

Cowboy Country Connection



NEWSLETTER



**Oct/Nov
2016**

Carbon/Albany County

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<http://www.usda.gov/wy>

Hours:

Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

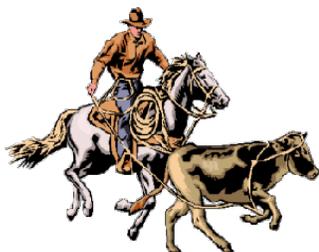
Melinda Sims, Chairperson
Montie Munroe, Vice-Chairperson
Michelle Hall, Member
Ryan Wilson, Member
Pat Sheehan, Member

Farm Service Agency

Sheryl Hunter, CED
Alyssa VanAken, PT
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County, 307-322-4050

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Mark Shirley, DC Saratoga
Mike Boardman, Medicine Bow
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USDA Unveils New Improvement to Streamline Crop Reporting

Farmers and ranchers filing crop acreage reports with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and participating insurance providers approved by the Risk Management Agency (RMA) now can provide the common information from their acreage reports at one office and the information will be electronically shared with the other location.

This new process is part of the USDA Acreage Crop Reporting Streamlining Initiative (ACRSI). This interagency collaboration also includes participating private crop insurance agents and insurance companies, all working to streamline the information collected from farmers and ranchers who participate in USDA programs.

Once filing at one location, data that's important to both FSA and RMA will be securely and electronically shared with the other location avoiding redundant and duplicative reporting, as well as saving farmers and ranchers time.

Since 2009, USDA has been working to streamline the crop reporting process for agricultural producers, who have expressed concerns with providing the same basic common information for multiple locations. In 2013, USDA consolidated with deadlines to 15 dates for submitting these reports, down from the previous 54 dates at RMA and 17 dates for FSA. USDA representatives believe farmers and ranchers will experience a notable improvement in the coming weeks as they approach the peak season for crop reporting later this summer.

More than 93% of all annual reported acres to FSA and RMA now are eligible for the common data reporting, and USDA is exploring adding more crops. Producers must still visit both locations to validate and sign acreage reports, complete maps or provide program specific information. The common data from the first-filed acreage report will now be available to pre-populate and accelerate completion of the second report. Plans are underway at USDA to continue building upon the framework with additional efficiencies at a future date.

Farmers and ranchers are also reminded that they can now access their FSA farm information from the convenience of their home computer. Producers can see field boundaries, images of the farm, conservation status, operator and owner information and much more.

The new customer self-service portal, known as **FSAfarm+**, gives farmers and ranchers online access to securely view, print and export their personal farm data. To enroll in the online service, producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office for details. To find your local FSA office in your area, visit

<http://offices.usda.gov>



Important Dates

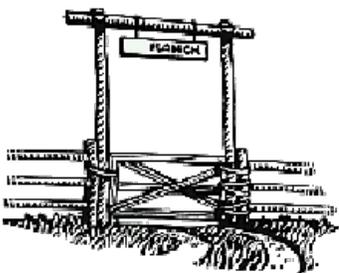
Oct 19- Albany County Office Day

Nov 11 – Office Closed – Veterans Day

Nov 16 – Albany County Office day

Nov 24- Office closed Thanksgiving

Anytime-- Contact the office to report adverse weather conditions & losses.



Carbon/Albany County Producers Urged to Consider Risk Protection Coverage before Crop sales Deadlines

The USDA Farm Service Agency reminds producers to review available USDA crop risk protection options, including federal crop insurance and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, before the crop deadline of

- December 1, 2015 for Honey
- March 1, 2016 for grass for grazing or forage.

Federal Crop insurance covers crop losses from natural adversities such as drought, hail and excessive moisture. NAP covers losses from natural disasters on crops for which no permanent federal crop insurance program is available, including perennial grass forage and grazing crops, fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, bioenergy, and industrial crops. USDA has partnered with Michigan State University and the University of Illinois to create an online tool at www.fsa.usda.gov/nap that allows producers to determine whether their crops are eligible for federal crop insurance or NAP and to explore the best level of protection for their operation. NAP basic coverage is available at 55% of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50% of expected production, with higher levels of coverage, up to 65% of their expected production at 100% of the average market price available, including coverage for organics and crops marketed directly to consumers. Crops intended for grazing are not eligible for additional NAP coverage.

Federal crop insurance coverage is sold and delivered solely through private insurance agents. Agent lists are available at all USDA Service Centers or at USDA’s online Agent Locator:

<http://prodwebnlb.rma.usda.gov/apps.agentlocator/#>. Producers can use the USDA cost Estimator, <https://ewebapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/cokestimator/default.aspx>, to predict insurance premium costs.

