



FSA
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

THE
FSA HEARTBEAT

PARK COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY
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Hours: M-F, 8-4:30 Closed Holidays

July 24, 2008

COUNTY COMMITTEE

Teddy Jones, Chairperson
 Bill Cox, Vice-chairperson
 John Hogg, Member
 Sandra Frost, Extension Service, Ex-officio member

OFFICE STAFF

Lee Craig, County Executive Director
 Kathleen Palazzolo, Farm Loan Officer
 Marjorie Parker, Program Technician
 Marcia Shuler, Program Technician
 Lorrie Tate, Program Technician

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AG DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

On May 22, 2008, the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 became law. The "Act" creates an agricultural disaster relief trust fund and a supplemental agricultural disaster assistance program. The trust fund provides for five new disaster assistance programs:

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

To be eligible for these programs, you must have purchased or obtained insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (FCIC) for all crops in the farming operation, including pasture, or if the commodity is non-insurable, be covered under the noninsured crop disaster assistance (NAP) program by having paid the applicable administrative fee. However for 2008, producers who do not meet the above listed requirements may be eligible if they pay an administrative fee to Farm Service Agency by no later than **Sept 16, 2008**.

NOMINATIONS FOR COUNTY COMMITTEE

Nominations for your 2008 Park County FSA committee election will be accepted through **August 1**. FSA county committees are elected by local agriculture producers to administer USDA farm programs at the county level. There are three Local Administrative Areas (LAA) in Park County with one LAA holding an election each year to elect a person to a three-year term. Park County's LAA's consist of Powell/Clarksfork, Cody/Heart Mountain and Meeteetse. The committee election this year will be held for Local Administrative Area 2, the Cody/Heart Mountain LAA, which currently is represented by Teddy Jones. A list of persons who are eligible to run for the county committee is available from this office. If you wish to run or want to nominate a fellow producer for the county committee, please contact this office for a nominating petition. If no nominations are received, the Secretary of Agriculture will complete the slate of nominees.

2008 DCP PROGRAM SIGN-UP

With the approval of the Farm Bill, sign-up for the 2008 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) has begun. You may sign-up in person or, if you choose, you may also sign-up online by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/edcp> and clicking on "Access eDCP Service." You can choose payment options, assign crop shares and sign and submit contracts from any computer with Internet access. You can also view and print submitted contract options. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2008, eligible producers may request to receive an advance payment of 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments as soon as practical after enrollment. Final direct payments will be issued after Oct. 1, 2008. Counter-cyclical payments vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below it's target price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate). September 30, 2008 has been established as the deadline to enroll in the program.

QUALITY LOSS CROP DISASTER PROGRAM

Sign-up for quality losses under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) began on June 23, 2008. Producers must have suffered quality losses of at least 25 percent to be eligible for CDP quality loss payments. In addition, the affected crop must have been covered by Multi-peril Crop Insurance or NAP for non-insurable crops. An example of a quality loss is malting barley that did not meet the buyer's standards due to weather related conditions and the crop was subsequently sold for a reduced price as feed barley. Applicants for quality loss will need to provide a copy of the purchase agreement or contract that shows the required quality factors and the contract price. We will also need production evidence that shows the total quantity sold, the price received and the quality grading factors of the affected production, such as university or other commercial lab test results. The CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered weather related crop losses to eligible crops during crop years 2005, 2006 or 2007.

NEW SERVICE CENTER LOCATION

The Powell USDA Service Center will be moving in late August to 1017 Highway 14A. The location was previously occupied by Hooley's Restaurant and prior to that by the Timbers Restaurant. The USDA agencies that will occupy the new location are Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Rural Development.

