

SERVICE CENTER NEWS

Campbell County Wyoming

JULY 2008

Farm Service Agency County Committee

307-682-8843, ext. 2
Rex Brown, Chairman
Lee Isenberger, Vice-Chairman
Amanda Sorenson, Member

Natural Resources Conservation Services

307-682-8842, ext. 3
Tim Kellogg, District Conservationist

Campbell County Conservation District

307-682-1824
Michelle Cook, District Manager
Debbie Hepp, Program Assistant
Crystal Kellebrew, Admin. Assistant

Office Staff, ext 2

Susan Kramer, CED
Claudette Vander Voort, PT
Peggy Seppala, PT
Judy Bishop, PT
Rob Weppner, FLM

District Board Members

Wanda Burget
Travis Hakert
Jason Oedekoven
Brenda Schladweiler
Steve Sorenson

2008 DCP Program Sign-up Is Underway

Producers have until September 30, 2008 to sign-up for the 2008 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP). The FSA Office is currently contacting producers to complete your 2008 DCP contract and to inquire whether you want to take your advance payment. You may contact the office or stop by to inform us whether you want to participate in DCP this year and let us know of any changes to your operation.

FSA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2008, eligible producers may request to receive an advance payment of 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments as soon as practical after enrollment. Final direct payments will be issued after Oct. 1, 2008. Counter-cyclical payments vary depending on market prices, and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate).

Sign-up can also be completed online by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/edcp> and clicking on "Access eDCP Service." You can choose payment options, assign crop shares and sign and submit contracts from any computer with Internet access. You can also view and print submitted contract options.

FSA COC Nomination Deadline

County committees play a crucial role in helping county office staff implement the 2008 Farm Bill. Due to the importance of county committee members and their roles, producers are encouraged to participate in the 2008 FSA county committee election process by nominating an eligible candidate by the August 1 deadline.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The Nomination Form for County FSA Committee Election (FSA-669A) is available at the Campbell County FSA office.

Nomination forms for the 2008 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on August 1, 2008.

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. Committees consist of three to five members who are elected by eligible local producers.

FSA will mail ballots to producers beginning Nov. 3. The voted ballots are due back at the local county office either via mail or in person by December 1, 2008. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office January 1, 2009.

For more information regarding the County Committee Elections, talk to the Campbell County Committee, Susan Kramer, County Executive Director at 307-682-8843 Extension 2 or stop in the office located at 601 4-J Road, for details on the types of decisions county committee members make. Or visit the County Committee Elections website to learn more about the County Committee Election process and read over the fact sheets at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.

SPECIAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW DISASTER PROGRAMS

To be eligible for these disaster programs you **must have purchased or obtained a plan of insurance covered under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (FCIC) for each crop on the farm or if the commodity is noninsurable, be covered under the noninsured crop disaster assistance (NAP) program** through FSA and have paid the applicable administrative fee set by the State Committee approved deadline date.

However for 2008, if you did not purchase crop insurance or NAP you may still be eligible for these disaster programs. You can "buy in" to these programs if you pay a fee comparable to the cost of NAP or FCIC coverage by no later than **September 16, 2008**. If you have suffered or expect to suffer a loss of 50% or more on all crops in 2008 due to a natural disaster, contact the FSA office for more information about these programs.

USDA Announces Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Programs

USDA enacted into law on May 22, 2008, the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, which has amended the Trade Act of 1974 to create an agricultural disaster relief trust fund and a supplemental agricultural disaster assistance program. The trust fund provides five new disaster assistance programs that may be used to make payments to farmers and producers. The new disaster assistance programs are the:

- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program,
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP),
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP),
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP), and
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-Raised Fish (EALHF) Program.

Sign-up Deadline for LCP and LIP

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced that livestock **producers have until July 18, 2008**, to enroll in the 2005-2007 Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Sign-up began on Sept. 10, 2007, for the two programs that provide aid to livestock producers who suffered eligible livestock or livestock feed losses between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007, because of a natural disaster.

New Crop Certification Deadline

For 2008, the final crop reporting dates have been **extended to August 15, 2008**. Late fees will not be applied if acreage reports are filed by August 15 and all other reporting requirements are met.

Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including prevented planted and failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

CRP & NAP Certification

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

Quality Loss Crop Disaster Sign-up

Sign-up for **quality** losses under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) **began on June 23, 2008**. For Quality losses, producers **must have applied** for quantity loss to be eligible to apply for a quality loss. However, producers do not need to qualify for a quantity loss. Producers must have suffered quality losses of at least 25 percent to be eligible for CDP quality loss. In addition, the requirement for Crop Insurance or NAP coverage still applies.

Important Changes to the Non Insured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

Changes have been made to the way the NAP program will be administered. Forage crops intended to be hayed but are instead grazed will be paid on a hay rate rather than on an AUD rate. This will result in a higher payment. However, you must do the following in order to ensure your hay is paid as hay:

- Notify the office before grazing, abandoning or destroying forage acreage.
- Leave representative samples before grazing in order for an appraisal to be completed.
- Contact the office to get the requirements on number and size of representative samples
- Request Measurement Service if you hay part and graze part of a field to determine acres.

The appraisal must be requested and completed at end of harvest period, but before first freeze.

Forage Acres intended for hay that are grazed must:

- Have been planted to the same forage type and intended use for 3 of the last 5 years before the loss.
- Have production evidence from the acreage for at least 3 of the last 5 years before the loss year.

Failure to leave representative samples or get an appraisal will result in payment based on AUD

Failure to meet the cropping and production history of 3 out of 5 years will result in payment based on AUD.

