
CROOK COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2008

Crook County FSA Office
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NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

December 1, 2008 is the application deadline for the Non-Insurable Assistance Program for forage crops, fall seeded grain crops and grazing land. This deadline also includes Spring Wheat since Wheat is considered one crop (winter and spring) the earliest application deadline (December 1st) thus applies. The application service fee for NAP is \$250.00 per crop per county, with a county maximum of \$750.00. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1,875.00 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Producers must cover all crops in all counties where they have an interest to qualify for the new disaster programs.

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Act), Pub. L. 110-246, was enacted June 18, 2008. The 2008 Act created several new disaster programs under the title, "Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance". To be eligible for these programs, producers **must** purchase at least CAT level of crop insurance for **all** insurable crops and/or NAP coverage for all non-insurable crops. It is especially important to cover **all of your grazing acres** to be eligible for the new Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP). For the Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) program you will be required to cover **all** crops including grazing acres. Without NAP coverage on your non-insurable forage crops and at least CAT coverage on your insurable forage crops you will not be eligible for the new programs. The deadline to purchase CAT coverage from your insurance agent is September 30, 2008.

Important dates:

September 30th – Crop Insurance policy deadline (purchase or cancel) on:
Perennial Forage (Alfalfa, Alfalfa/Grass, Grass/Alfalfa)
Pasture – under the new PRF policy
Wheat.

This list may not be all inclusive – see an agent for details.

December 1...NAP policy deadline (purchase) on:

All non-insurable perennial forage (grass hay and any Grass/Alfalfa (or other) that is not insurable for various reasons as certified by a crop insurance agent)
Pasture
Wheat intended for hay (forage) – includes winter wheat and spring wheat
Honey

December 1st is also the deadline for honey producers to report their hive numbers on form FSA-578 (crop report form) for the coming year. Filing of the report after this date will require a late-filed fee to be remitted.

TERMINATION OF CROP INSURANCE “GRP” POLICY:

The Group Risk Plan (GRP) for pasture grass in Wyoming offered by private insurance agents, has been terminated for 2009 and subsequent crop years. (GRP was the “CAT” level of insurance). The Pasture, Rangeland and Forage (PRF) Vegetation Index program, which came out mid-September 2007, will continue in all Wyoming counties. You should contact your agent and discuss your insurance needs as applicable. Deadline to add other insurance is **September 30th**.

Since the PRF program does not provide any level of “CAT” protection (bare minimum insurance) producers can purchase a NAP policy from FSA to meet requirements of the new Disaster Programs enacted under the 2008 Farm Bill Legislation.

NAP NOTICE OF LOSS

With harvesting mostly complete you should have a reasonable idea of what your crop production was this year. If a crop had a significant loss, a loss greater than 50%, and the crop was covered by a NAP policy you should file a “notice of loss” form now. Regulations require that the CCC-576 Notice of Loss form must be filed within 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence or date damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent to the producer for yield loss. This timeline is very strict and if not followed can cause a loss of benefits, so file the necessary paperwork if you feel there could be a loss to any of your NAP covered crops. If you any questions concerning this issue please contact this office.

SIGNATURE AUTHORITY

Many of you conduct your farm operation as an entity such as a corporation, trust, LLC, LLP, etc... In order for you to conduct business with Farm Service Agency, we are required to have documentation from you that shows who has authority to sign on the entity’s behalf such as a Corporate Resolution, Power of Attorney, or other acceptable Delegation of Authority. This is a reminder for newly formed entities that we need a copy of the minutes of your annual meeting or other documentation that shows the selection of the officers or the positions of the members and who has authority to sign FSA program documents.

For signature authority for FSA and CCC programs, husbands and wives can sign documents on behalf of each other for programs in which either has an interest unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to this office. Spouses may not grant Power of Attorney for each other and may not sign claim settlements for each other.

And, producers and landlords who previously executed a FSA-211 Power of Attorney form authorizing an attorney-in-fact to act on their behalf for programs need to check with this office to be sure this form is still current with the new farm programs. If you have executed a FSA-211, please contact this office.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

CRP is a voluntary program available to agricultural producers to help them safeguard environmentally sensitive land. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers on eligible cropland to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion and enhance wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. Applications are competitively bid.

CONTINUOUS CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CCRP)

Environmentally desirable land devoted to certain conservation practices may be enrolled in CCRP at any time under continuous sign-up. Offers are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements. Offers for continuous sign-up are not subject to competitive bidding like the regular CRP program. Continuous sign-up contracts are 10 to 15 years in duration.

FARM LOAN PROGRAM NEWS

FSA makes loans each year to farmers and ranchers who need a helping hand. Whether it's a young husband and wife who are ready to buy their first farm, a veteran farmer or a minority farmer facing temporary adversity, FSA provides financial assistance that helps ensure the well-being of American agriculture. All loans must meet qualifying criteria to be eligible. Loans are available under both the Direct and Guaranteed Loans Programs as follows:

Direct Loan Program – Farm Ownership Loans, Farm Operating Loans, Emergency Loans, Youth Loans, and Indian Tribal Land Acquisition Program;

Guarantee Loan Program – Farm Ownership and Farm Operating.

Beginning Farmer/Rancher Loans and Socially Disadvantaged Loans – FSA has targeted loan funds for beginning farmers and ranchers and for socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family size-farms and ranches. A beginning farmer is someone who has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years. A socially disadvantaged applicant is someone who is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice.

Rural Youth Loans – FSA makes loans up to \$5,000 to individual youths to establish and operate income producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, FFA and similar organizations.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

IMMEDIATELY...FILE notification of NAP loss forms within 15 days of loss

...Notify county office of direct deposit changes, farm record changes or management changes

September 30...DCP signup Deadline

September 30...Crop Insurance deadline for 2009 crops

October 13...Office Closed (Columbus Day)

December 1...NAP deadline

December 1...Deadline for returning Election Ballots

Call FSA prior to breaking up sod (new land) and before planting a crop on sod

For more information on any Farm Service Agency program, visit or call our office, or visit the FSA Homepage at www.fsa.usda.gov Have a Nice Day, /s/ Mike Idler, CED

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice and TDD).

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