

November 2008

Platte County News



Platte County FSA
1502 Progress Court
Wheatland, WY 82201
307-322-4050 (phone)
307-322-4109 (FAX)

Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Larry Cundall
Ruthie Cundall
Dave Hinman
Darrel Vaughn

Staff
Mike Hoffland DD
Dixie Mount FLO
Rick Carroll CED
Celia Herman PT
Mitzi Mudgett PT
Joni Reyes PT



Adjusted Gross Income Limitations

New Adjusted Gross Income Limitations will be in place for 2009 and future years. There are three limitations to consider now, one that affects all commodity programs, one that affects DCP only, and one that applies to Conservation Programs only. These certifications will be based on the average income in the three years preceding the most recent complete tax year (so, for the 2009 program year, the years in consideration will be 2005, 2006 and 2007).

1. \$500,000 Average Adjusted Gross Non-farm income: Exceed this producer is ineligible for any commodity, price support or disaster program benefits.
2. \$750,000 Average Adjusted Gross Farm Income: Exceed this producer is ineligible for DCP Direct Payments.
3. \$1,000,000 Average Adjusted Gross Non-farm Income: Exceed this producer is ineligible for Conservation programs, unless 66.66% or more of AGI is average adjusted gross farm income.

Direct and indirect program participants will be required to certify to the new income limitations to certify to the new income limitations for the 2009 crop year on form CCC-926 or through an accountant's or attorney's certification. The new form and procedures are not yet available, additional information, including specifics on what is considered farm income and what is considered non-farm income will be made available at a future date.

Ten Acre Base Farms:

Owners and operators of farms with 10 or fewer base acres now have the opportunity to receive payments for the 2008 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program. The sign up deadline is November 26, 2008.

These amendments apply to farms with crop acreage bases of 10 acres or less. These changes and clarifications allow some producers more flexibility in farming practices and create new sign-up opportunities with new deadlines for some farms.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will now resume allowing reconstitutions for farms with 10 acres of base or less according to normal reconstitution rules and policy.

Supplemental Review Assistance Program (SURE)

Under SURE in the 2008 Farm Bill, producers seeking disaster benefits must generally have obtained crop insurance or coverage under the Non-insured crop disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for all crops on all farms. Under the new law (P.L. 110-398), producers with crops that had 2009 crop insurance sales closing dates before Aug. 14, 2008, may pay a fee through Jan. 12, 2009, to participate in SURE. Producers may make their SURE participation fee payments to their local FSA office at this time. Fees may be paid through January 12, 2009.

The SURE program fee is equal to the fee for catastrophic coverage. Payment of the SURE program fee will not make the producer eligible for insurance coverage.

Producers also have a new minimum loss threshold under SURE. Under the new law, to qualify for payments, there must be a production loss of at least 10 percent for at least one crop of economic significance on the farm.

Under the SURE program, the new law provides that when a second crop is planted after the first crop was prevented from being planted, or if such first crop failed, the second planting will not count toward the SURE program guarantee or total farm revenue. This is true except in areas where double-cropping is a normal practice. Producers also are not required to purchase crop insurance or a NAP policy for the second crop.

By provision of the new statute, the purchase of insurance or a NAP policy for grazed acreage is no longer a requirement for the SURE program. However, such insurance is required as a condition for payment for the livestock feed program, tree assistance program and the emergency livestock, honeybees and farm-related fish programs.

In addition, the new law amends SURE eligibility so that crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10 percent of the value of the coverage.

Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP)

NAP application closing dates for the 2009 crops is extended to Dec. 1, 2008. This extension for 2009 NAP applies to those crops having an application closing date prior to Dec. 1, 2008. Producers you may bring into the County Office your production for the 2008 crop year.

Production records are important to maintain your county (APH) yield for you operation. The final date for the turning in production evidence for 2008 is July 1st 2009.

COC Election Nominations

Voting takes place in the fall. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by November 3, 2008. December 1, 2008 is the last day to return voted ballots to the county office. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office January 1, 2009.

Farm Loan Program Producers need to Prepare for Analysis

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will begin conducting analysis for the 2009 farm year beginning December 2008. The plans for 2009 need to be completed to project the best plan possible so that all alternatives have been reviewed before you come into the office. If the best plan can be presented it will save you time and allow FSA to process your services in a timely manner. Farm Loan Officer, Dixie Mount will be completing most of the analysis this year. It is very important for the analysis to be completed timely. Please have all the information available according to your analysis letter. If you have any questions please call 322-4050.

Sign Up for 2009 Conservation Programs Now

Agricultural producers are encouraged to submit applications for fiscal year 2009 conservation programs at their local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office. The NRCS office in Wheatland will be accepting program applications until January 16, 2009. Eligible applications may be considered for funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), and the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). Applications received after January 16 will be deferred for consideration at a future date as funding becomes available.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals. EQIP provides financial incentives to install or implement structural and management conservation practices on eligible agricultural land. Examples of how EQIP may be used to improve the health of the land include:

- Grazing lands practices such as cross-fencing and water development. This includes wells, springs, remote solar pumps, water tanks, etc.
- Converting cropland to permanent grazing land
- Windbreak establishment
- Invasive specie removal (Russian olive and salt cedar)
- Livestock waste management systems
- Irrigation system improvement such as sprinklers, pipelines and gated pipe

We have 2 new incentive opportunities this year in Platte County:

- **Energy Conservation:** these are no-till, strip-till and minimum-till incentives to encourage tillage reduction and soil conservation. Producers interested in adopting reduced tillage systems will be offered per acre incentive payments through the EQIP program.
- **Erosion Control:** this is funding for flood damage repair and erosion control practices such as stream bank stabilization, irrigation structure repair, gully erosion stabilization, etc.

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) offers incentive payments for the creation of high quality wildlife habitats through projects that support state and local priorities.

The Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) offers landowners assistance to restore and protect wetlands and associated uplands through permanent easements, 30-year easements, and cost-share only restoration agreements. The program is designed to achieve maximum wetland functions and values while obtaining optimum wildlife habitat.

Applications are available at the USDA Service Center at 1502 Progress Court in Wheatland. For more information call (307) 322-9060 or go to www.wy.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/index.html.

Reasonable Accommodations:

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or learning to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PLATTE COUNTY FSA OFFICE
1502 PROGRESS COURT
WHEATLAND, WY 82201**

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

November 26th	Last day to enroll 10.0 or less Base farms
November 27th	Office Closed for Thanksgiving
December 1 st , 2008	Last day to return voted ballots to the local FSA Office
December 1 st , 2008	Last day to enroll in the Non Insured Program (NAP)
Continues	Continuous CRP sign up
Continues	Farm Stored Facility Loan Program
Dec 4 th 2008	COC to county ballots for COC Election
Dec 25 th 2008	Office Closed for Christmas

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