



August 2008

# Goshen County News

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## *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
- Crop Disaster Program (CDP) Quality losses

We have begun to take signups for CDP Quality losses. If you believe that you may qualify for benefits due to crop quality issues, contact this office for detailed information on what you need to supply for the application process.

No deadline has yet been set for CDP signups.

## *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*

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.

## *2008 COC Election Information*

This year's election in Goshen County covers LAA 2, which covers all of Townships 24 & 25. Currently, Stan Speckner represents the County Committee in this area. Stan will be running again for this position. As of the publishing date of this newsletter, we do not have any other candidates.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters around November 2. Instructions for voting will be included. December 3 is the last day to return voted ballots to the county office. Please take some time to vote and select your representative on the County Committee.

Newly elected committee members and alternates take office Jan.1, 2009.

# **NOTICE: Supplemental Disaster Programs Requires Crop Insurance or NAP 2008 Eligibility "Buy-In" Deadline is September 16, 2008**

The recently-enacted Farm Bill legislates permanent supplemental disaster programs covering losses to crops, trees/vines/bushes, forage, and other losses due to adverse weather. These programs require the crops you planted, grew, produced, failed or were prevented from planting to have been covered by federal crop insurance or FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). *All of your crops on all of your acreage in all counties and states must be covered, not only those acres that suffered losses.*

Due to the late passage of the Farm Bill in May, you will be given an opportunity to "buy-in" to the disaster program by paying a \$100/crop catastrophic crop insurance and/or NAP service fee for any 2008 crops that are not already covered by crop insurance or NAP.

This eligibility "buy-in" must be completed by September 16, 2008 at your local FSA Office. Note that the 2008 buy-in fee does NOT provide you with crop insurance coverage or NAP benefits. There is a maximum of \$300 buy-in fee per administrative county or \$900 maximum for all counties that the producer operates in. There are separate maximums for CAT and NAP fees. Once this coverage requirement is met, you may be eligible for one or more of the following programs:

- **Supplemental Revenue Program (SURE):** Crop Disaster Program - Covers crop revenue losses from quantity or quality deficiencies in disaster declared counties, contiguous counties, or in cases where the overall production loss exceeds 50%
- **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP):** Livestock Disaster Program - Compensates livestock owners for forage losses due to drought. Additionally, losses due to wildfire will be covered on public lands.
- **Tree Assistance Program (TAP):** Provides for partial reimbursement for replanting, salvage, pruning, debris removal and land preparation for orchardists and nursery tree growers if losses exceed 15%.
- **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP):** Emergency relief to producers of livestock (including horses), honey bees, and farm-raised fish. Covers losses from disasters such as adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires not adequately covered by any other disaster program. This program is authorized at the discretion of the Secretary.

The **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality was also authorized in the Farm Bill. This is the only disaster program that does not require crop insurance or NAP coverage.

Further details of all of these disaster programs, including signup information, will be provided at a later date. Note that additional requirements exist for disaster programs eligibility.

Fact Sheets for the supplemental disaster program can be found at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/newsReleases?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=pfs&newstype=prfactsheet>

**Bottom Line: To be eligible for Disaster Programs in 2008, you must pay the fees for the eligibility buy-in at your FSA Office by September 16, 2008.**

## ***DCP Erosion and Cover Requirements***

If a farm has non-planted cropland that supports DCP base acres, those fields must be protected from wind and water erosion and weed control measures may have to be implemented to assure program compliance.

If erosion problems exist, the County Committee has the authorization to require treatments such as planting a cover crop or emergency tillage.

***Weed control on these acres is required to prevent the propagation of weeds. Control measures must be implemented timely to achieve the most effective control of weed growth.***

## ***Fruit/Vegetable Plantings***

Don't forget DCP Contract requirements concerning Fruit & Vegetable (FAV) plantings. Applicable FAV's include dry beans, potatoes, onions, grapes, and chicory. We suggest that if you are planning on planting any FAV's on a farm in 2008, to address your intentions with this office and we can estimate if and how this would affect your payments.

## ***CRP CRITICAL FEED USE (CFU)***

Since the last newsletter was issued, several things have happened concerning this subject, including:

- On July 8, 2008, a Federal judge granted a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) on CFU, resulting in an immediate cease of all CFU activity.
- On July 24, 2008, the Federal court issued a Permanent Injunction covering CFU. The result of this Injunction is that CFU applications have been released and the haying/grazing of CRP can commence. However, all CFU applicants were to be informed of the provisions of the Permanent Injunction before the CRP can be used. We have sent letters to the individual applicants with this information.
- We are permitted to allow new applications for CFU; however, applicants must meet more stringent guidelines before approval will be made.

Due to the complexity of the new provisions of CFU, we suggest you contact this office for the guidelines if you are interest in applying for CRP Critical Feed Use.

## ***GRAZING LAND INSURANCE INFORMATION***

USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) has announced that GRP rangeland insurance will not be available in eastern Wyoming as of crop year 2009. RMA will still offer Pasture Range Forage Insurance (PRF) Coverage. For information on PRF, see your insurance agent.

With the elimination of GRP on rangeland, farmers/ranchers once again have the option of purchasing coverage through the Noninsured Crop Disaster Program (NAP) through FSA. The deadline for purchasing NAP on pasture for 2009 is December 1, 2008. This deadline also applies to all fall seeded crops and perennials covered under NAP. For more information contact this office.

Based on preliminary information concerning permanent disaster programs implemented by the 2008 Farm Bill (SURE, LFP, TAP, ELAP, LIP), it appears that producers will be required to have either NAP or RMA coverage on all applicable crops, including pasture, to be eligible for these programs.

## ***2008 DCP Signup***

County offices will accept 2008 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP) applications through Sept. 30, 2008.

USDA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2008, eligible producers may request to receive direct advance payments based on **22 percent** of the direct payment rate for each commodity associated with the farm. Final direct payments are scheduled to be issued in October 2008. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate) for a commodity is below its target price.

For more information, contact this office.

***Don't forget the availability of commodity loans on small grains, course grains, and oilseeds!***

*/s/ Darrell L. Jones-CED*

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 FARM SERVICE AGENCY  
 GOSHEN COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE  
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| <b>Dates to Remember</b> |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 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                                       |
| December 1, 2008         | Deadline to obtain NAP coverage on perennial (including pasture) and fall seeded crops |
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