



United States Department of Agriculture

Laramie County FSA Office
11221A U.S. Highway 30
Cheyenne WY 82009-8730

Phone: (307) 772-2314
FAX: (855) 415-3429

August 2014 Edition

Office Hours:
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee:

Brian Jacobsen
Dale Martin
Mike Peterson
Louise Jacobsen-Advisor

County Executive Director

(Acting):
Darrell Jones (307) 532-4880
Ext. 114
darrell.jones@wy.usda.gov

Farm Loan Officer:

Dixie Mount (307) 322-4050
Ext. 2
dixie.mount@wy.usda.gov

Office Staff

Kendal Sedman Ext. 104
Karla Warren Ext. 106
Christine Schinzel Ext. 105

FSA Home Page
www.fsa.usda.gov

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

Livestock Forage Disaster Program

The 2014 Farm Bill makes the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) a permanent program and provides retroactive authority to cover eligible losses back to Oct. 1, 2011. LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire. LFP payments for drought are equal to 60 percent of the monthly feed cost for up to five months. LFP payments for fire on federally managed rangeland are equal to 50 percent of the monthly feed cost for the number of days the producer is prohibited from grazing the managed rangeland, not to exceed 180 calendar days. The grazing losses must have occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011.

Sign-up is ongoing. Additional details on the types of information required for an application will be provided as part of the sign-up announcement. Some eligibility restrictions may apply. Please consult this office for details and to set up an appointment.

Eligible livestock producers in Laramie County will be eligible for:

- 5 monthly payments for 2012
- 4 monthly payments for 2013

Livestock Indemnity Payments

The 2014 Farm Bill makes the Livestock Indemnity Payments (LIP) a permanent program and provides retroactive authority to cover eligible livestock losses back to Oct. 1, 2011. LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered 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, including wolves and avian predators. LIP payments are equal to 75 percent of the market value of the applicable livestock on the day before the date of death of the livestock as determined by the Secretary.

Sign-up is ongoing. Additional details on the types of information required for an application will be provided as part of the sign-up process. Some eligibility restrictions may apply. Please consult this office for details and to set up an appointment

Livestock owners should record all pertinent information of livestock death losses due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law.

Documentation of the number and kind of livestock that have died, supplemented if possible by such items as:

- Photographs or video records to document the loss, dated if possible
- Purchase records, veterinarian records, production records, bank or other loan documents
- Written contracts, records assembled for tax purposes, private insurance documents, and other similar reliable documents.

Additional information regarding LIP or other FSA programs can be found by visiting a nearby FSA Service Center or online at fsa.usda.gov.

Please note that the Laramie County FSA fax number has changed to:
855-415-3429

Farm Loan Program Information

Farm Service Agency (FSA) has loan programs that could help farmers and ranchers experiencing financial problems in today's economy of tight profit margins. Several types of loan programs are offered through FSA.

Under the Guaranteed Loan program, FSA guarantees farm ownership, term operating loans, and lines of credit used for annual operating through conventional agricultural lenders for guarantees up to 95%. The guarantee generally allows the conventional lender to provide the applicant with longer terms and lower rates of interest. All applicants must meet certain qualifying criteria to be eligible for guarantees. Farmers and ranchers interested in Guaranteed Loans should apply directly with a conventional lender, who arranges for the guarantee.

For those unable to qualify for a Guaranteed Loan, FSA offers Direct Loans, which are made and serviced by FSA officials. Funding is limited for Direct Loans, and applicants must sometimes wait until funds are available. To qualify for a Direct Farm Ownership or Operating Loan, the applicant must meet eligibility criteria and have sufficient repayment ability and loan collateral. FSA will work with you to analyze your situation, provide technical assistance, and tailor loans to meet your needs.

Youth between the ages of 10 and 21 may also apply for a direct loan up to \$5,000 associated with their 4-H, FFA, or other youth organization activities.

Farm Service Agency is an Equal Credit Opportunity Lender. Beginning farmers and members of traditionally underserved gender and ethnic groups are encouraged to apply for guaranteed and/or direct loan assistance from FSA. Each year, farm ownership and operating loan funds are temporarily set-aside to meet the needs of beginning farmers and traditionally underserved groups.

Anyone having questions, please call your local Farm Service Agency in Wheatland WY at 307-322-4050.

2014 County Committee Election

This year's election in Laramie County covers LAA 3, which covers the west side of the county.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters around November 3. Instructions for voting will be included. December 1 is the last day to return voted ballots to the county office, or postmarked. Please take some time to vote and select your representative on the County Committee.

Crop Reporting

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

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. Crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. In Wyoming, the deadline to timely file 2014 acreage reports for spring seeded crops and CRP was July 15, 2014; however, we can still take late-filed reports, so don't hesitate to come in and file your report.

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

Failed Acreage: Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and 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.

2014 and subsequent years' acreage reporting deadlines:

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

This means your 2015 perennial hay/forage crops and winter wheat reporting deadline will be November 15, 2014.

Attention All Buyers of Agricultural Products

It is required that buyers of agricultural products check or register with the Secretary of State's Office to determine if there are liens against the seller of the product. If a lien is found, you are required to place the lien holder's name on the check as well as that of the seller. Ag products include but are not limited to: Livestock (including horses), crops used for feed (hay, silage, oats, etc.), machinery, equipment, and all other crops.

Failure to place the lien holder's name on the check may result in civil legal action being taken against the buyer of the product. Protect yourself as a buyer! You may contact the Secretary of State's Office at (307) 777-7311.

Commodity Loans Available

We remind you of the availability of the commodity loan program. 2014 loan rates for applicable crops in Laramie County are:

Wheat HRW	\$2.75/bu.	Wheat HRS	\$3.28/bu.	Corn	\$2.07/bu.
Barley	\$1.92/bu.	Oats	\$1.42/bu.	Sunflowers	\$10.78/cwt.

Interest rates are minimal (example: the July 2014 rate is 1.125%) and the term of the loan will be end of the 9th month following disbursement.

2014 loans on small grains can be requested through March 31, 2015. 2014 corn/sunflower loans can be requested through May 31, 2015. The grower must maintain title and control of the commodity (beneficial interest) while the grain is under loan.

For more information, contact this office.

CRP Requirements and Reminders

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

- Adequate approved vegetative cover is maintained to control erosion for the period of the contract.
- 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.

Farming Operation Changes

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

2014 Farm Bill

The new Farm Bill will bring significant changes in programs administered by USDA. At this point, we know few details on the new programs. We do know that there will be 2 options available under the farm program:

1. Price Loss Coverage (PLC)
2. Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC)

We will let producers know information as it becomes available.

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) provisions have been changed. Producers whose AGI exceeds \$900,000 will not be eligible to receive benefits from most programs administered by FSA or NRCS.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will continue; however, national acreage caps will be gradually lowered to 24 million acres in 2017 and 2018. ***There will not be a general CRP signup in 2014.***

Commodity loans and Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) programs will continue.

Stay tuned for updates on program provisions.

Gary Gompert Retires

Gary Gompert recently retired as CED in Laramie County. We wish Gary a long and enjoyable retirement.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 FARM SERVICE AGENCY
 LARAMIE COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE
 11221A U.S. HIGHWAY 30
 CHEYENNE WY 82009

Dates to Remember	
Continuous	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
Continuous	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Ongoing	Signup for 2012 & 2013 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
Ongoing	Signup for 2011-2014 Livestock Indemnity Payments (LIP)

/s/ Darrell L. Jones

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or e-mail at program.intake@usda.gov.

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).