

August 2013



Sheridan-Johnson County Newsletter

Acreage Reports for 2014 Crops

2013 and subsequent year's acreage reporting deadlines are:

1. **July 15th:** Spring seeded crops & CRP
2. **Nov. 15th:** Perennial Forage, PRF, Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains.

This means your **2014** perennial hay crops, winter wheat, and range reporting deadline is **Nov. 15, 2013**. If you have not filed your 2014 crop report for fall seeded and perennial crops, please give our office a call to set up an appointment.

Sheridan-Johnson County FSA Office

1949 Sugarland Drive,
Suite 126
Sheridan, WY 82801
(307)672-5846 Ext. 2

Fax: 866-574-1670

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 82835

(307) 684-2526 Ext. 104

County Executive

Director:

Linda Benzel

2013 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Producers in local Administrative Area 3 will be receiving ballots to elect their COC representative for the next 3 years. LAA 3 correlates with school district 3 in Sheridan County and in Johnson County lies north of Township 44N, on the East side of I-90 and I-25 to the Campbell County line. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters on November 4, 2013 and must be returned, or postmarked, by **December 2, 2013**. Ballots will be counted December 5, 2013, and newly elected members will take office on January 1, 2014.

Please participate in the COC Election process! The election of agricultural producers to FSA county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. It is vital that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the United States Department of Agriculture.

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.

Program Technicians:
Janice Wheeler

Farm Loan Manager:
Rob Weppner
Phone: 307-682-8843

Next County Committee Meeting: December 5,
2013 at 1:00PM

► **Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)**

December 1, 2013 is the application deadline for the 2014 Non-Insurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program. NAP provides financial assistance to eligible producers affected by crop losses due to natural disasters. FSA's NAP coverage is for non-insurable crops not covered by RMA. This includes rangeland coverage. The application service fee for NAP is \$250.00 per crop per county, with a county maximum of \$750.00. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1,875.00 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

Attention NAP Participants ...

Report your 2013 hay production NOW!

2013 grass hay crops need to be filed with our office by **November 15, 2013**. We recommend producers submit 2013 production records as soon as harvest is complete. 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.

Reporting Crop Losses for NAP

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:

- 1) Date of the disaster event that caused the loss
- 2) 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.

NAP producers in Sheridan and Johnson counties who were affected by extreme drought conditions are urged to contact our FSA office to insure they have a notice of loss on file.

USDA Disaster Designations

Sheridan and Johnson counties have been designated by USDA Secretarial Disaster Designation S3533 as natural disaster areas due to recent drought conditions. A Secretarial disaster designation makes all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low-interest FSA emergency loans provided eligibility

requirements are met.

Farmers and ranchers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. This means Sheridan and Johnson county producers have until January 29, 2014 to apply. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability.

Emergency loan funds may be used to: Restore or replace essential property; Pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year; Pay essential family living expenses; or Refinance certain debts, excluding real estate. Producers interested in applying for an emergency loan should contact their local FSA office to set up an appointment with the Farm Loan Program staff serving the Sheridan-Johnson county area.

Rob Weppner, Farm Loan Manager

(307) 682-8843 Ext. 2

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>

Microloan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process that helps new and smaller producers as well as specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Individuals interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available, should contact the local FSA office to setup an appointment with an FSA Farm Loan Manager or Officer.

Annual Notifications

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, contact a local Farm Service Agency office.

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 with 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.

Successor-In-Interest

Many FSA programs will allow payments to be made to heirs or successors when a program participant passes away. Additionally, contracts in programs such as CRP must be revised to reflect the successor(s) to a deceased participant's interest.

In the event of an FSA program participant's death, it is important that FSA be notified. Entities and joint operations that participate in FSA programs also need to notify FSA if a shareholder or member passes away. FSA benefits are reported to IRS and maintaining current, accurate records about participants is vital to ensuring that those payments are reported correctly.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFLP) allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

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](#).

Dates to Remember

Sept. 2 : Labor Day Holiday – Office Closed
Sept 16: DCP Sign-up Ends
Oct. 14: Columbus Day Holiday – Office Closed
Nov. 15 : NAP Production (APH) Deadline
Nov. 15: Crop Report Deadline
Nov. 4: COC Ballots Mailed to Eligible Voters
Dec. 2 : Last Day to Return COC Ballots
Jan. 29 : Emergency Loan Application Deadline

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).