



Laramie County FSA News

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<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

September - 2008

Farm Program Information

Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) Signup

The CCC-509, DCP contract, can be signed now through September 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 of a socially disadvantaged or a limited resource farmer or rancher.

At least one producer or owner must have a signature on the DCP contract by September 30th. Other signatures must be obtained by October 15th. Contracts not initiated by September 30 cannot be approved. Contracts initiated by September 30 that do not have the other signatures by October 15 cannot be approved. Producers will be responsible for getting other signatures on the contract.

2008 Crop Acreage Reports

Acreage reporting is a requirement of the farm program. Acreage reports must be filed for producers to qualify for DCP and CRP payments. **The deadline of July 1 was extended to August 15th. Acreage reports filed after August 15th will be charged a minimum of \$46 per farm.**

Crop Loan / LDP Information

Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL)

Nine-month commodity loans can be made to eligible producers. The current interest rate for loans disbursed in August was 3.375 percent for farm-stored or warehouse stored commodities. The September rate has not been announced. Laramie County 2008 loan rates are: winter wheat - \$2.64/bu, barley - \$1.90/bu, corn - \$2.05/bu, oats - \$1.31/bu, sunflowers - \$9.23/cwt, and spring wheat - \$2.63/bu. Please call the office for more information if you are interested. The loan process does take some time. The office is required to do a lien search, obtain lien waivers from lenders, and file a lien against your crop before a check can be issued. Hay, silage, and unshorn pelts derived from the eligible loan commodities are eligible for LDP, but **not** for MAL's.

Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) will be available if posted county price goes below the loan rate. There are LDP's available for wool and unshorn pelts.

County Committee Election

Laramie County FSA will be holding an election for a person to represent LAA 3. LAA 3 includes all of Laramie County west of County Road 136. Eligible producers will receive ballots after November 3, 2008. Marked ballots must be returned or post marked by December 1, 2008.

Disaster Programs

Crop Disaster Program – Quantity Losses

Signup deadline for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) for quantity losses for 2005-2007 crop years has not been announced. Deadlines will be announced soon and there are no late filed provisions. Applications for payment have been delayed due to software implementation with the Quality Loss CDP. Payments will be made when software is available.

Crop Disaster Program – Quality Losses 2005-2007 Crop Years

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Crop Disaster Program 2005-2007 (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quality losses (as well as quantity losses) from natural disasters and related conditions to 2005, 2006 or 2007 crops. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year for which to receive benefits. They may receive benefits for multiple crop losses if all were in the same crop year.

Examples of quality losses would be: Wheat – vomitoxin, Potatoes – hollow heart or pink eye, malting barley that had a marketing contract and was rejected due to high protein, etc.

To receive CDP benefits for quality losses, farmers must have:

- Had crop insurance or been covered under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the disaster year that the quality loss occurred;
- Suffered quality losses to an eligible 2005, 2006 or 2007 crop of at least 25 percent compared to its value if the crop had not suffered a quality loss;
- Harvested the crop for the intended use;
- Verifiable evidence of quality losses (receipts showing production, price, and quality affected or marketing contract provided for production sold under a marketing contract);
- Suffered a weather affected loss.

Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Program for 2008

Notice: Requires Crop Insurance or NAP to be eligible. There is a 2008 Eligibility "Buy-in" Deadline of September 16, 2008. Please read below.

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Act), Pub. L. 110-234, was enacted into law May 22, 2008. The 2008 Act amended the Trade Act of 1974 to create:

- An agricultural disaster relief trust fund ("trust fund")
- Supplemental agricultural disaster assistance programs.

Funds from the trust fund may be used to make payments to farmers and ranchers under the following 5 new disaster assistance programs:

- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP) Program.

General Requirements

SURE, TAP, ELAP eligibility requires entire farm coverage for each:

- Insurable commodity at a minimum level of insurance coverage (50 percent of yield and 55 percent of insurable price)
- non-insurable commodity

2008 Farm Bill Definition of a Farm is the sum of all crop acreage in all counties that is planted or intended to be planted for harvest by the eligible producer.

Livestock Forage Program (LFP) - requires coverage of grazing acreage through NAP or a plan of insurance by the applicable application closing date or sales closing date for grazing land incurring the losses for which assistance is requested.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) - Risk Management Purchase Requirement is not required.

