



# FSA Newsletter

Routt-Jackson-Grand-Summit Counties

September 2008

USDA Farm Service Agency  
1475 Pine Grove Rd Ste. 201A  
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487  
Phone: (970) 879-3225 Ext. 2  
Fax: (970) 879-2517

### Hours

Monday – Friday  
7:00 AM – 4:30 PM  
Closed on all Federal Holidays

### County Office Staff

Leon Padia, CED  
Jennifer Blair, PT

### County Committee

John Colburn, Chair  
Ed Camilletti, Vice-Chair  
Patricia Schalnus, Advisor  
Tom Hackleman, Member  
Gilbert Anderson, Member



“I know of no pursuit in which more real and important services can be rendered to any country than by improving its agriculture...”

– George Washington

## USDA Announces Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Programs

The recently-enacted Farm Bill provides legislature for 2008 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 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 must be covered, not only those acres that suffered losses. The new disaster assistance programs are:

- **Supplemental Revenue Program (SURE):** 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):** 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 (EALHF):** 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.
- **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP):** Available to eligible livestock producers on farms that have incurred livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality because of adverse weather, as determined by the Secretary during the calendar year, including losses because of floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold. \* This is the only disaster program that does not require crop insurance or NAP coverage on all crops.

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.

## Attention NAP Participants

- ❖ **Fee Increase:** The new fees, as prescribed in the newly passed farm bill, are \$250 per crop per county, up to \$750 for single county producers and \$1,875 for multi county producers. REMEMBER – Participation in NAP is required to be eligible for the other disaster programs authorized in the new farm bill.
- ❖ **Notice of Loss:** If you determine that you have experienced a 50% or greater loss, you must file a Notice of Loss within 15 days of the loss becoming apparent.

## Crop Disaster Program (CDP) Signup Continues

Eligible farmers and ranchers in Routt, Jackson, Grand and Summit Counties who suffered crop loss damage before December 31, 2007, can still apply to receive disaster assistance. Eligible losses are those that occurred as a result of drought, high winds, or excessive heat. If you suffered an eligible loss, please come by the office to complete and sign the required forms.

## 2009 County Committee Election North Routt-LAA 2



Nominations for the county committee election were due in the county office by August 1, 2008. We received only one nomination for Kathy Duncan. The next step in the election process is the mailing of ballots, which will begin November 3, 2008. Voters have until December 1, 2008 to return their properly completed ballots to the county office. Elected committee members take office on January 1, 2009.

### Who Can Vote?

- ◇ Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program.
- ◇ A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm.

### Discrimination Prohibited:

No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

Be sure to cast your ballot for the County Committee Election. The County Committee system is an important part of the FSA system and your help in electing the best qualified candidate is appreciated.

Remember to sign your ballot!



### 2009 COC Election Schedule

- ◇ Nov 3 2008 – Ballots mailed to voters
- ◇ Dec 1 2008 – Last day to return ballots to the county office
- ◇ Jan 1 2009 – Newly elected committee members take office

Nomination forms and fact sheets are also available at:

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

## DCP Sign-up Continues

The deadline to sign-up for the 2008 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP) is near! Producers have until September 30, 2008 to return their signed DCP contracts to the County Office.



FSA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices.

Direct payments will be issued after October 1, 2008.

Counter-cyclical payments vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate).

