



# NEWSLETTER



**Crook County**

**117 S. 21<sup>st</sup> Street; Sundance, WY 82729**

**October 2015**

## **Farm Service Agency**

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## **County Committee**

Ross Garman, Chairperson  
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Larry Fowlkes, Member  
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## **CROP REPORTS**

The annual timely and accurate reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planted acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs, including ARC/PLC, NAP and CRP.

Crop reports, form FSA-578 Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. In Wyoming, producers had until July 15, 2015 to timely file their 2015 acreage reports for spring seeded crops and CRP. Reports filed after this date may be subject to a late-filing fee.

### **2016 and subsequent years' acreage reporting deadlines:**

- **Spring seeded crops and CRP-July 15, 2016**
- **Perennial Forage, Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains-November 15, 2015**

**This means your 2016 (crops to be harvested in 2016) perennial hay/forage crops and winter wheat reporting deadline is November 15, 2015.**

**Prevented Planting:** needs to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

**Failed Acreage:** must be filed before disposition of the crop. Producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

## **CROP PRODUCTION REPORTS – NAP PROGRAM PURPOSES**

Crop production from current year crops must be reported by the applicable FSA-578 Report of Acreage for the next year's crop. For example:

**Oat hay production: planted and harvested in 2015, must be reported no later than July 15, 2016 (the deadline for the 2016 crop acreage report).**

**Mixed Grass hay production: harvested in 2015, must be reported by November 15, 2015 (the deadline for the 2016 crop acreage report).**

**Failure to timely report production will result in disapproval of any notice of loss filed on a NAP covered crop.**

For example: 2015 mixed grass hay production submitted in June of 2016. A notice of loss is filed in August 2016. The notice of loss will be disapproved because the 2015 production was not reported by November 15, 2015. Producers with NAP policies should pay close attention to these reporting dates to ensure their eligibility in a crop loss situation.

Additionally, these production reports are used in the NAP program to establish and/or maintain the current year APH (payment yield). In the above example: If 2015's production is not timely filed it cannot be used in the yield history report to establish the APH (payment yield) for year 2016. That means a zero would be entered in the yield data base for 2015 – this can have significant effects on the 2016 APH yield.

## FILING A NOTICE OF LOSS – NAP PROGRAM

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the 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, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office the earlier of: within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster; or when losses become apparent. If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

### NAP PROGRAM SALES CLOSING DATE !!CHANGES!!

The sales closing date to purchase coverage on NAP eligible crops has changed. All perennial hay crops and winter wheat now have a sales closing date of April 1<sup>st</sup>.

The sales closing date for all spring planted crops remains the same at April 1<sup>st</sup>. Honey coverage remains unchanged. It must be purchased by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

### CRP GRASSLANDS Signup began September 1, 2015

Farmers and ranchers can apply for financial assistance to help conserve working grasslands, rangeland and pastureland while maintaining the areas as livestock grazing lands.

The initiative is part of the voluntary Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), a federally funded program that for 30 years has assisted agricultural producers with the cost of restoring, enhancing and protecting certain grasses, shrubs and trees to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and reduce loss of wildlife habitat. In return, USDA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. CRP has helped farmers and ranchers prevent more than 8 billion tons of soil from eroding, reduce nitrogen and phosphorous runoff relative to cropland by 95 and 85 percent respectively, and even sequester 43 million tons of greenhouse gases annually, equal to taking 8 million cars off the road.

The CRP-Grasslands initiative will provide participants who establish long-term, resource-conserving covers with annual rental payments up to 75 percent of the grazing value of the land. Cost-share assistance also is available for up to 50 percent of the covers and other practices, such as cross fencing to support rotational grazing or improving pasture cover to benefit pollinators or other wildlife. Participants may still conduct common grazing practices, produce hay, mow, or harvest for seed production, conduct fire rehabilitation, and construct firebreaks and fences.

With the publication of the CRP regulation, the Farm Service Agency will accept applications on an ongoing basis beginning Sept. 1, 2015, with those applications scored against published ranking criteria, and approved based on the competitiveness of the offer. The ranking period will occur at least once per year and be announced at least 30 days prior to its start. The end of the first ranking period will be November 20, 2015.