The sales closing dates or application closing dates for most Catastrophic Risk Protection (CAT) and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) have passed for the 2008 crop year.

A waiver has been authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill to allow producers to pay within 90 days of enactment, **by September 16**, a **Buy-in** fee for 2008 eligibility for Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Assistance Programs.

- Buy-In does **NOT** provide crop insurance or NAP coverage
- Buy-In does provide supplemental disaster program assistance eligibility for 2008

Applicable Crop Insurance and NAP Buy-In Fees

- \$100 per crop per administrative county
- \$300 per producer per administrative county (including previous fees paid for coverage)
- \$900 max for producers with multiple counties (including previous fees paid for coverage)
- FSA will collect both fees

Buy-In Fee Collection

- Producers must visit their administrative county to pay appropriate buy-in fees and complete forms CCC-752 and/or CCC-753 by the ending date of **September 16**.

Fall Crop Insurance Closing Date

U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Risk Management Agency reminds producers in Wyoming that the fall sales closing date is September 30, 2008. Fall sales closing and cancellation dates are applicable for wheat, in counties with both a fall and spring sales closing date, and forage production (alfalfa).

The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) Program has specific requirements for the 2009 crop year. To participate in the SURE program producers **must** purchase a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act for **all** insurable crops planted on all farms they have an interest in. In addition, if insurance is not available on a crop, producers will have to file the required paperwork and pay the applicable fee by the deadline at the Farm Service Agency for the noninsured crop assistance program (NAP) for all uninsured crops planted on all farms they have an interest in to be eligible.

Pasture, Rangeland, Forage (PRF) crop insurance is available in Laramie County. A Rainfall Index will be utilized to determine the amount of moisture received in a given area, and indemnities are paid based on the deviation from the normal precipitation in the area. The nationwide insurance coverage map is on the USDA Web site: <http://www.rma.usda.gov/policies/pasturerangeforage/>. This web site also has a mapping tool to locate which land is insurable. It also has historical data, coverage details and a premium calculator. The Group Risk Rangeland plan of insurance has been discontinued.

Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Reminders

NAP Rangeland / Forage Hay Losses

FSA can provide coverage for irrigated and non-irrigated grass hay under NAP. FSA's NAP coverage is for crops not covered by RMA. The deadline to purchase NAP coverage for hay losses is December 1, 2008.

Insured Rangeland Grazing Losses

Risk Management Agency's (RMA) Group Risk Plan for grazing will no longer be available for rangeland in Laramie County. PRF coverage is available for grazing but not at the catastrophic (CAT) level. FSA's NAP coverage for grazing is available at the CAT level. The last date to purchase NAP coverage is December 1. (See requirements for SURE on previous page.)

Fee Increase for 2009

NAP coverage administrative fees will increase for 2009. A fee of \$250 per crop, \$750 per county (three or more crops), and \$1875 per producer for all counties will be charged.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) News

2009 EQIP SIGNUP

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is taking applications for the 2009 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Technical and financial assistance is available for conservation practices that improve farmland, grazing lands and wildlife habitat. Applications are taken on a continuous basis but a batching date for the 2009 fund allocation will occur sometime during November or December. Applications taken after the batching date will be considered for the 2010 allocation.

EQIP funds are also available to address resource concerns associated with animal feeding operations. Owners and operators of Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO's) are reminded that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is requiring that these operations be permitted through the Department of Environmental Quality by February of 2009.

Landowners are encouraged to contact the NRCS Field Office in Cheyenne for technical assistance with resource concerns that pertain to soil, water, air, plants and animals. Information concerning Farm Bill Programs is available at www.nrcs.usda.gov.

**USDA / FSA
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Dates to Remember

September 16	Deadline for "Buy-in"
September 30	Deadline for DCP Signup
October 13	Columbus Day Holiday – Office Closed
October 15	Deadline to get all signatures for DCP Signup
November 11	Veterans Day Holiday – Office Closed
November 27	Thanksgiving Day Holiday – Office Closed
December 1	NAP signup deadline for fall seeded and perennial crops
December 1	Deadline for Returning Election Ballots

County Committee: Mike Peterson, Mark Child, Dave Bowman **Advisor:** Louise Jacobsen
Office Staff: Doris Scheel, Denise Hunt, Mark Lanning
/S/ Gary Gompert, CED – Email gary.gompert@wy.usda.gov

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