## Dates to Remember

**Monday, September 29, 2008 –**

**Wednesday, October 1, 2008**

FSA Staff out of Office for Training

**Tuesday, September 30, 2008**

Deadline for 2008 DCP Contracts

**Monday, October 3, 2008**

Columbus Day: Office Closed

**Monday, November 3, 2008**

Ballots mailed to LAA 2

**Tuesday, November 11, 2008**

Veterans Day: Office Closed

**Thursday, November 27, 2008**

Thanksgiving Day: Office Closed

**Monday, December 1, 2008**

2009 NAP closing date – all crops

Deadline to return COC ballots

**Thursday, December 25, 2008**

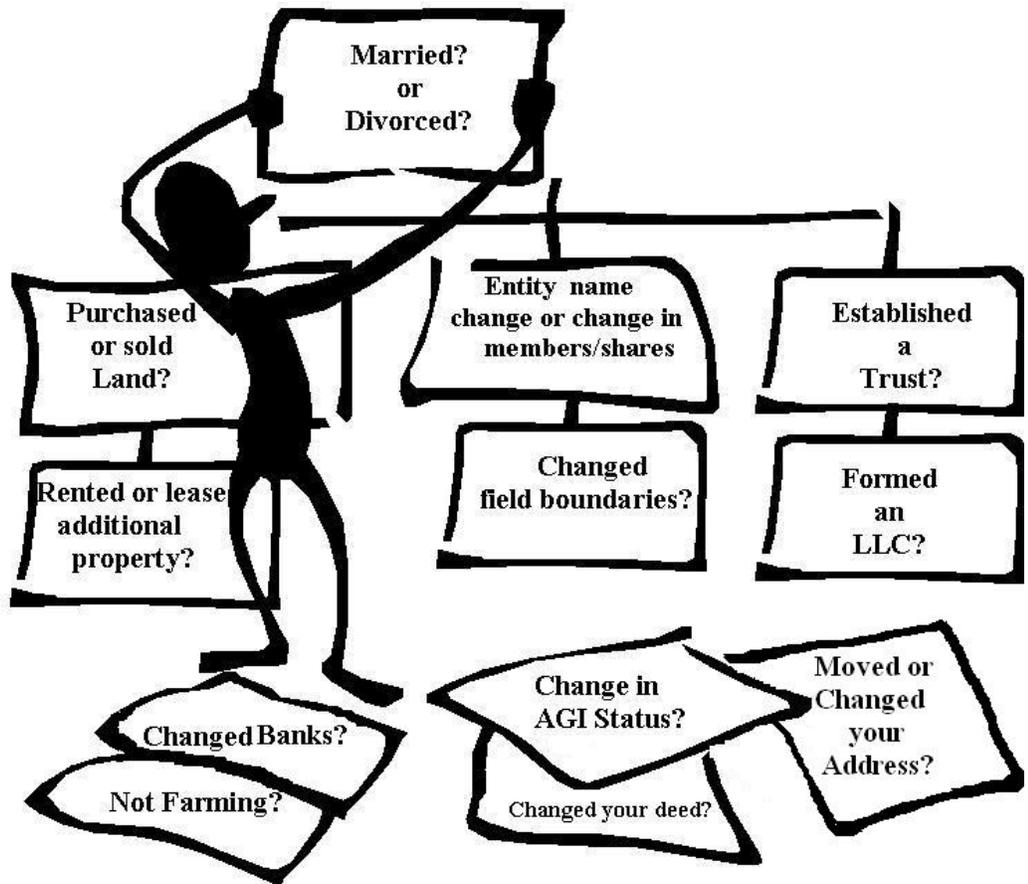
Christmas Day: Office Closed

**Thursday, January 1, 2009**

New Year Day: Office Closed



## Have you kept your farm records up to date?



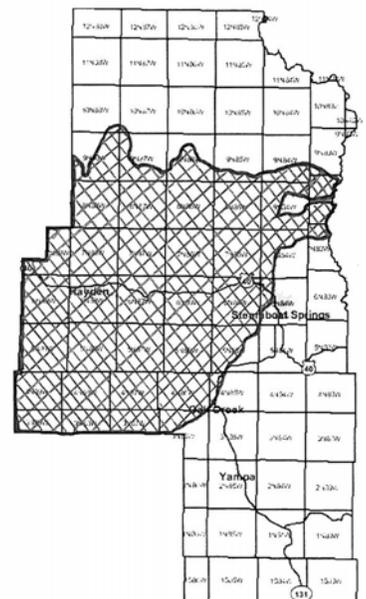
## USDA Announces New CRP Program

### Colorado Western Slope Grouse Conservation SAFE Program

The goal of the Colorado Western Slope Grouse Conservation SAFE Program is to restore and enhance habitat for the Colorado state species of concern: Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, greater sage-grouse and Gunnison sage-grouse. This project targets the conversion of cropland to suitable grass, forb and shrub species and the enhancement and the maintenance of expired CRP land to support at-risk grouse species.

The program sign-up will take place in the Routt County FSA Office and it will run on a continuous basis until the program acreage goal is met. To be eligible for this practice the land must be located in the SAFE designated area in Routt County (see map). In addition, the land must meet the basic CRP eligibility requirements. Eligible cropland includes cropland that is both of the following: planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity during 4 of the 6 crop years from 1996 through 2001 and be physically capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity, as determined by COC.

If you are interested in the program and have land in the SAFE designated area please contact the Routt County FSA Office for more information. Or you can find a program fact sheet at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/co>.



U.S. Department of Agriculture  
 Farm Service Agency  
 Routt-Jackson-Grand-Summit Counties  
 1475 Pine Grove Rd, Suite 201A  
 Steamboat Springs, CO 80487-8803

## Fall is in the air!



## FSA kids

### WORD SCRAMBLE

Match up the scrambled farm words in the left column with the correctly spelled versions in the right column.

nmradfal	seeds
etahwre	animals
aatlnru cursoeesr	crops
smainla	barnyard
dofo snrpogseci	weather
eedss	planting
niinevaterra	farmland
rnadaybr	grain elevator
tgeeevlbas	fruit
nrgia lverotea	natural resources
rpcos	tractor
vtahrse	vegetables
ttreaor	veterinarian
ntlgapni	food processing
utfir	harvest



**FUN FARM COLORING PAGE**