FSA Offers Improved Program to Limit Losses on Forage

Reduced Forage quality is now considered a production loss for weather disaster assistance coverage under the new buy-up provisions of the Farm Service Agency Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP).

This Safety net is important for cattlemen who produce non-insurable forages for feeding livestock. Previously, FSA only considered a decrease in overall forage tonnage produced when determining if the producer suffered a compensable loss after a qualifying weather event. Under FSA’s new NAP buy-up provisions, a decrease in forage quality- such as protein content- is also considered.

To receive coverage for the 2017 crop year, producers must enroll their eligible forage in NAP by March 1, 2016. Beginning, limited resource and targeted underserved farmers or ranchers are eligible for a waiver of the NAP service fee and a 50% premium reduction in buy-up provisions.

For More information on NAP, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/nap

FSAfarm+, FSA's Customer Self-Service Portal

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) has launched a new tool to provide farmers and ranchers with remote access to their personal farm information using their home computers. Farmers and ranchers can now view, print and export their personal farm data all without visiting an FSA county office.

The program, known as **FSAfarm+**, provides you with secure access to view your personal FSA data, such as base and yields, Conservation Reserve Program data, other conservation program acreage, Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation status information, field boundaries, farm imagery, name and address details, contact information and membership interest and shares in the operation. This data will be available in real time, at no cost to the producer and allow operators and owners to export and print farm records, including maps. Producers also can electronically share their data with a crop insurance agent from their own personal computer.

To access **FSAfarm+** farm operators and owners will first need "Level 2 eAuthentication" to access the web portal. This level of security ensures that personal information is protected for each user. Level 2 access can be obtained by completing a two-step process:

1. Go to www.eauth.usda.gov, and complete the required information.
2. Visit your local FSA office to finalize access (Must be completed in person).

For more information on **FSAfarm+**, the customer self-service portal, contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA county office, go to <http://offices.usda.gov>.

USDA REMINDS PRODUCERS OF NOV 1ST ELAP APPLICATION DEADLINE

Eligible livestock, honeybee, and farm-raised fish producers who experienced losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, not covered by other agricultural disaster assistance programs, have until Nov. 1, 2016, to submit an application and notice of loss under Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP).

Eligible livestock losses include grazing losses not covered under the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), loss of purchased feed and/or mechanically harvested feed due to an eligible adverse weather event, additional cost of transporting water because of an eligible drought and additional cost associated with gathering livestock to treat for cattle tick fever.

Eligible honeybee losses include loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event, cost of additional feed purchased above normal quantities due to an eligible adverse weather condition, colony losses in excess of normal mortality due to an eligible weather event or loss condition, including CCD, and hive losses due to eligible adverse weather.

Eligible farm-raised fish losses include death losses in excess of normal mortality and/or loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event.

Producers who suffer eligible livestock, honeybee, or farm-raised fish losses from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016 must file:

- A notice of loss the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent or by November 1, 2016
- An application for payment by November 1, 2016

The Farm Bill caps ELAP disaster funding at \$20 Million per federal fiscal year.

The following ELAP fact sheets (by topic) are available online:

- ELAP for Farm-Raised Fish Fact Sheet
- ELAP for Livestock Fact Sheet
- ELAP for Honeybees Fact Sheet

To view there and other FSA program fact sheets, visit the FSA fact sheet web page at www.fsa.usda.gov/factsheets.

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FSA offers Targeted Farm Loan Funding for Underserved Groups & Beginning Farmers

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers that FSA offers targeted farm ownership and farm operating loans to assist underserved applicants as well as beginning farmers and ranchers.

USDA defines underserved applicants as a group whose members have been subject to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For farm loan program purposes, targeted underserved groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics and Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Underserved or beginning farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank can apply for either FSA direct loans or guaranteed loans. Direct loans are made to applicants by FSA. Guaranteed loans are made by lending institutions who arrange for FSA to guarantee the loan. The FSA guarantee allows lenders to make agricultural credit available to producers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria.

The direct and guaranteed loan program provides for two types of loans: farm ownership loans and farm operating loans. In addition to customary farm operating and ownership loans, FSA now offers Microloans through the direct loan program. The focus of Microloans is on the financing needs of small, beginning farmer, niche and non-traditional farm operations. Microloans are available for both ownership and operating finance needs. To learn more about microloans, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans

To qualify as a beginning producer, the individual or entity must meet the eligibility requirements outlined for direct or guaranteed loans. Additionally, individuals and all entity members must have operated a farm for less than 10 years. Applicants must materially or substantially participate in the operation.

For more information on FSA's farm loan programs and targeted underserved and beginning farmer guidelines, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, 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).