



NEWSLETTER



September 2016

Platte County FSA Office

1502 Progress Court
Wheatland, WY 82201

Phone: (307) 322-4050
FAX: (855) 415-3444

Office Hours

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

John Watson
Ruthie Cundall
Amy Miller

County Executive Director

Pam Metz Ext. 100
pamela.metz@wy.usda.gov

Farm Loan Officer

Dixie Mount Ext. 104
dixie.mount@wy.usda.gov

Office Staff

Mitzi Mudgett-PT Ext. 102
Heidi Platt-PT Ext. 124
Kayla Mantle-PT Ext. 112
Echo Koger-FLOT Ext. 103

District Director

Sherri Harvey Ext. 109
sherri.harvey@wy.usda.gov

Next COC meeting: 9/29/16

FSA Home Page

www.fsa.usda.gov

USDA Home Page

www.usda.gov

Did you know you can receive your newsletters & updates by email?

If you aren't receiving updates via email, please contact the county office to have your email address added to our mailing list. FSA sends out monthly bulletins and quarterly newsletters to help keep producers up to date on programs & deadlines.

Marketing Assistance Available for 2016 in Platte County

The 2014 Farm Bill authorized 2014-2018 crop year Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs).

In Wyoming, wheat prices are currently at a level where LDPs may be applicable, so producers should become familiar with the process to access this assistance.

MALs and LDPs provide financing and marketing assistance for wheat, as well as other commodities such as feed grains, soybeans and other oilseeds, pulse crops, wool and honey. MALs provide producers interim financing after harvest to help them meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows.

A producer who is eligible to obtain an MAL, but agrees to forgo the loan, may obtain an LDP if such a payment is available.

To be eligible for an MAL or an LDP, producers must have a beneficial interest in the commodity, in addition to other requirements. A producer retains beneficial interest when control of and title to the commodity is maintained. For an LDP, the producer must retain beneficial interest in the commodity from the time of planting through the date the producer filed [Form CCC-633EZ \(page 1\)](#) in the FSA County Office. For more information, producers should contact their local FSA county office or view the [LDP Fact Sheet](#).

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 within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent or 15 calendar days after the normal harvest date.

Producers of hand-harvested crops must notify FSA of damage or loss through the administrative County Office within 72 hours of the date of damage or loss first becomes apparent. This notification can be provided by filing a CCC-576, 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.

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.

CRP Payment Limitation

Payments and benefits received under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) are subject to the following:

- payment limitation by direct attribution
- foreign person rule
- average adjusted gross income (AGI) limitation

The 2014 Farm Bill continued the \$50,000 maximum CRP payment amount that can be received annually, directly or indirectly, by each person or legal entity. This payment limitation includes all annual rental payments and incentive payments (Sign-up Incentive Payments and Practice Incentive Payments). Annual rental payments are attributed (earned) in the fiscal year in which program performance occurs. Sign-up Incentive Payments (SIP) are attributed (earned) based on the fiscal year in which the contract is approved, not the fiscal year the contract is effective. Practice Incentive Payments (PIP) are attributed (earned) based on the fiscal year in which the cost-share documentation is completed and the producer or technical service provider certifies performance of practice completion to the county office.

Such limitation on payments is controlled by direct attribution.

- Program payments made directly or indirectly to a *person* are combined with the pro rata interest held in any legal entity that received payment, unless the payments to the legal entity have been reduced by the pro rata share of the person.
- Program payments made directly to a *legal entity* are attributed to those persons that have a direct and indirect interest in the legal entity, unless the payments to the legal entity have been reduced by the pro rata share of the person.
- Payment attribution to a legal entity is tracked through four levels of ownership. If any part of the ownership interest at the fourth level is owned by another legal entity, a reduction in payment will be applied to the payment entity in the amount that represents the indirect interest of the fourth level entity in the payment entity.

Essentially, all payments will be “attributed” to a person’s Social Security Number. Given the current CRP annual rental rates in many areas, it is important producers are aware of how CRP offered acreages impact their \$50,000 annual payment limitation. Producers should contact their local FSA office for additional information.

