



# NEWSLETTER



**Crook County**

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

**June 2016**

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**FSA County Committee Nomination Period in Crook County Now Open**

The nomination period for the Crook FSA county committee began on June 15, 2016. Nomination forms must be postmarked or received in the Crook County FSA Office by close of business on Aug. 1, 2016.

County Committees are unique to FSA and allow producers to have a voice on federal farm program implementation at the local level.

To be eligible to serve on the FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in an agency administered program, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) where they are nominated. All producers, including women, minority and beginning farmers and ranchers are encouraged to participate in the nomination and election process.

This year, nominations and elections will be held in LAA 1, which includes the northern third of the county (That portion of the county north of: Highway 24 from the South Dakota state line to Hulett; From Hulett, west along highway 112 to New Haven Road turnoff; West along New Haven road to Mule Creek Road. North and westerly along Mule Creek road to the Little Missouri road intersection, westerly along Little Missouri road to the Grazing Association road. North and west along the Grazing Association road to the Campbell County line.)

Producers may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Organizations representing minority and women farmers and ranchers may also nominate candidates. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A.

Elected county committee members serve a three-year term and are responsible for making decisions on FSA disaster, conservation, commodity and price support programs, as well as other important federal farm program issues. County committees consist of three to 5 members.

FSA will mail election ballots to eligible voters beginning Nov. 7. Ballots are due back in the Crook County Office by mail or in person no later than Dec. 5, 2016. All newly elected county committee members and alternates will take office January 1, 2017.

**2016 ACREAGE REPORTING DATES**

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Crook County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Crook County:

July 15, 2016: All spring planted crops

November 15, 2016: (for 2017 crop harvest) All perennial forage crops, pasture grass, winter wheat.

Note: we will not send out appointment cards for the November 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. It is your responsibility to report any winter wheat you plant this fall. Failure to report by November 15<sup>th</sup> will result in a "late-filed" fee being charged per farm.

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above 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 above 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.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

### **Filing a Notice of Loss**

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:

- 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence or date of loss or damage to the crop first becomes apparent.
- 15 calendar days after the normal harvest date.
- The notice of loss notification can be provided by filing a CCC-576, in person, email, fax or phone. Producers who notify the County Office by any method other than by filing the CCC-576 are still required to file a CCC-576, *Notice of Loss*, within the required 15 calendar days.

### **Producers are Encouraged to Report Prevented Planting and Failed Acres**

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers to report prevented planting and failed acres in order to establish or retain FSA program eligibility for some programs.

Producers should report crop acreage they intended to plant, but due to natural disaster, were prevented from planting. Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form CCC-576, *Notice of Loss*, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and Risk Management Agency (RMA).

If a producer is unable to report the prevented planting acreage within the 15 calendar days following the final planting date, a late-filed report can be submitted. Late-filed reports will only be accepted if FSA conducts a farm visit to assess the eligible disaster condition that prevented the crop from being planted. A measurement service fee will be charged.

Additionally, producers with failed acres should also use form CCC-576, *Notice of Loss*, to report failed acres.

### **Enrollment Period for 2016 USDA Safety Net Coverage Ends Aug. 1**

Producers who chose coverage from the safety net programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill, known as the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, can visit FSA county offices through Aug. 1, 2016, to sign contracts to enroll in coverage for 2016.

Although the choice between ARC and PLC is completed and remains in effect through 2018, producers must still enroll their farm by signing a contract each year to receive coverage.

Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office to schedule an appointment to enroll. If a farm is not enrolled during the 2016 enrollment period, producers on that farm will not be eligible for financial assistance from the ARC or PLC programs should crop prices or farm revenues fall below the historical price or revenue benchmarks established by the program.

The two programs were authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and offer a safety net to agricultural producers when there is a substantial drop in prices or revenues for covered commodities. Covered commodities include barley, corn, grain sorghum, oats, and wheat (list is not inclusive). For more details regarding these programs, visit our office or go to [www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc).

### **ARC, PLC and CTAP Acreage Maintenance**

Producers enrolled in Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC), Price Loss Coverage (PLC) must protect all cropland and noncropland acres on the farm from wind and water erosion and noxious weeds. Producers who sign ARC county or individual contracts and PLC contracts agree to effectively control noxious weeds on the farm according to sound agricultural practices. If a producer fails to take necessary actions to correct a maintenance problem on a farm that is enrolled in ARC, or PLC the County Committee may elect to terminate the contract for the program year.

### **Breaking New Ground**

Agricultural producers are reminded to consult with FSA and NRCS before *breaking out new ground for production purposes* as doing so *without prior authorization may put a producer's federal farm program benefits in jeopardy*. This is especially true for land that must meet Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions.

Producers with HEL determined soils are required to apply tillage, crop residue and rotational requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

*Producers should notify FSA as a first point of contact prior to conducting land clearing or drainage type projects to ensure the proposed actions meet compliance criteria such as clearing any trees to create new cropland, then these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure such work will not risk your eligibility for benefits.*

Landowners and operators complete the form AD-1026 - Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to identify the proposed action and allow FSA to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for further review is necessary.

### **Farmers to Receive Documentation of USDA Services**

Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds agricultural producers that FSA provides a receipt to customers who request or receive assistance or information on FSA programs.

The 2014 Farm Bill requires a customer receipt to be issued for any agricultural program assistance requested from FSA, the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Rural Development (RD). Receipts include the date, summary of the visit and any agricultural information, program and/or loan assistance provided to an individual or entity. Electronic receipts for acreage reports will begin on August 1, 2016.

A service is any information, program or loan assistance provided whether through a visit, email, fax or letter.

### **Livestock Forage Losses**

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land.

County committees can only accept LFP applications after notification is received by the National Office of qualifying drought or if a federal agency prohibits producers from grazing normal permitted livestock on federally managed lands due to qualifying fire. Eligible livestock producers must complete a CCC-853 and the required supporting documentation no later than January 30, 2017 for 2016 losses.

Crook County FSA Office  
PO Box 1070  
Sundance, WY 82729



PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Farm Service Agency

**Dates to Remember**

<b>Continuous</b>	<b>Continuous Conservation Reserve Program signup</b>
<b>Continuous</b>	<b>Conservation Reserve Program Grasslands signup</b>
<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Signup for LIP and ELAP</b>
<b>July 15, 2016</b>	<b>Crop Report Deadline for 2016 spring seeded crops</b>
<b>July 15, 2016</b>	<b>Deadline to file 2015 annual crop (spring or fall seeded) production reports for NAP and ARC/PLC</b>
<b>August 1, 2016</b>	<b>ARC/PLC 2016 enrollment deadline</b>
<b>November 15, 2016</b>	<b>Crop Report Deadline for 2017 (harvested in 2017) winter wheat, perennial hay crops / pasture grass</b>
<b>November 15, 2016</b>	<b>Deadline to file 2016 perennial hay crop production reports</b>

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Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities and wish to file either an EEO or program complaint, please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish). Persons with disabilities, who wish to file a program complaint, please see information above on how to contact us by mail directly or by email. If you require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) please contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).