



## Colorado

State – Wide  
July 2012

### Trudy Kareus State Executive Director

USDA Farm Service Agency  
Colorado State Office  
Denver Federal Center  
Building 56 Room 2760  
Denver, Colorado 80225  
Ph- 720-544-2876  
Fax - 720-544-2966

### Dates to Remember

#### August 1 - Deadline

COC nomination period ends  
August 1 – Deadline for  
Requesting Farm  
Reconstitutions for 2012

Sept 1 –NAP Sales Closing  
Asparagus, Caneberries,  
Canola, Garlic, Rye, Speltz,  
Triticale, Value loss Crops  
(Aquaculture, Sod Grass,  
Flowers, Christmas Trees,  
Nursery)

Sept 30 – NAP Sales Closing  
Wheat and Barley

#### Immediate – Deadline

File AGI Verification Consent  
Forms with IRS

#### SIGN-UP FOR GOVDELIVERY

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation. Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers.

Producers can subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>.

#### FSA COC NOMINATION DEADLINE

County committees (COC) play a crucial role in helping county office staff implement the Farm Bill. Due to the important services that COC members provide, producers are encouraged to participate in the FSA county committee election process by nominating an eligible candidate by the Aug. 1, 2012, deadline.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and other valuable information about FSA county committee elections are available online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/eForms/FSA669-A.PDF>

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. Nationwide, there are more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to five members who are elected by eligible local producers.

#### USDA AUTHORIZES EMERGENCY HAYING AND GRAZING OF CRP ACRES FOR ALL COUNTIES IN COLORADO

On July 23, 2012, Secretary Vilsack announced that because of the current severe drought, all counties in Colorado and United States with a drought level of D0 or higher, as measured by the US Drought Monitor is approved for emergency haying and grazing outside of the Primary Nesting Season (PNS). Participants may sell hay harvested under this authority.

The CRP emergency grazing authorization ends September 30, 2012 and emergency haying ends August 31, 2012. Eligible producers interested in emergency grazing or haying of CRP acres must request approval before grazing or haying eligible acres and obtain a modified conservation plan from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that outlines permitted grazing and haying practices.

Additionally, there will be a 10 percent CRP payment reduction for CRP acres used for grazing or haying under these emergency provisions.

To take advantage of the emergency grazing or haying provisions, authorized producers can use the CRP acreage for their own livestock or may grant another livestock producer use of the CRP acreage or the crop may be sold.

For additional information contact your local FSA Office.

### **USDA AUTHORIZES EMERGENCY HAYING OF CRP ACRES FOR COLORADO COUNTIES**

The Colorado STC has approved Emergency Haying on CRP ground for the following counties: Adams, Arapahoe, Baca, Bent, Cheyenne, Crowley, El Paso, Elbert, Kiowa, Lincoln, Logan, Moffat, Morgan, Otero, Phillips, Prowers, Pueblo, Routt, Sedgwick, Washington, Weld and Yuma.

No more than 50 percent of any CRP field may be cut and baled. At least 50 percent of each field or contiguous CRP fields unhayed will be left for wildlife. The remaining 50% cannot be grazed. All haying operations must be completed according to a conservation plan and be completed by August 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

The Farm Service Agency would like to remind crop and livestock producers that have recently experienced severe damage from flooding, wildfires and tornadoes that FSA programs are available to assist with recovery.

We encourage all who have suffered a disaster due to the recent severe weather conditions to read the fact sheets and visit their local FSA county office so they get a quick start in the recovery process.

Fact sheets for all of these programs can be found at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov); click on Newsroom, then Fact Sheets.

### **PRODUCERS MUST REPORT CROP LOSSES TO FSA**

Producers must report crop losses resulting from a weather-related disaster event within 15 days of the disaster or when the loss first becomes apparent, this includes crops covered by crop insurance, the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crops without insurance coverage. Prevented

planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Crop losses are acres that were timely planted with the intent to harvest, but the crop failed because of a natural disaster. It is important that producers file accurate and timely loss reports to prevent the potential loss of FSA program benefits.

Producers who have NAP coverage will be required to report crop losses on an FSA form CCC-576 – “Notice of Loss and Application for Payment Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program”.

