

Colorado FSA News

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER



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THE COLORADO FSA
STATE OFFICE IS
MOVING AUGUST 1
SEE BACK PAGE FOR
OUR NEW ADDRESS.

For a list of FSA
County Offices and to
learn more about our
programs, please visit
our website at:

www.fsa.usda.gov/co



Farm Program Deadlines

July 15, 2010 – Deadline for production reporting for ACRE farms as well for most NAP Crops. Please contact your local FSA office to learn more about NAP Production Deadlines.

July 15, 2010 –Deadline for acreage report

Note: If the crop being reported has NAP coverage, the final date to timely report the acreage is 15 days PRIOR to the onset of harvest or grazing. It is important for producers to remember that crops with NAP coverage will usually have a NAP crop reporting date EARLIER than the regularly established reporting dates for crops without NAP coverage

August 2, 2010 – Deadline to request farm reconstitution if farm was enrolled in DCP by June 1, 2010

Deadlines for NAP insurance sales closing dates for 2011 crop year are:

September 1, 2010 – asparagus, caneberries, canola, garlic, rye, speltz, triticale, value loss crops, aquaculture, turf grass, flowers, Christmas trees

September 30, 2010 – barley, birds foot forage, wheat

November 20, 2010 – apples, apricots, cherries, grapes, peaches, pears, plums, prunes

December 1, 2010 – alfalfa seed, clover, grass, honey, mixed forage, mustard, vetch

February 1, 2011- Onions, scallions

Deadlines for NAP insurance sales closing dates continue:

March 15, 2011- millet, amaranth, artichokes, beans, beets, broccoli, brussel sprouts, buckwheat, cabbage, melons, cantaloupe, carrots, cauliflower, celery, corn, melons, cucumbers, eggplant, flaxseed, gourds, sorghum, greens, herbs, honeydew, kochia, kohlrabi, leeks, lentils, lettuce, oats, okra, peas, peppers, potatoes, pumpkins, quinoa, radishes, rapeseed, rutabaga, safflower, soybeans, squash, strawberries, sugar beets, sunflowers, tomatillos, tomatoes, turnips, watermelons

May 1, 2011 - Parsnips

2010 FSA County Committee Election Dates:

June 15 – August 2, 2010 – Submit Nomination forms (FSA-669A) to the local USDA Service Center

November 5, 2010– Ballots mailed to eligible voters

December 6, 2010 – Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center

January 1, 2011 – Newly elected county committee members take office

New Programs

USDA Offers Transition Incentives to Help Retiring and Beginning Farmers

USDA Offers Durum Wheat Quality Program

(Read about these new programs on pages 2&3)

2010 Crop Acreage Reporting Dates

Most of the programs the Farm Service Agency administers require filing acreage reports by specific deadlines. These reports are used to calculate many program payments and are required to be accurate and filed timely. You should have a copy of your current lease on file before or at the time you file your acreage report. Late filed acreage reports may be requested for a fee. Please call your county office for more information.

Prevented Planting

Prevented Planting is the inability to plant crop acreage with proper equipment during the established planting period for the crop due to a natural disaster condition. The Farm Service Agency encourages producers to report to their local FSA office any prevented planting acreage or failed crop acreage when the losses occur and before destroying the crop.

Producers must be able to prove to the satisfaction of the FSA County Committee that they intended to plant the crop acreage and that the crop could not be planted because of a natural disaster. Prevented Planting acreage should be reported as soon as possible but not later than 15 calendar days after the established final plant date for the crop. Final plant dates may differ from county to county so please check with your local FSA office for specific dates for your county

Crops not covered with crop insurance or a NAP policy should still be reported to the local FSA office. This will provide FSA with a historical record of your crop. Also, producers are encouraged to keep good production records on acreage with a low crop yield to document crop losses.

Failed Acreage Report

In order to qualify as “failed acreage” the crop must have been planted under normal conditions but failed as a result of a natural disaster, not as a result of a management decision. Failed acreage must be reported to FSA before destroying and replanting to allow time for a field check.

Additional information regarding failed crop acreage or crop losses covered by NAP can be obtained by contacting your local FSA office. FSA program information is also available at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Exception –*for insured crops, acreage must have been reported as failed acreage before the final crop*

reporting date of July 15 and producers must provide the county office crop insurance data to support the data reported on FSA-578 (record of certification).

Revising Crop or Acres

Producers may revise a FSA-578 (record of certification) at any time as long as the revised acreage can be verified by physical evidence to the county committee’s (COC) satisfaction.

Revising Intended Use of Crop

An acreage that has been certified with an intended use **can not** revise the intended use. This is the anticipated use at the time of planting and should not need to be revised.

Measurement Service

Producers who would like a guarantee on the crop plantings and land use acreage can make it official by using the FSA measurement service. Producers must file a request with the county office staff and pay the cost of a field visit for GPS referencing of the farm. Measurement service is available using digital imagery. If data already exists in a certified database and an on-site visit is not required, there is no charge. Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty, or loss of eligibility. Producers can request ortho-imagery and CLU (common land unit) coordinates for their land (commonly referred to as a clip) at no charge. This service provides you with both acreages and field boundaries.