NOTE: The information in the above article only applies to contracts subject to 4-PL and 5-PL regulations. It does not apply to contacts subject to 1-PL regulations.

Filing CCC-941 Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certifications

Many producers have experienced delays in receiving Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) payments, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) and Market Gains on Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) because they have not filed form CCC-941, *Adjusted Gross Income Certification*. LDPs will not be paid until all eligible producers, including landowners who share in the crop, have filed a valid CCC-941.

Producers without a valid CCC-941 certifying their compliance with the average adjusted gross income provisions will not receive payments that have been processed. All farm operator/tenants/owners who have not filed a CCC-941 and have pending payments should IMMEDIATELY file the form with their recording county FSA office. Farm operators and tenants are encouraged to ensure that their landowners have filed the form. FSA has been issuing 2016 LDPs and Market Gains and will be issuing potential 2015 ARC/PLC payments in October.

FSA can accept the CCC-941 for 2015 and 2016. Unlike the past, producers must have the CCC-941 certifying their AGI compliance before any payments can be issued.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

FSA's Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program provides low-interest financing to producers to build or upgrade storage facilities.

The low-interest funds can be used to build or upgrade permanent facilities to store commodities. Eligible commodities include corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain, pulse crops (lentils, chickpeas and dry peas), hay, honey, renewable biomass, fruits, nuts and vegetables for cold storage facilities, floriculture, hops, maple sap, rye, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, meat and poultry (unprocessed), eggs, and aquaculture (excluding systems that maintain live animals through uptake and discharge of water). Qualified facilities include grain bins, hay barns and cold storage facilities for eligible commodities.

Loans up to \$50,000 can be secured by a promissory note/security agreement and some loans between \$50,000 and \$100,000 will no longer require additional security.

Producers do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply. The loans are designed to assist a diverse range of farming operations, including small and mid-sized businesses, new farmers, operations supplying local food and farmers markets, non-traditional farm products, and underserved producers.

To learn more about the FSA Farm Storage Facility Loan, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport or contact your local FSA county office. To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

September FSA Interest Rates

Farm Operating: 2.125%
Microloan Operating: 2.125%
Farm Ownership: 3.125%
Farm Ownership - Joint Financing: 2.50%
Farm Ownership - Down Payment: 1.50%
Emergency - Actual Loss: 3.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 3 year term: 0.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 5 year term: 1.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 7 year term: 1.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 10 year term: 1.50%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 12 year term: 1.625%
Commodity Loan: 1.500%

Save Time

Make an Appointment with FSA

To insure maximum use of your time and to insure that you are afforded our full attention to your important business needs, please call our office ahead of your visit to set an appointment and to discuss any records or documentation that you may need to have with you when you arrive for your appointment. For local FSA Service Center contact information, please visit:

<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>.

DATES TO REMEMBER

2016 Dates

Sept. 30, 2016 – Sales closing date for fall-seeded annual crops (2017 NAP)

Nov. 1, 2016 – Deadline to submit 2016 ELAP application for payment and supporting documentation

Nov. 7, 2016 – Ballots mailed for County Committee Election

Nov. 15, 2016 – Deadline to report 2017 perennial forage or fall-seeded crops

Dec. 5, 2016 – Deadline to return ballots for County Committee Election to USDA Service Center

Dec. 16, 2016 – Deadline to register and elect buy-up coverage for 2017 Dairy Margin Protection Program

2017 Dates

Mar. 31, 2017 – Deadline for small grain MAL & LDP

May 31, 2017 – Deadline for Corn and Sunflower MAL & LDP

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY
PLATTE COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE
1502 Progress Court
Wheatland, WY 82201

Update Your Records

It is important to keep your FSA records accurate and current. Each time you visit your local office to enroll in programs, report acreage, or conduct other business, please review your records and report any changes or updates that need to be made. This could include a change of address or other contact information, creation of a new business entity, additions of land to your operation by purchase or lease, changes in lease arrangements, new producers with an interest in a farm, new land broken out, changes in direct deposit information, etc. Producers participating in FSA and NRCS programs are required to timely report changes in their farming operation and update their CCC-902 Farm Operating Plan as necessary.

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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, audiotope, etc.) please contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

