

AUGUST 2013



Washakie-Hot Springs County FSA Updates

Washakie-Hot Springs County FSA Office

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**Next County Committee
Meeting:** September 19th,
2013 at 2:30 p.m.

Production Reporting Deadline for 2013 Production

The deadline for 2013 production reporting for perennial and fall seeded crops including forage crops is November 15th!

Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) Producers Important Deadline Change

The noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available.

Congress had directed FSA and RMA to coordinate acreage reporting deadlines as a convenience to producers. The result is the new acreage reporting deadline for 2014 fall crops has moved to November 15, 2013, including perennial forage crops (hay and pasture). The deadline change has a **BIG** impact on the NAP program. The crop reporting deadline change also moves the deadline for reporting production and application for payment of crop losses on 2013 hay is November 15, 2013. That means that the County Office will need your signed/dated bale count prior to November 15, 2013 so that we can calculate your actual production history on the form FSA-452.

A WHOLE LOT EARLIER THAN PAST YEARS!! So, as soon as you finish baling, please turn your bale count records to the County Office and we'll assist you in completing your FSA-452, production report.

THERE ARE NO LATE FILED PROVISIONS. The County Committee will assign a yield for any NAP crop for which production was NOT reported timely. Assigned yields usually reduce your actual yield. **A reduced proven yield results in reduced payment on losses.**

Filing for NAP Losses: The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed/lower production acreage and prevented planting. It may be completed by any producer with an interest in the covered crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for ALL CROPS INCLUDING GRASSES. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), you must file a CCC-576 in the County FSA Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

Even if you believe your losses are less than 50%, you can still file a notice of loss as there may be other programs available to provide loss assistance, at a later date.

Stay In Touch.....with your County Office Staff!

Remember to call your County Office if you are experiencing anything that isn't "normal" such as drought, heavy snow/rain, extreme heat/cold, higher than normal livestock death loss, higher than normal feed purchases etc. In many cases there is a limited amount of time for you to report these losses to the County Office to be considered to have a timely filed notice of loss. Remember....we don't know if you don't tell us! Also without a Farm Bill we don't know what disaster programs we will need to be prepared to administer.

DCP Deadline

The sign-up period for DCP has been extended and is still open. Producers are encouraged to sign before the extended Sept. 16, 2013, deadline.

For an appointment or more information, contact the FSA county office.

Adjusted Gross Income

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service have established an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent is required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

This ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs. Starting with 2012, a combined overall income exceeding \$1 million excludes participation in DCP or ACRE.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-933 to their local FSA County Office to avoid interruption of program benefits. This form may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainervlet>.

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;
- The total direct payments received by the legal entity and each of the members can't exceed \$40,000.

Emergency Loans

The Farm Service Agency reminds crop and livestock producers who have recently experienced severe damage from weather-related natural disasters (including drought) to aid affected operations. Note that a USDA Secretarial Disaster

Designation must be declared for your county before the low-interest Emergency Loan (EM) can be made available.

We encourage all who have suffered a disaster due to the recent severe weather conditions to read the fact sheets and visit the local FSA office to they get a quick start in the recovery process.

For FSA disaster assistance

information: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=landing>. For FSA Emergency Loan information: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=fmlp&topic=efl>

Highly Erodible Lands and Wetland Compliance

Producers participating in most programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are required to abide by certain conditions on any land owned or farmed that is highly erodible or that is considered a wetland.

To be in compliance with the highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions, producers must agree, that they will not:

- Produce an agricultural commodity on highly erodible land without a conservation system in place;
- Plant an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland;
- Convert a wetland to make possible the production of an agricultural commodity.

Producers planning to remove fence rows, convert woodlots to cropland, combine crop fields, divide a crop field into two or more fields, install new drainage, or improve or modify existing drainage, must notify the FSA and update Form AD-1026. FSA will notify NRCS and NRCS will then provide highly erodible land or wetland technical determinations.

To get additional information on highly erodible land and wetland conservation compliance contact the FSA office or the NRCS office at a local USDA Service Center. Additional information about conservation programs offered by FSA can be found online at www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation, and information on NRCS programs can be found at www.nrcs.usda.gov.

Compliance Spot Checks

Compliance spot checks will be conducted on 2013 crops. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, and deficiency loans, for review, a nationwide selection of producers is employed. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in the Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program or other relevant program.

For more information about the spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact a local Farm Service Agency office for additional clarification.

Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign individuals 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 reporting requirements.

Guaranteed Loan Update

The Farm Service Agency loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program has increased to \$1,302,000. The limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The lending limit increases every year according to an inflation index. The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness has increased to \$1,602,000.

As a reminder, the one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan.

Producers should contact their local FSA County Offices with questions about farm loans.

Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths 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.

For more information you can stop by your FSA county office. Our staff can help with preparing and processing the application forms.

Land Contract (LC) Guarantees

The Land Contract (LC) Guarantee Program is a valuable tool to transfer farm real estate to the next generation of farmers and ranchers. Guarantees will be offered to the owner of a farm who wishes to sell real estate through a land contract to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher. The guarantee reduces the financial risk to the seller.

FSA offers two types of guarantees:

- Prompt Payment Guarantee - A guarantee up to the amount of three amortized annual installments plus the cost of any related real estate taxes and insurance.
- Standard Guarantee - A guarantee of 90 percent of the outstanding principal balance under the land contract.

The guarantee period is 10 years and the contract payments must be amortized for a minimum of 20 years. The purchase price of the farm cannot exceed the lesser of \$500,000 or the market value of the property.

For additional information you can read the [Land Contract Guarantee Program Fact Sheet](#).

Preventing Fraud

The Farm Service Agency supports the Risk Management Agency in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will continue to refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA.

Producers can report suspected cases to the FSA office, RMA, or the Office of the Inspector General.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

September 2, 2013 - Labor Day – Office Closed

September 16, 2013 - DCP signup extension ends

November 4, 2013 - FSA-669 COC nomination voting forms mailed to producers

November 15, 2013 - **Production reporting for perennial and fall seeded crops including forage**

December 2, 2013 - FSA-669 COC nomination voting forms MUST be returned to County Office or postmarked.

Immediately - File Notification of Loss within 15 days after apparent loss of crops

May 13, 2013 through September 30, 2013

Anytime - Apply for Farm Storage Facility Loan

Anytime - Apply for a Farm Loan

Office Hours are from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Producers are urged to call for an appointment, so the office staff can assist you in a timely manner.

Receive the Newsletter via Email

Due to the tight budget situation county offices are facing, we are providing more information via email and less newsletters are being mailed to producers. Providing an email address is the best way to stay abreast of program changes and updates. If you regularly check your email and would like to get updates electronically please contact the office by telephone 307-347-2456 or by email at sherri.foust@wy.usda.gov to make your request.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. 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).