



NEWSLETTER



May 2014

Lincoln County FSA

625 S Washington
PO Box 369
Afton, WY 83110
307-886-9001 phone
855-415-3426 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/wy

Hours

Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Blair Hillstead
Jason Thornock
Chad Dana
Vickie Child

COC Meeting

2nd Tuesday of the Month

Office Staff

Dee Harbach, CED
Suellen Bagley, PT
Kresta Hedges, PT

Farm Loan Manager

Brian Harrell
307-856-7524

**Natural Resources
Conservation Service**
Gary Blazejewski, DC

PLEASE remember to keep the county office updated if you are experiencing any adverse weather, including but not limited to flooding, hail, insects, or drought.



New Farm Bill Makes Disaster Programs Permanent and Retroactive!

There are several exciting changes with the Farm Bill Disaster Programs. These programs no longer require any crop insurance to participate and they are retroactive to Oct. 1, 2011. Sign-up began April 15, 2014. Please contact the local FSA service center for additional details and to schedule an appointment. Each program is described below:

LFP Livestock Forage Disaster Program 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. **Eligible producers in Lincoln County qualify for 4 monthly payments in 2012 and 2013.**

January 30, 2015 is the deadline to apply for 2012 and 2013 losses.

LIP Livestock Indemnity Payments 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. Livestock owners should record all pertinent information of livestock death losses due to adverse weather and eligible animal attacks. Documentation of the loss and the number and kind of livestock that have died, supplemented if possible by such items as:

- Dated photographs, documenting the loss
- Inventory records to include purchase records, veterinarian records, production records, bank or loan documents, written contracts, records assembled for tax purposes, private insurance documents, and other similar reliable documents.

January 30, 2015 is the deadline to apply for losses that occurred between October 1, 2011 and December 31, 2014.

ELAP Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program provides compensation to eligible livestock, honeybees, and farm-raised fish producers who have suffered losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary.

August 1, 2014 is the deadline to apply for losses that occurred between October 1, 2011 and September 30, 2013.

November 1, 2014 is the deadline to apply for losses that occurred between October 1, 2013 and September 30, 2014.

2014 County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Blair Hillstead who was re-elected to represent the producers in LAA 2 on the county committee. Blair has served 2 previous terms and is serving his final 3-year term on the committee. His knowledge in area farming operations has been invaluable.

Additionally, Vickie Child is now serving as the minority advisor for the county committee and representing female farmers and ranchers in our county. This position was previously held by Trudi Julian, who has reached her term limit. Thank you for your years of service Trudi!

NAP 2013 Production

All NAP producers that had coverage on mechanically harvested crops in 2013, now is the time to submit production evidence for your 2013 crops. Submitting production evidence for harvested crops, such as bale counts and weights are necessary to maintain accurate yields for coverage. Accurate yields are essential in calculating payments for losses. Failure to provide accurate production evidence almost has negative impacts on your coverage!

CRP Reminder

Producers with Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts are reminded that it is **YOUR** responsibility to establish cover and control the weeds (including Thistles) on your CRP acreage. These measures must be accomplished according to NRCS standards and specifications.

Grazing by livestock is strictly forbidden. **It is your responsibility to keep all livestock off your contract acreage.**

2014 Acreage Reports

Crop reporting is here and the deadline to file is July 15th. We will be using the appointment system again this year. We will be sending postcards with a date and time scheduled for your appointment, if the date and time isn't suitable for your schedule, please call the office to reschedule. In addition we will have staff at the Cokeville Town Hall for crop reporting this year on June 10th through June 12th from 8am to 3pm. During these appointments we will be completing crop reporting, 2014 Eligibility forms, Livestock Disaster Program Signup and NAP crop production report.

Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Reporting Crop Losses for NAP

For those of you with a NAP crop policy – you are reminded that if you suffer a crop loss, you must complete a Notice of Loss form (CCC-576) with this office no later than 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence (such as hail, flood, etc.) or from the date that damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent. A Notice of Loss must be provided for each weather related event or adverse natural occurrence that causes damage to or loss of the specific crop or commodity. A timely filed Notice of Loss is required on all crops, including grasses. When a loss is sustained an appraisal should be completed by FSA personnel. This appraisal must be done BEFORE grazing occurs or before the land is put to another use! Without an appraisal you are going to suffer with a reduced annual yield (your payments are calculated based off a 50% loss from your average annual yields, accurate yields are essential for you to get the most out of your NAP coverage) as well as the ineligibility of those acres for the current year's loss.

Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC)

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) recently announced the extension of the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program which protects dairy farmers against income loss through Sept. 1, 2014, or until a new Margin Protection Program for dairy producers (MPP) is operational.

Contracts for eligible producers enrolled in MILC on or before Sept. 30, 2013, are automatically extended until the termination date of the MILC program. Dairy operations with approved MILC contracts will continue to receive monthly payments if a payment rate is in effect.

MILC compensates enrolled dairy producers when the Boston Class I milk price falls below \$16.94 per hundredweight (cwt), after adjustment for the cost of dairy feed rations. MILC payments are calculated each month using the latest milk price and feed cost, just as in the 2008 Farm Bill. The payment rate for October 2013 through January 2014 markets is zero. Payment rates during the months after January 2014 until the termination of the MILC program will be determined as the appropriate data becomes available.

Producers who want to select a different production start month must visit their local FSA office between April 14, 2014, and May 30, 2014.

FSA will provide producers with information on program requirements, updates and sign-ups as the information becomes available.

FSA COC Nomination Deadline

County committee members play a crucial role in helping the county office staff implement the Farm Bill Programs. Starting June 15, 2014, producers can have an impact on the election of the county committee by nominating eligible candidates by the **August 1, 2014** deadline. This year the committee election will be held for the Local Administrative Area 1, the Lower Valley area, currently represented by Chad Dana.

A list of persons who are eligible to run for the county committee is available from this office. If you wish to run or want to nominate a fellow producer for the county committee, please contact this office for a nomination form (FSA-669A), also available online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms.

Important Dates to Remember

May 26	Memorial Day Holiday – Office Closed
June 10-12	Cokeville Town Hall appointments – call if you want to set up an appointment for LFP signup or acreage reporting
July 4	Independence Day Holiday – Office Closed
July 15	Crop Reporting Deadline
August 1	Deadline for COC Nomination
Anytime	Apply for Farm Storage Facility Loan
Within 15 days of noticing a loss file CCC - 576 NAP Notice of Loss	

Receive the Newsletter via Email

Due to the tight budget situation county offices are facing, we are providing more information via email and less newsletters are being mailed to producers. Providing an email address is the best way to stay abreast program changes and updates. If you regularly check your email and would like to get updates electronically please contact the office by telephone 307-886-9001 or by email at dee.harbach@wy.usda.gov to make your request.

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.