you disagree. Generally, you will have 3 options; 1) informal review with the original agency decision maker, 2) opportunity for mediation and 3) appeal to the next level of agency authority.



Changes in Bank Account or Address



If you have made changes in your bank account and/or address, please notify the County Office immediately to avoid possible payment delay and to assist the office in providing prompt service to you, the producer.

Farm Reconstitutions

In program terminology, farms are constituted to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. The reconstitution-or recon- is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts based on the farming operation.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by August 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct & Counter-cyclical Program (DCP).

1) *Estate method* – the division of bases, allotments & quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate.



2) *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 2 or more persons; 3, farm ownership is transferred to 2 or more persons; 4, part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; 5, a tract is sold to 2 or more persons; or 6, tract ownership is transferred to 2

or more persons. In order to use theism ethos the land sold must have been owned for at least 3 years or a waiver granted and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding.

3) *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

4) *Default method* – the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintain the bases attributed to the tract level with the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

If DCP direct payments have already been made, the reconstitution will be effective for the next crop year, unless payments are refunded to FSA.

Protect Yourself as a Buyer of Ag Products

It is required that buyers of agricultural products check or register with the Secretary of State's office to determine if there are liens against the product seller. If a lien exists, you are required to place the lien holder's name on the check in addition to the seller's name. ag products include, but are not limited to: livestock (including horses), feed crops (hay silage, oats etc), machinery, equipment and all other crops. *Failure to place a lien holder's name on the check may result in civil legal action being taken against the product buyer. Protect yourself! You may contact the Secretary of State's office at 307.777.7311.*



Thank you!

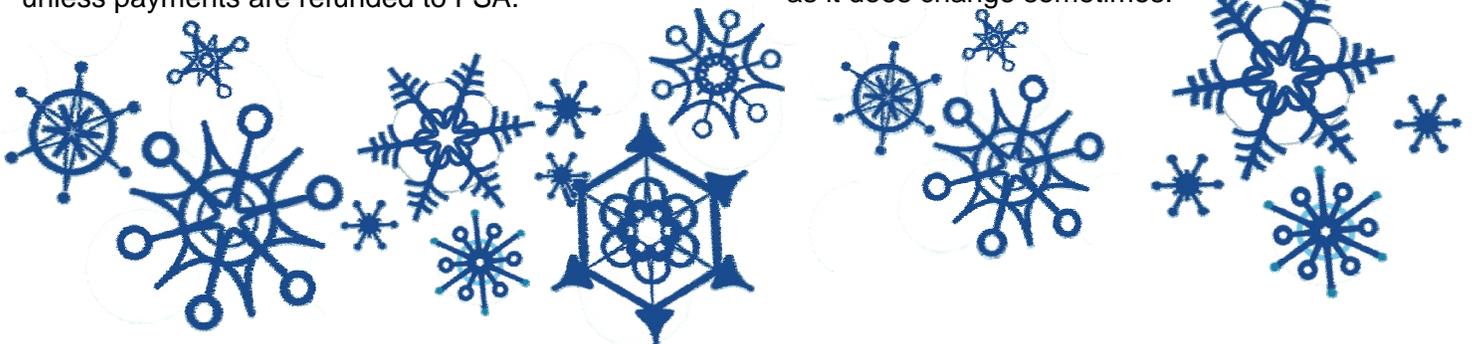
FSA appreciates all who took time to complete & return their ballot. The County Committee system works only because of your participation.



County Committee Meeting Schedule



The Sweetwater/Sublette County Committee regularly scheduled meeting date is the fourth Thursday of the month at 1:00 PM. Meeting are open to the public, but if you are planning on attending please call the office to confirm the date and time of the meeting as it does change sometimes.





**Sweetwater/Sublette County
Farm Service Agency**
79 Winston Dr. Ste. 110
Rock Springs, WY 82901



United States
Department of
Agriculture

—**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**—

2011 Wool LDPs
ELAP Assistance
Annual Notifications



WHAT'S AROUND THE CORNER

January – submit “Page 1” for wool LDPs (watch for it in the mail)

January 17 – office closed; MLK Day

January 30 – Deadline to file for LFP assistance for Lincoln County

January 30 – Deadline to file for 2010 ELAP assistance

30 days after apparent – Deadline to file livestock losses (LIP & ELAP)

15 days after apparent – Deadline to file NAP losses (hay & grazing)



*Martin Luther King Jr. Day
office closed
January 17*



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