

Farm Service Agency

508 N. Broadway Ave., Riverton, WY, (307) 856-7524



March 2008

OFFICE STAFF

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Chuck Murray – Vice Chairman
Bryan Hamilton – Member

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FORT WASHAKIE OFFICE DAYS

You don't have to come to us, we'll come to you. The FSA program and loan staff is now offering business hours in Ft. Washakie. Appointments are encouraged, so that we can provide necessary forms and/or staff, but you are also welcome to just stop by and we will try to answer any of your questions. Office days will usually be held the first Wednesday of every month, from 1pm to 3pm, at the NRCS trailer next to the WIC building. Our next office day is **April 2nd**; we look forward to seeing you!

LOWER WIND RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



It's time to start thinking about planting trees. The Lower Wind River Conservation District sponsors a Seeding Tree Program. This program enables farmers, ranchers, and other landowners to obtain seedling trees at nominal cost. The purpose of the program is to encourage the owners to plant effective wind barriers, to protect

buildings, cropland, and feedlots as well as for erosion control, reforestation, and other conservation practices. A planting plan should be prepared before trees are ordered or planted. Please contact the Lower Wind River Conservation District to obtain an order form and/or to prepare a planting plan. Order early for the best selection! **Deadline for ordering is April 1, 2008.** Lower Wind River Conservation District, 508 North Broadway Avenue, Riverton, WY 82501, (307) 856-7524 Ext. 101.

EMERGENCY LOANS

FSA provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disaster, or quarantines. Emergency loan funds may be used to: restore or replace essential property; pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year; pay essential family living expenses; reorganize the farming operation; and refinance certain debts.

Emergency loans may be made to farmers and ranchers who: own or operate land located in a county declared by the President as a disaster area or designated by the Secretary of Agriculture as the disaster area or quarantine area; are established family farm operators and have sufficient farming or ranching experience; are citizens or permanent residents of the United States; have suffered at least a 30% loss in crop production or a physical loss to livestock, livestock products, real estate, or chattel property; have an acceptable credit history; are unable to receive credit from commercial sources; can provide collateral to secure the loan; and have repayment ability.



The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

staff is busy making contacts and field visits to USDA Farm Bill Program participants. Letters were sent in January to these participants as a reminder to keep planned project installations on schedule. Those not doing so could find themselves out of compliance with program provisions. This could mean the return of cost share assistance or cost recovery of projects designed but never completed. Keep your conservation work on schedule! If you have any questions, stop by or call your local field office.

The Riverton NRCS staff has begun processing 2008 Benchmark Enhancement payments. Those enrolled in the Conservation Security Program (CSP) can contact the office for an appointment to review their contract. Staff is busy with spring field work so be sure to call ahead.

NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

2008 NAP policies on spring crops will be available until April 1, 2008 on the following crops: All spring planted hay crops including, wheat, barley, oats, millet, sorghum, etc.

2007 Notices of Losses are currently being processed. The Wind River Reservation rangeland was assessed at a 75% loss and the rest of the county was assessed at 70% loss.



Fremont County FSA Office
508 North Broadway Ave.
Riverton, WY 82501

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Farm Service Agency
Permit NO. G-96

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (CDP)

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses from natural disaster and related conditions that occurred in 2005 and 2006, and 2007 crops if the crop was planted before February 28, 2007, or in the case of prevented planting would have been planted before February 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006, or 2007 must choose only one year to receive benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.

Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. The payment rate is set at 42 percent of the established price. The payment quantity for quality losses will be equal to the lesser of: (1) the actual production of the crop affected by a quality loss; or (2) at least 25 percent of the value that all affected production of the crop would have had if the crop had not suffered a quality loss. Assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and including the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster.

LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM (LCP)



LCP compensates livestock producers for feed losses resulting from natural disaster occurring on January 1, 2006.

The following are among the types of livestock operations that will be eligible for LCP: dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, swine, or deer.

The payment rate for each livestock category will be 61 percent of the national payment rate. Producers will not be penalized if they reduced the average number of livestock they owned for grazing during the production year for which assistance is being provided. Producers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in LCP benefits.



! IMPORTANT DATES!!

- March 15** **Deadline to file Wool/Mohair applications for 2008**
- March 15** **Deadline to purchase Crop Insurance**
- March 31** **Last day to file LDP applications for 2007 small grain crops for grain and hay**
- April 1** **Purchase policy on spring seeded NAP crops**
- April 1** **Deadline for ordering trees**

2007 BEWARE OF CROP INSURANCE REBATING SCHEMES

With the spring sales closing date for many Federal crop insurance policies right around the corner, crop insurance agents have been marketing their products aggressively. Producers report that some agents have approached them with promises of lower insurance premiums, refunds, or dividends. Most of these schemes are not legal. The Risk Management Agency and state insurance regulators have stepped up their efforts to uncover illegal rebating. Those producers who are found to participate in these schemes will not only lose their crop insurance coverage but may also become ineligible for other government programs. Producers can report suspicions of illegal rebating to the OIG Hotline: 1-800-424-9121

BANK ACCOUNT CHANGES

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA County office staff if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of *updates to your account and routing numbers*.