2008 Wool, Mohair, Unshorn Pelt LDP's

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 authorizes 2008 crop marketing assistance loans (MALs) and loan deficiency payments (LDPs). A beneficial interest exception for 2008 crop wool, mohair and unshorn pelt producers who lost beneficial interest in 2008 crop before June 5, 2008 may apply for a LDP until July 11, 2008.

2008 Crop Year Loans and LDP's

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 authorizes marketing assistance loans (MAL's) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's) for crop years 2008 through 2012. General provisions in effect for the 2007 crop year will apply for 2008.

Farm Reconstitutions

In Farm Service Agency terms, farms are **constituted** to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in 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. To be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program. The 2008 Act provides that a producer on a farm may not receive direct payments, counter-cyclical payments, or average crop revenue election payments if the sum of the base acres of the farm is 10.0 acres or less, except if the farm is wholly owned by either of the following:

- A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher;
- A limited resource farmer or rancher.

Temporary Restraining Order

A Federal Judge has granted a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) effective today, July 8, 2008, at 5:00 pm (Pacific Time) regarding the Critical Feed Use (CFU) initiative for CRP. Accordingly all authority is suspended to process or approve form CRP-1M, Modification to Allow Critical Feed Use. Further, beginning 5:00 pm (Pacific Time), on July 8, 2008, persons with CRP contracts for which form CRP-1M have been approved must be immediately notified that any CFU activity must immediately cease and that any such activity will until further notice be considered an unauthorized activity on CRP land.

This TRO is in effect until modified by the Court. A Hearing has been scheduled.

The article below covers the Critical Feed Use initiative for CRP that has been temporarily suspended.

Haying, Grazing CRP Acres

FSA has authorized certain acreage enrolled under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to be available for hay and forage after the primary nesting season ends for grass-nesting birds which in Wyoming is **after July 15, 2008**. CRP haying or grazing will provide much needed feed and forage while maintaining the conservation benefits from the nation's premier conservation program.

The land will be subject to a site inspection to ensure compliance with the conservation plan. No rental payment reduction will be assessed on contracts being utilized for this critical feed use. However, producers will be required to pay a fee of \$75 for the modification of their CRP contract before the County Committee (COC) approves the modified conservation plan. Also, before any haying or grazing of CRP acres, participants must request COC approval to hay or graze eligible acreage under a particular program(s) and receive notification of approval in writing from the COC.

Participants who request a voluntary modification to the CRP contract to allow critical feed use must also obtain a modified conservation plan for haying and grazing management in accordance with NRCS Field Office Technical Guide haying and grazing standards and elect to either hay or graze their contracted acreage. Any haying or grazing of CRP acres requires prior FSA county committee approval.

Sign-up for interested CRP participants has been ongoing at local FSA offices. This modification for critical feed use is only for 2008. All forage use must be completed **no later than November 10, 2008**. For more information about this program, or to see if your acreage is eligible for this program, contact your local FSA office. The program described is one of three forage removal programs available to eligible CRP participants.

Early Land Prep on CRP Acres

CRP cover may be destroyed on certain acreage before CRP-1 expiration to prepare a seedbed for fall/spring seeded crops. Producers need to submit a request to start this activity and obtain an approved conservation plan.

General Policy for Fall-Seeded Crops-

Beginning July 1 of the final year of CRP-1, CRP cover may be destroyed.

- Participants are required to submit their request on form CRP-1G
- obtain an approved conservation plan
- will not be assessed a payment reduction for CRP destroyed July 1 or after

Beginning May 1 of the final year of CRP-1, CRP cover may be destroyed.

- Participants are required to submit their request on form CRP-1G
- obtain an approved conservation plan
- will be assessed a payment reduction
- Yearly annual rental payment will be prorated for all CRP acreage that is destroyed between the period of May 1 through June 30.

CRP participants requesting to destroy CRP cover and fail to plant a fall-seeded crop in a normal manner will be considered in violation of the CRP-1 contract. If violation occurs producers could be required to refund all CRP annual rental payments, plus interest, and liquidated damages.

General Policy for Spring-Seeded Crops-

Beginning July 15 of the final year of CRP-1, CRP participants may apply chemicals to prepare certain CRP acreage for spring-seeded crops.

Destruction of CRP cover by any other means is not permitted.

- Participants are required to submit their request on form CRP-1G
- obtain an approved conservation plan
- will not be assessed a payment reduction for acreage sprayed after July 15.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CAMPBELL COUNTY SERVICE CENTER
601 4-J Court, Suite # B
GILLETTE, WY 82716-4127

***IMPORTANT
New Program
Information!!!***

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

July 18, 2008 – Deadline to apply for benefits under the LCP Livestock Compensation Program

August 1, 2008 – Last Day to file COC Nomination Form

- Final date to request farm reconstitution for current fiscal year

August 15, 2008 – Final certification date for all crops. Late fees will be assessed.

Sept. 1, 2008 – Labor Day Holiday – County Office Closed

Sept. 16, 2008 – Final date for SURE, EALFP, LFP or TAP programs Buy-in.

Sept. 30, 2008 – Deadline to sign-up for 2008 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP)

IMMEDIATELY --File Notification of Loss Forms within 15 Days of Loss

--Notify County office of any changes in Direct Deposit information,

--Payment limitation changes, Farm records changes, etc.

Any time

--CRP Continuous Signup

--Paid measurement services from FSA

Office Hours are from 8:00am to 4:30pm. Producers are urged to call for an appointment, so the office staff can assist you timely. Due to the computer environment, some applications/processes are unable to be completed after 4:00pm.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above dates or information in this newsletter, please contact the County office for more information (307) 682-8843, ext.2.

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