



Goshen County FSA Newsletter

July 2008

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FSA Home Page
www.fsa.usda.gov

USDA Home Page
www.usda.gov

2005/2006/2007 Disaster Sign-ups Continue

Goshen County FSA is continuing to take applications for 2005/2006/2007:

- Crop Disaster Program (CDP) Quantity losses
- Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

We will begin to take signups for CDP Quality losses in the near future. If you believe that you may qualify for benefits due to crop quality issues, get your production evidence together. We will let you know when this application process begins.

The deadline to apply for LCP has been announced as July 18, 2008.

NAP Reminder

Concerning Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policies, in the event of a crop failure caused by natural disaster, the producer needs to notify the local FSA office by completing a "Notice of Loss" (form CCC-576). The notice of loss must be executed within 15 days of the date the damage became apparent. Failure to timely report the loss could result in loss of benefits.

Acreage Reporting Deadline Extended

Because of the delay in announcing the provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill and extreme weather conditions many producers have not filed a 2008 acreage report or requested prevented planting or failed acreage credit, as applicable. As a result of this, a large number of producers will be reporting crop acreage in addition to requesting prevented planting and failed acreage credit in a short timeframe. This will create a tremendous workload in the County Offices and place a heavy burden on producers. **For 2008, the final crop reporting dates are being extended to August 15, 2008.** Late fees will not be applied if acreage reports are filed by August 15 and all other crop reporting requirements must be met according to program requirements.

Exceptions: For NAP purposes, producers are required to file an acreage report on the earlier of the extended acreage reporting date or no later than 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest.

CRP Requirements and Reminders

CRP participants are obligated to maintain the established cover. The annual rental payment includes a maintenance fee for this purpose. Participants shall ensure:

- Adequate approved vegetative cover is maintained to control erosion for the period of the contract.
- Compliance with state and local noxious weed laws. If any noxious weeds are found on CRP, you will be referred to the local weed & pest officials to draw up a plan for weed control.
- Control of other weeds as determined by the County Committee.
- That undesirable vegetation, weeds, insects, rodents, etc. that pose a threat to existing cover or adversely impact other landowners in the area are controlled.
- An annual acreage report must be filed to confirm the acres are still being maintained as CRP.

FSA conducts periodic spot checks on CRP to confirm program compliance. Your neighbor also conducts checks, so it is in your best interest to keep on top of things.

2008 COC Election Information

From June 16 through Aug. 1, farmers and ranchers can nominate eligible peers as candidates for election to the Goshen County Farm Service Agency County Committee. This is an important time for Local Administrative Area (LAA) communities, because county committee members make decisions that have significant effects on you and the area's agricultural sector as a whole. For example, committee members make decisions on applications for federal farm program and disaster payments. Committee members play a vital role by helping local farmers and ranchers manage tough financial times and natural disasters. County committee members make many other important decisions that affect local farmers and ranchers, such as whether haying and grazing should be allowed on Conservation Reserve Program land. Talk to a county committee member or the County Executive Director for details on the types of decisions county committee members make. This year's election in Goshen County covers LAA 2, which covers all of Townships 24 & 25.

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet basic eligibility requirements. Contact the county office staff or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections> for details about candidate eligibility. Nomination forms can be obtained at the county office or online at the above web address. Remember, the nomination period runs June 16 through Aug. 1. Voting takes place in the fall. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 3. Dec. 1 is the last day to return voted ballots to the county office. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office Jan. 1, 2009.

Farm Loan Program Information

Farm Service Agency (FSA) has loan programs that could help farmers and ranchers experiencing financial problems in today's economy of tight profit margins. Several types of loan programs are offered through FSA.

Under the Guaranteed Loan program, FSA guarantees farm ownership, term operating loans, and lines of credit used for annual operating through conventional agricultural lenders for guarantees up to 95%. The guarantee generally allows the conventional lender to provide the applicant with longer terms and lower rates of interest. All applicants must meet certain qualifying criteria to be eligible for guarantees. Farmers and ranchers interested in Guaranteed Loans should apply directly with a conventional lender, who arranges for the guarantee.

For those unable to qualify for a Guaranteed Loan, FSA offers Direct Loans, which are made and serviced by FSA officials. Funding is limited for Direct Loans, and applicants must sometimes wait until funds are available. To qualify for a Direct Farm Ownership or Operating Loan, the applicant must meet eligibility criteria and have sufficient repayment ability and loan collateral. FSA will work with you to analyze your situation, provide technical assistance, and tailor loans to meet your needs.

Youth between the ages of 10 and 21 may also apply for a direct loan up to \$5,000 associated with their 4-H, FFA, or other youth organization activities.

