



NEWSLETTER



Laramie County

11221A US Hwy 30 – Cheyenne, WY 82009

January 2016

Farm Service Agency

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Office Hours
Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

FSA Staff

Laura Kessler, CED
Sarah Gordon, PT
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County Committee

Theron Anderson
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Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Sign-Up Underway- Workshop to be held February 9, 2016

The Laramie County FSA office is currently accepting new offers to participate in CRP under a general signup that started Dec. 1, 2015 and goes through Feb. 26, 2016. Farmers and ranchers interested in removing sensitive land from agricultural production and planting grasses or trees to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality and restore wildlife habitat are encouraged to enroll. A CRP workshop will be held February 9, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. at the Laramie County FSA conference room.

For 30 years, the Conservation Reserve Program 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 voluntary Conservation Reserve Program allows USDA to contract with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive land is conserved. Participants establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat. In return, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years.

Farmers and ranchers should consider the various CRP continuous sign-up initiatives that may help target specific resource concerns. Financial assistance is offered for many practices including conservation buffers and pollinator habitat plantings, and initiatives such as the highly erodible lands, bottomland hardwood tree and longleaf pine.

For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, please visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

COC Election Results

The County Committee Election was held at our last regularly scheduled COC meeting December 10, 2015. The LAA number one COC member position was up for election. Mr. Theron Anderson was elected to this position. We want to congratulate him and welcome him to his three year term that he will serve for LAA 1 on the Laramie County Committee. Congratulations Theron.

Wednesday Workshops

The Laramie County FSA office will be conducting a series of Wednesday Workshops on **every second Wednesday of each month at the Laramie County FSA office at 1:00 p.m.** Each month a different topic will be discussed. These workshops are going to be run with a small basic overview of each topic and then focus on the questions that are brought up at the workshop. These sessions are intended to provide a relaxed environment for producers to gain knowledge about programs whether you are a beginning farmer/rancher or an experienced producer just wanting to learn more about a specific topic. The 2016 schedule is below, however topics may be adjusted based on need if new programs develop. Please feel free to contact the office at 307-772-2314 if you have any immediate questions about any of these programs.

February 10 – Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL) This program provides low interest loans for grain bins, hay sheds and associated items in building these commodity storage facilities.

March 9 - Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) This program provides insurance coverage on crops that are traditionally uninsurable with your crop insurance agent such as grass for grazing, hay, and vegetables just to name a few.

April 13 – Farm Loan Partnerships. These programs offer low interest loans that are done in conjunction with other lenders. There are opportunities for split financing, joint financing, and guaranteed loans.

May 11 – Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm Raised Fish Program (ELAP) – This program is designed to provide assistance for losses incurred due to natural disasters but are not covered under any other programs. Examples would be additional costs to transport water/feed, loss of grazing, loss of feed due to the adverse condition, colony collapse disorder and many others.

June 8 – Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) This program offers low interest nine month loans on commodities such as wheat and corn in order to provide producers with more marketing options.

July 13 – County Committee (COC) This session will provide information on different aspects of the County Committee such as duties, nominations, becoming a member and encourage participation from all underrepresented groups of producers.

August 10 - Conservation Reserve Program – Grasslands (CRPG) This program is designed for producers to receive an annual rental payment on ground that is currently in grasslands to keep these acres in grasslands while being able to retain the ability to utilize them for haying and grazing during the 15 year contract period.

September 14 - Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) This program compensates producers for livestock losses due to adverse weather events such as blizzards, lightning strike, flood etc.

October 12 – e-Gov This session will cover various items that producers can do on-line from home with level 2 eAuthentication access. Such items would include checking payments, file for LDP's, electronically sign certain contracts in lieu of paper signature and FSA Farm+ (online GIS mapping of your farm)

November 9 – Farm Loan Options (Beginning Farmer/Youth/Operating) These programs offer low interest loans for the purchase of real estate and loans for term and annual operating needs.

December 14 – Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) This program is part of our CRP program that allows you to enroll acreage into the CRP program at any time of the year for specific resource concerns. This would include practices like but not limited to field buffers, shelter belts or full fields that have very highly erodible with EI scores of 20 or higher.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

Non-Insurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The sales closing date to purchase coverage on NAP eligible crops has changed. All perennial hay crops, pasture grass, winter wheat, and all spring seeded crops now have a sales closing date of **April 1st**. NAP offers a “buy-up” coverage on all eligible crops harvested for forage (hay). Through the “buy-up” option, coverage can be purchased for levels of 50, 55, 60 and 65 % of the yield, at 100% of the crop price. Premiums are minimal and are paid in addition to the \$250 per crop service fee for the NAP policy. Call the office to see how “buy-up” coverage can work for you. If you currently have a 2016 NAP basic coverage policy you simply come to the office, select which level of buy-up coverage you want and sign the policy. If you do not currently have a 2016 NAP basic policy you can still purchase buy up coverage by paying the \$250 service fee per crop and then select the level of buy up coverage and sign all necessary forms.

FSA has a great tool to calculate premiums and loss payments at www.fsa.usapas.com/NAP. **Remember, the deadline to purchase NAP coverage is April 1, 2016.**

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report new holdings or their changes in holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA. All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county, are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) 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.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of **normal** 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 due to adverse weather, including but not limited to losses due to floods, blizzards, lightning and wildfires.

For 2016, eligible losses must occur on or after January 1, 2016, and before December 31, 2016. 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
- File a Notice of Loss
- Sign an Application for Payment

Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to youth to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA, and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000. Youth loan eligibility requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA’s general eligibility requirement.

Commodity Loans Available

Low interest commodity loans are still available for the 2015 crop year. The loan rates for commodities stored in Laramie County are:

Wheat HRW-\$2.90/bu. Corn-\$2.07/bu. Barley-\$1.90/bu. Oats-\$1.42/bu.

Interest rates update monthly. January interest rate is 1.625% Loans have a term length of nine months from the date of disbursement. Small grain loans such as wheat can be requested until March 31, 2016 and feed grains such as corn can be requested until May 31, 2016.



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Dates to Remember	
Continuous	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
Continuous	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Ongoing	Signup for Livestock Indemnity Payments (LIP)
Feb. 26, 2016	Enrollment deadline for General CRP Offers
Jan. 18, 2016	Office closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
Feb. 15, 2016	Office closed in observance of President's Day Holiday
April 1, 2016	NAP sales closing date
July 15, 2016	Deadline to report 2016 spring planted crops
Aug. 1, 2016	Deadline to enroll in 2016 ARC/PLC

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)