### **POLLINATOR HABITATS ACCEPTED AS CONTINUOUS CRP PRACTICE**

Pollinator habitats will now be accepted as a Continuous Sign-up Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) practice. Pollinator habitats are areas of permanent vegetation located in an agricultural landscape: field edges, field middles, odd corners, or any agricultural location that is suitable for establishing pollinator habitat.

Participants of newly enrolled pollinator habitats, wetland restoration and wetland restoration (non-floodplain) and habitat buffers for upland bird practices are eligible to receive a \$150 CRP Sign-up Incentive Payment (SIP) per acre. The SIP is a one-time payment issued to CRP participants after the contract is approved.

The SIP for all other continuous sign-up practices remains unchanged at \$100 per acre. Continuous CRP sign-up allows participants to submit offers for selected CCRP practices to enroll in CRP at anytime instead of waiting for a General CRP sign-up period.

### **FARM RECONSTITUTIONS**

When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

**Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

**Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

**DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

**Default Method** — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

### **SUCCESSOR-IN-INTEREST**

Many FSA programs will allow payments to be made to heirs or successors when a program participant passes away. Additionally, contracts in programs such as CRP must be revised to reflect the successor(s) to a deceased participant's interest.

In the event of an FSA program participant's death, it is important that FSA be notified. Entities and joint operations that participate in FSA programs also need to notify FSA if a shareholder or member passes away. FSA benefits are reported to IRS and maintaining current, accurate records about participants is vital to ensuring that those payments are reported correctly.

#### Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their 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 with 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, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

### **FARM SAFETY**

Summer is an exciting and hectic time on farms. Colorado FSA employees care about our customers, and want to remind them to practice farm safety.

Remember to walk around machinery and check shields and guards; make sure the PTO's master shield is in place; make sure Slow Moving Vehicle signs are on machinery. If you are taking medicine, take it at the appropriate time and eat on schedule.

If you are working in grain bins know that flowing grain can kill, and it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped. Try not to work alone in bins or confined spaces, and if that's not possible let someone know where you are by checking in regularly by cell phone.

The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) offers the following safety tips for farmers:

1. Educate yourself on farm equipment. Read and follow instructions according to the equipment's manuals about safety.
2. Conduct regular equipment inspections.
3. Don't wear loose clothing while entering confined spaces such as grain bins, silos and hoppers as this can prevent entanglements.
4. Install Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) on tractors.
5. Use seat belts while operating tractors with a ROPS. Do not allow additional passengers on the tractor with you.
6. While operating tractors and other farm equipment, be very cautious on rural roadways.
7. Use protective gear when operating machinery: Be familiar with hazardous chemicals. Take extra precaution when handling chemicals such as anhydrous ammonia, carbon dioxide, methane gas and hydrogen sulfide.
8. Consistently educate your family and co-workers about safety practices, especially children.

### **SIGN UP FOR FSA FENCE POST FOR DAILY UPDATES**

The Farm Service Agency Fence Post is an online newsletter that is updated on an almost daily basis. It contains articles of interest on the agency's programs and departments, as well as success stories from the field. To access Fence Post visit <http://fsa.blogs.govdelivery.com/>. Producers can sign up for weekly Fence Post updates by putting an email address in box that says "Get Email Updates."

### **Hispanic and Women Farmers**

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were

discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

**Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process:**

[www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov) or call 1-888-508-4429

**Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation:**

[www.blackfarmercase.com](http://www.blackfarmercase.com) or call 1-866-950-5547

**Keepseagle – The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement:**

[www.IndianFarmClass.com](http://www.IndianFarmClass.com) or call 1-888-233-5506

(Interest rates are subject to change)	
90-Day Treasury Bill	.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	1.25%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years)	1.375%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	2.50%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

**Colorado Farm Service Agency**

State Committee

Marsha R Daughenbaugh, Chairperson

James H Hume, Member

Paul A Mailander, Member

Armando Valdez, Member

William "Bill" W Warren, Member

Trudy Kareus, State Executive Director

**Readers are advised that dates for FSA programs in Colorado are often county-specific. Please contact your local FSA office for detailed information pertaining to your operation.**

Selected Interest Rates for  
February 2012