For additional information, please call or visit your local FSA office.

### CRP REQUIREMENTS AND REMINDERS

CRP participants are obligated to maintain the established cover. Participants shall ensure:

Compliance with state and local noxious weed laws. If any noxious weeds are found on CRP, you will be referred to the local weed & pest officials to draw up a plan for weed control.

Control of other weeds as determined by the County Committee.

That undesirable vegetation, weeds, insects, rodents, etc. that pose a threat to existing cover or adversely impact other landowners in the area are controlled.

An annual acreage report must be filed to confirm the acres are still being maintained as CRP.

FSA conducts periodic spot checks on CRP to confirm program compliance. Your neighbor also conducts checks, so it is in your best interest to keep on top of things.

### COMMODITY LOANS AVAILABLE

We remind you of the availability of the commodity loan program. 2015 loan rates for applicable crops in Crook County are:

Wheat HRW	\$2.87/bu.	Wheat HRS	\$2.82/bu.	Corn	\$2.04/bu.
Barley	\$1.85/bu.	Oats	\$1.37/bu.		

Interest rates are minimal (example: the August 2015 rate is 1.250%) and the term of the loan will be end of the 9<sup>th</sup> month following disbursement.

2015 loans on small grains can be requested through March 31, 2016. The grower must maintain title and control of the commodity (beneficial interest) while the grain is under loan.

### **2015 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION**

This year's election in Crook County covers LAA 3, which is basically the lower third of the county (everything south of: I-90 to Highway 14, to Cabin Creek road, to Oshoto road, to Dead Man road, to the Campbell county line).

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters around November 9. Instructions for voting will be included. The last day to return voted ballots to the county office, or must be postmarked by, is December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Every eligible agricultural producer should participate in Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees elections - - whether you are a beginning or longtime producer, or whether you have a large or small operation - - because FSA county committees are your link with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Farmers and ranchers who are elected to serve on FSA county committees apply their judgment and knowledge to help with the decisions necessary to administer FSA programs in their counties, ensuring the needs of local producers are met. FSA county committees operate within official federal regulations so that local input is provided on federal programs such as: 1/ Income safety-net loans and payments, including setting county average yields for commodities; 2/Conservation programs; 3/ Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities; 4/ Emergency programs; 5/Payment eligibility.

### **LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM (LIP)**

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, wildfires, extreme heat or extreme cold.

For 2015, eligible losses must occur on or after Jan. 1, 2015, and before December 31, 2015. A notice of loss must be filed with FSA within 30 days of when the loss of livestock is apparent. Participants must provide the following supporting documentation to their local FSA office no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year for which benefits are requested:

Proof of death documentation

Copy of growers contracts

Proof of normal mortality documentation

USDA has established normal mortality rates for each type and weight range of eligible livestock, i.e. Adult Beef Cow = 2.0% and Non-Adult Beef Cattle (less than 400 pounds) = 4.3%. These established percentages reflect losses that are considered expected or typical under "normal" conditions. Producers who suffer livestock losses in 2015 must file both of the following:

A notice of loss the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss was apparent or by January 30, 2016

An application for payment by January 30, 2016.

### **KEEP YOUR RECORDS UPDATED**

FSA needs to keep records updated at all times. If you have had any of the following changes, please report that to our office so that we can update our records accordingly:

Individual or business name

Address

Phone number

Bank account

Sold or purchased land; Added or dropped leased land

Crook County FSA Office  
PO Box 1070  
Sundance, WY 82729



PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Farm Service Agency

#### **Dates to Remember**

<b>Continuous Ongoing</b>	<b>Signup for Continuous Conservation Reserve Program</b>
<b>November 15</b>	<b>Signup for LIP and ELAP</b>
<b>November 15</b>	<b>Deadline to file a 2016 FSA-578 farm acreage report: perennial hay crops, pasture, wheat</b>
<b>November 15</b>	<b>Deadline to file 2015 perennial hay crop production for NAP program purposes</b>
<b>November 15</b>	<b>Deadline to file 2015 winter wheat hay crop production for NAP program purposes</b>

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