



United States Department of Agriculture

JULY 2015

Sheridan – Johnson County FSA Office
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FSA Office Personnel:

Linda Benzel, CED
Janice Wheeler, PT
Rick Miranda, Temp. PT
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County Committee Members:

Steve Schuette, Chairperson
Susan Moyes; Vice chairperson
John Buyok, Regular Member
Raymon Turk, Regular Member
Thad Stoltz, Regular Member

Important Dates

June 15, 2015: Nomination Period
Begins for County Committee
Elections.

June 17 to Sept. 30, 2015: Open
enrollment Period for ARC/PLC
programs.

July 3, 2015: Fourth of July
Holiday Observed; FSA Office
Closed.

July 15, 2015: Acreage Reporting
Deadline for Spring Seeded crops..

July 15, 2015: Final 2014
Noninsured Crop Disaster
Assistance Program (NAP)
Production Records are due.

August 3, 2015: Last day to file
County Committee nomination
forms at the local FSA county
office.

OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD FOR ARC/PLC PROGRAMS

Eligible producers may now formally enroll in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for 2014 and 2015. The enrollment period began June 17, 2015 and will end September 30, 2015. The Sheridan-Johnson County FSA Office will begin scheduling appointments in late July for producers who have previously elected to participate in ARC or PLC. *Please note: Election is not the same as enrollment and producers must still enroll their farm (sign a contract) to receive program benefits.* This will be an annual signup until the year 2018, the end of the 2014 Farm Bill.

Livestock Indemnity Payments (LIP)

LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather events. The program also provides compensation for the loss of livestock due to attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. This includes wolves and avian predators.

An eligible livestock owner must have legally owned the livestock on the day the livestock death loss occurred. Eligible livestock includes: beef cattle, dairy cattle, poultry, sheep, swine, horses, and other livestock as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

For 2015, eligible losses must occur on or after January 1, 2015, and before Dec. 31, 2015. A notice of loss and an application for payment must be submitted the earlier of:

- 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent to the producer; or
- 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss of livestock occurred

To speed up the application process, livestock owners who experienced losses will be asked to bring records verifying those losses to their local FSA county office. Producers also are encouraged to contact the county office ahead of time to schedule an appointment.

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

► Reporting Crop Losses for NAP

A *Notice of Loss* form (CCC-576) documents a producer's loss or damage to a crop or commodity due to an eligible cause of loss.

If you have a loss on a covered NAP crop and wish to receive loss benefits from our office, you must file a notice of loss within 15 days of the earlier:

- Date of the disaster event that caused the loss or
- When the loss is apparent to you.

A notice of loss must be filed for each weather-related event or adverse natural occurrence that causes damage to or loss of the specific crop. Failure to report crop damage or loss in a timely manner will result in ineligibility for Non-Insured Assistance Program payments.

Prior to issuing NAP payments producers who have not previously submitted information will need to provide our office with 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.

► NAP Participants: Report your 2015 hay production NOW!

Production records for grass hay crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. The deadline to file 2014 production records is **July 15, 2015**. *Please note: if you fail to report your production it could have an adverse impact on the overall crop yield history and payments.*

Actual Production records should include bale count, average weight of bales, irrigation practice (NI, IR), field numbers to calculate acreage, and type of hay. **All production records need to be signed and dated by producer.** On request, our office will gladly prepare maps to assist in documenting production at time of harvest.

2016 NAP

Attention Sheridan-Johnson County Ag Producers -----

Software is now available for producers wanting to purchase Crop Year 2016 NAP coverage.

► Acreage Reporting Deadline Fast Approaching ◀

Crop reports are required for participation in many FSA programs, such as **NAP** (Non-insured Crop Assistance Program), **CRP** (cropland and riparian areas set aside for habitat restoration and preservation), **LDP** commodity payments, **ARC/PLC** and **Disaster Program** payments. The annual crop report, form FSA-578 Report of Acreage, must account for all rangeland and cropland on a farm, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage.

July 15, 2015 is the deadline to file an acreage report for **SPRING** Seeded Alfalfa Crops, Forage Seeding, and all other **SPRING** seeded crops and any crops not previously recorded. Producers are encouraged to contact our FSA office to set up an appointment to complete their crop report certification before the deadline date.

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the applicable acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the applicable acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of “cover only,” “green manure,” “left standing,” or “seed,” then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

USDA Reminds Farmers of 2014 Farm Bill Conservation Compliance Changes

The 2014 Farm Bill implements a change that requires farmers to have a Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification (AD-1026) on file.

For farmers to be eligible for premium support on their federal crop insurance, a completed and signed AD-1026 certification form must be on file with the FSA. The Risk Management Agency (RMA), through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC), manages the federal crop insurance program that provides the modern farm safety net for American farmers and ranchers.

Since enactment of the 1985 Farm Bill, eligibility for most commodity, disaster, and conservation programs has been linked to compliance with the highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions. The 2014 Farm Bill continues the requirement that producers adhere to conservation compliance guidelines to be eligible for most programs administered by FSA and NRCS. This includes most financial assistance such as the new price and revenue protection programs, the Conservation Reserve Program, the Livestock Disaster Assistance programs and Marketing Assistance Loans and most programs implemented by FSA. It also includes the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Conservation Stewardship Program, and other conservation programs implemented by NRCS.

Many FSA and Natural Resource Conservation (NRCS) programs already have implemented this requirement and therefore most producers should already have an AD-1026 form on file for their associated lands. If an AD-1026 form has not been filed or is incomplete, then farmers are reminded of the deadline of June 1, 2015.

When a farmer completes and submits the AD-1026 certification form, FSA and NRCS staff will review the associated farm records and outline any additional actions that may be required to meet the required compliance with the conservation compliance provisions.

Important FSA Dates and Deadlines

- ◆ **June 15, 2015:** Nomination Period Begins for County Committee Elections. Producers may request nomination forms from their local FSA county office or obtain online at www.fsa.usda.gov/election.
- ◆ **June 17 to Sept. 30, 2015:** Open enrollment Period for ARC/PLC programs.
- ◆ **July 3, 2015:** Fourth of July Holiday Observed; FSA Office Closed.
- ◆ **July 15, 2015:** Acreage Reporting Deadline for Spring Seeded Alfalfa crops, Forage Seeding, all other spring seeded crops and any crops not previously recorded.
- ◆ **July 15, 2015:** Final 2014 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Production Records are due.
- ◆ **August 3, 2015:** Last day to file County Committee nomination forms at the local FSA county office.

General CRP Reminders

CRP participants are reminded to notify their local FSA County Office when there are ownership or operator changes on an applicable CRP contract. If there is a change in ownership, whether it is the result of a sale of land or death of a CRP participant, the successor to the CRP contract has 60 calendar days in which to complete the succession to the contract. It is very important that current CRP owners and/or operators inform their local FSA County Office timely of such changes so the County Office can update the CRP contract(s) so the annual rental payments can be issued to the correct participant.