Farm Service Agency is an Equal Credit Opportunity Lender. Beginning farmers and members of traditionally underserved gender and ethnic groups are encouraged to apply for guaranteed and/or direct loan assistance from FSA. Each year, farm ownership and operating loan funds are temporarily set-aside to meet the needs of beginning farmers and traditionally underserved groups.

Anyone having questions please call your local Farm Service Agency in Torrington WY at 307-532-4021.

2008 Loan Rates

2008 Goshen County commodity loan rates are:

Wheat-HRS	\$2.58/Bu.	Sunflower Seed (Oil)	\$9.22/cwt.
Wheat-HRW	\$2.79/Bu.	Sunflower Seed (Non-Oil)	\$9.22/cwt.
Wheat-SWW	\$2.25/Bu.	Crambe	\$8.43/cwt.
Corn	\$2.04/Bu.	Sesame	\$8.85/cwt.
Barley	\$1.85/Bu.	Mohair	\$4.20/lb.
Oats	\$1.26/Bu.	Wool-Graded <18.6	\$5.27/lb.
Grain Sorghum	\$3.13/cwt.	Wool-Graded 18.6-19.5	\$3.38/lb.
Canola	\$8.34/cwt.	Wool-Graded 19.6-20.5	\$2.45/lb.
Flaxseed	\$8.49/cwt.	Wool-Graded 20.6-22.0	\$2.24/lb.
Mustard Seed	\$8.71/cwt.	Wool-Graded 22.1-23.5	\$2.20/lb.
Rapeseed	\$8.56/cwt.	Wool-Graded 23.6-25.9	\$2.07/lb.
Safflower	\$7.66/cwt.	Wool-Graded 26.0-28.9	\$1.48/lb.
Soybeans	\$4.54/Bu.	Wool-Graded 29 and over	\$1.33/lb.
		Wool-Nongraded	\$0.40/lb.

USDA ANNOUNCES CRP PERMITTED USE FOR LIVESTOCK FEED NEEDS

USDA 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.

Prices for most field crops have advanced to record or near record levels in recent months, reflecting strong demand, tight supplies and competition for acres. The increased demand for commodities and resulting higher prices has impacted the livestock industry in particular.

More than 24 million acres of land enrolled in CRP will be eligible for this critical feed use program. USDA estimates that this program will make available up to 18 million tons of forage worth \$1.2 billion.

Eligible land may not be hayed or grazed until after the end of the primary nesting season (July 15 in Wyoming). Also, some of the eligible land or forage of the land must be reserved for wildlife and any land that is used under this authority must have a conservation plan. In many instances, the removal of some of the grass cover will increase the diversity of the stand and provide long-term benefits for wildlife. Further, the most environmentally-sensitive land enrolled in CRP will not be eligible. 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 use. However, a \$75 fee will be charged to process the required contract modification.

Signup for interested CRP participants is currently going on at local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices. This modification for critical feed use is only for 2008. All forage use must be completed no later than November 10, 2008.

Additional details including Fact Sheets, Maps and statistics are available on the Web at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation>.

NOTE: Farm Service Agency (FSA) news releases are available on the Web at FSA's home page: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

2008 DCP Signup

County FSA Offices have begun signups for the 2008 Direct & Counter Cyclical Program (DCP). DCP is authorized through 2012 by the new Farm Bill, which was enacted in May 22, 2008. How does the 2008 program differ from the 2007 program? Well, basically there are no changes:

- Crop bases are the same as they were in 2007
- Payment yields are the same
- Adjusted Gross Income provisions are the same (look for AGI changes starting in 2009)
- Direct payment rates are the same, including:

Barley	\$0.24/bu.
Corn	\$0.28/bu.
Oats	\$0.024/bu.
Sunflowers	\$0.80/cwt.
Wheat	\$0.52/bu.
- Advance payments of 22% are available starting in July. Final 2008 payments will be issued in October 2008.

One change from the previous Farm Bill-Farms with 10.0 or less base acres will not be eligible for DCP benefits, with two exceptions:

1. The farm is owned by a member of an identified Socially Disadvantaged group.
2. The farm is owned by a limited resource farmer/rancher.

2008 DCP signup will run through September 30, 2008. For more information, contact your local FSA Office. Otherwise, stop in and get your signup completed.

/s/ Darrell L. Jones-CED

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY
GOSHEN COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE
1441 EAST M.ST. SUITE C
TORRINGTON WY 82240

Dates to Remember	
Continuous	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
Continuous	Farm Storage Facility Loans
August 15, 2008	Final date to timely apply file 2008 acreage report
September 30, 2008	Final date to timely apply for 2008 DCP benefits
August 1, 2008	Deadline for nominations for 2008 County Committee election

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of Discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.