



Cowboy Country Connection

Carbon/Albany FSA Newsletter

JULY 2008

Carbon/Albany County
USDA Service Center

**Saratoga USDA
Service Center**
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Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

COUNTY COMMITTEE

Kelly Kennedy, COC
Albany
Tom Page, COC Albany
Scott Sims, COC Carbon
Matt Weber, COC Carbon
Ray Waliser, COC
Carbon
Heidi Custis, Minority
Advisor

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Mike Hoffland, Acting CED
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Our Loss

As most of you have probably heard by now, we have suffered a devastating loss here at our office. Sherrie Glenn, our County Executive Director passed away on June 8th of "Hanta virus". Her loss was very sudden, but the impact on many of our lives will last for a very long time. As most of you know she was a very thoughtful, caring and unselfish person. She mentioned more than once that the part of her job that she liked most was to be able to help you all, the producers. For more information on the Hanta virus please visit the following websites: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hanta/hps/index.htm or <http://www.hantavirus.net/>

Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program

The new Farm Bill has finally been passed into law and we are taking signup for the 2008 crop year DCP. Signup started June 25 and ends Sept. 30, 2008. The 2008 DCP shall be administered exactly like the 2007 DCP, except that a producer on a farm may NOT receive direct or counter-cyclical payments if the sum of the base acres on the farm is 10 acres or less, with exceptions. Those exceptions are for limited resource farmer or ranchers and for socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers. Only producers with an established crop base for oats, corn, barley, wheat, or oilseeds are eligible to participate. The program provides guaranteed direct payments and counter-cyclical payments in the event of low crop prices.

For cropland that is share rented, both the owner and operator are required to sign the contract to participate. If the land is cash

rented, the landlord must either sign the contract showing a zero share, or a written lease can be provided to this office. Advance Direct payments can be issued after all required signatures are obtained.

2008 Production Reports for NAP

All 2008 Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) participants are required to file an acreage report and submit a production report. Producers with NAP hay coverage need to report the number and average weight of hay bales harvested. The deadline is July 1, 2009, however, I recommend that you do this immediately following harvest. Your production records need to match your acreage report. For example, if you reported fields of native grass hay, brome grass hay, and legume grass mix hay, then your bales count needs to show how many bales were native, how many bales were brome, and how many bales were legume grass mix. Mail us your production record and we'll copy and mail it back along with a Actual Production History form for you to sign and return.

2008 NAP Loss Claims

For those of you who obtained NAP policies for the 2008 crop year, be aware that loss claims **must** be timely filed in order to be eligible for payment. You must timely file a notification of loss every time you experience a loss event (such as hail, flood, etc.). This notification must be filed within 15 calendar days of the date the disaster condition occurred or damage to the crop became evident. In case of drought, loss would be evident not later than harvest and if not harvested, then by the end of the crop year. If you expect to get paid, timely file your notification of loss! And then submit your

actual production evidence so we can compute a payment.

2008 NAP Hay Appraisals

In past years if you had NAP coverage on your grass hay, suffered a loss and grazed some or all of those acres intended for hay, FSA would compute a loss on those acres on an Animal Unit Day basis. For 2008, FSA will now compute a loss on those type acres on a tonnage basis, provided certain requirements are met. This is a real improvement in coverage and a change that the WY State FSA Committee has been working on for some years. However, we can only compute payment on a tonnage basis, if a timely appraisal is made by a certified loss appraiser. Also, the fields in questions must have been hayed 3 out of the last 5 years. If those conditions are not met, FSA will compute the loss on an AUD basis, as in past years. That means that producers will be required to contact the County Office before turning cattle on hay meadows to be grazed. Appraisals will not be made until after the end of the normal haying season. If you need to turn cattle onto hay meadows before then, you need to contact the County Office to determine the number of representative sample areas to fence off for later appraisal.

Record Changes

It is essential for prompt and timely service

that you notify the County Office when any of the following changes take place:

- purchase or sell property, even small acreages for home sites,
- lease additional ground to farm,
- change banks or financial accounts in which you want FSA payments issued,
- address changes,
- restructuring you farm/ranching operation.

We do NOT get automatic notification from realtors or the Court House of land sales. If the buyer, seller, or tenant doesn't tell us, we don't know about it.

COC Elections

Just a reminder, the COC position currently held by Matt Weber for LAA # 3, for the Little Snake River is up for election this year. The deadline to submit nominations is Aug. 1, 2008 which is fast approaching. A nomination form was included in your last newsletter, or you can request one by stopping by or calling the County Office.

Martin G. Hoffland
Acting CED

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