CROP REPORTING DEADLINE

Due to the late signing of the farm bill, the deadline to file acreage reports has been extended to August 15, 2008. If you are a sugar beet grower, participate in the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP), participate in the Conservation Reserve Program, participate in the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP), purchase multi-peril or catastrophic crop insurance or if you participate in other USDA farm programs, you must file an acreage report to remain eligible for benefits. Crop reports are also used in calculating benefits if you suffer a crop loss on a non-insurable crop and apply for benefits under the Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP). You must also file an acreage report of fruits and vegetables for farms that are enrolled in DCP. Dry beans are considered a vegetable under the DCP rules. Late fees will apply to acreage reports that are filed after the August 15 deadline. **FAILURE TO FILE AN ACREAGE REPORT WILL RESULT IN THE LOSS OF USDA BENEFITS!!**

BUYERS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

It is required that buyers of agricultural products check or register with the Secretary of State's Office to determine if there are liens against the seller of the product. If a lien is found, the buyer is required to place both the lien holder's and seller's names on the check. Ag products include but are not limited to: livestock (including horses), crops used for feed (hay, silage, oats, etc...), machinery, equipment and all other crops. Failure to place the lien holder's name on the check may result in civil legal action being taken against the Buyer of the product. Protect yourself as a Buyer! You may contact the Secretary of State's Office at (307)777-7311.

WOOL, MOHAIR & PELT LOANS or LDP'S

Wool and Mohair producers who shear wool and/or mohair can either request a 9 month marketing assistance loan or agree to forego the loan for a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP). Producers are reminded that they must sign up for their LDP prior to losing beneficial interest in the commodity. If you sell your wool or mohair at shearing, you must sign the application for LDP prior to shearing and prior to losing beneficial interest in the wool. If you store your wool or mohair, you must sign up for the LDP before you lose beneficial interest in the commodity. Eligible producers of unshorn lamb pelts may also apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP). An unshorn pelt is defined as the removed skin and attached wool from a slaughtered lamb that has never been shorn. To be eligible for an LDP for unshorn pelts, producers must have owned the unshorn lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter or slaughter the unshorn lamb for personal use. Immediate slaughter is considered slaughter of the lamb within a 7 to 10 day period after the loss of beneficial interest. Eligible producers are considered to have lost beneficial interest on the date of delivery or the date of the receipt of payment, whichever comes earliest. Producers must sign an application for the unshorn lamb pelt Loan Deficiency Payment prior to losing beneficial interest in the lamb.

REPORTING CROP LOSSES FOR NAP

Producers are reminded that they must report losses on NAP crops no later than 15 days after the date of a disaster occurrence or date that damage to the crops is apparent. Notices of loss that are filed after 15 days (late-filed) can still be approved by the county committee if verification of the specific crop and acreage can be made and if it can be determined that the cause of loss is due to an eligible disaster condition. If a positive verification of both of the above requirements cannot be made, the late filed Notice of Loss will be disapproved and the producer will not be eligible for a loss payment.

FOREIGN INVESTORS

The Agriculture Foreign Investment Disclosure Act requires foreign persons or entities who acquire, transfer or hold interest in agricultural land to report these holdings and transactions to the Secretary of Agriculture. Such holdings and changes must be reported within 90 days of any purchase, sale, or change in status or ownership of land. Foreign agriculture investors must report investments to the local FSA office on form FSA-153. Contact this office for more information.



LOW INTEREST GRAIN BIN LOAN PROGRAM

Commodity Credit Corporation, acting through Farm Service Agency, has reauthorized the farm storage facility loan program. Basic provisions of this loan program are:
Loans may be made for grain storage structures, grain handling equipment and drying equipment
Loans will be for new storage or expansion or upgrades of existing storage
The term of approved loans is 7 years
The interest rate is equivalent to the rate of interest charged on Treasury Securities of comparable maturity
The July 2008 interest rate is %3.625
Producers with approved loans will be required to have crop insurance, either multi-peril crop insurance or federal crop insurance until the loan is paid in full.

DIRECT DEPOSIT OF PROGRAM PAYMENTS & ACCOUNT CHANGES

Farm program payments earned through this office are required to be paid by direct deposit into a bank account selected by the program participant. If you have completed a direct deposit agreement and had a bank account change, you must notify us of account changes for your payment to be properly deposited.

DON'T MISS OUT

IMPORTANT DATES

Aug 1 COC nomination deadline
Aug 15 Crop report deadline
Sept 1 Office Closed, Labor Day
Sept 16 Deadline to pay service fee for 2008 Disaster Assistance Programs
Sept 30 DCP sign-up ends
Late August Office move
Prior to selling wool – Sign-up for Wool LDP
Prior to selling unshorn lambs – Sign-up for Lamb Pelt LDP
Prior to selling or feeding crop–Sign-up for farm stored LDP
Anytime Continuous CRP



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