USDA Offers Durum Wheat Quality Program (DWQP)

Durum wheat producers may be considered eligible for USDA benefits on the Durum Wheat Quality Program (DWQP). The program will partially compensate producers for the cost of fungicides applied to 2010 durum wheat to control Fusarium head blight (FHB), commonly known as wheat scab. To be considered eligible for DWQP, the fungicide must have been registered with EPA and be compliant with the State pesticide regulations in the State in which benefits are being requested. Information on eligible pesticides in a State is available on State environmental web sites.

Producers interested for more information or applying for DWQP should visit their local USDA Service Center or FSA county office website at www.fsa.usda.gov/.

USDA Offers Transition Incentives to Help Retiring and Beginning Farmers (TIP)

Sign up has begun for the Transition Incentives Program (TIP), which is a new program under the Conservation Title of the 2008 Farm Bill. This program is to encourage retired or retiring owners or operators to transition their land to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

The Transition Incentives Program is one more tool in the USDA tool kit to protect family farms and support beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers.

If all program requirements are met, TIP provides annual rental payments to the retiring farmer for up to two additional years after the date of the expiration of the CRP contract, provided the transition is not a family member. To be eligible, TIP requires that the retired or retiring farmer or rancher:

- Have land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) that is in the last year of the contract.
- Agree to allow the beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher make conservation and land improvements.
- Agree to sell, or have a contract to sell, or agree to long-term lease (a minimum of five years) the land under CRP contract to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher by October 1 of the year the CRP contract expires.

Producers interested in participating in TIP should visit their local FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov/.

Early Land Preparation for Expiring Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land

Producers who are interested in preparing a seedbed for this fall on CRP contracts scheduled to expire September 30, 2010 must file a request CRP-1G Addendum, CRP-1 Modification to Allow Early Land Preparation with their local FSA office. Please note that, if early land preparation activity is performed, the land is not eligible to be offered for the anticipated fiscal year (FY) 2010 general signup planned sometime later this year. Also, failure to plant a fall crop will result in the refund of all payments received plus liquidated damages and interest.

It is important you contact your local county office for more information on early land preparation.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

Many of the new 2008 Farm Bill Programs require that NAP or federal crop insurance be purchased in order to be eligible for assistance. These programs include the Supplemental Revenue Program (SURE); the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP); the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP); the Tree Assistance Program (TAP); and Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP).

Producers who already have coverage on 2010 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2011, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or change crop shares or entity type must file a new application (Form CCC-471) with signatures and pay the applicable service fee by the application deadline. Some crops are insurable through private crop insurance, such as barley and wheat grain, grapes, etc. To determine which crops are insurable or non-insurable, contact the county office or a crop insurance agent. NAP fees are nonrefundable and are \$250 per crop up to \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1875 for all counties. NAP fees are waived for Limited Resource farmers. A limited resource farm is a producer with both of the following: (1) direct or indirect gross farm sales not more than \$100,000 in both of the previous two years, and (2) a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four, or less than 50 percent of county median household income in both of the previous two years. Limited Resource Farmers are required to recertify their limited resource status and, therefore, must file a new NAP application for coverage (CCC-471) each year.

NAP Production Reporting

Production records for individual crops must be filed with your local county office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable.

All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and

CCC-576 (notice of loss) must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

Notice of Losses Due to Adverse Weather

If you have had a weather caused loss, you must contact your local county office and file a written “Notice of loss” of the crop and the cause and acreage involved if you wish to participate in this program. This notice must be filed within 15 days of the occurrence or within 15 days of when the loss became apparent. A notice of loss must be filed with either your local FSA or Crop Insurance in order to participate in any disaster programs.

Notice of Loss Requirements for Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

LIP provides monetary assistance to eligible livestock owners and livestock contract growers who lost livestock, in excess of normal mortality, due to an eligible adverse weather event. In order to participate in the LIP program, eligible livestock producers are required to report livestock deaths the earliest of the following: 30 days of when the loss became apparent or 30 calendar days after the calendar year in which the loss occurred. This includes reporting deaths due to “normal mortality”. There are no late-filed provisions for LIP.

Good record keeping is critical when participating in LIP. Producers must provide verifiable documentation of livestock deaths claimed on the FSA-914, including livestock that the participant claims died because of normal mortality. Verifiable evidence of death may include rendering truck receipts/ certificates and veterinary records.

If adequate verifiable proof of death is not available, the participant must prove verifiable beginning and ending inventories as well as providing a reliable record of livestock deaths. Verifiable evidence of beginning and ending inventories may include veterinary records, canceled checks, loan records, bank statements, chattel inspections, sales and purchase receipts, records assembled for tax purposes, private insurance documents, written contracts, production records, farm credit balance sheets, brand inspection records and shearing and lambing records. Reliable records of livestock deaths may include contemporaneous producer records existing at the time of the event; photos of the death losses, with a date; brand inspection records; dairy herd improvement records; and other similar reliable documentation. Third party verification can be used on occasion, in conjunction with other documentation. But the third party must be an

independent source who is not affiliated with the farming operation and is not a family member. Again, please call your local FSA office for more guidance on the LIP program.

Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

TAP program, included in the 2008 Farm Bill, provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines that were lost in a natural disaster occurring on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011.

To qualify for TAP, orchardists and nursery tree growers must:

- o Suffer qualifying tree, bush, and vine losses in excess of 15 percent mortality (after adjustment for normal mortality) from eligible natural disaster for the individual stand,
- o Have owned the eligible trees, bushes, and vines, when the natural disaster occurred; however, eligible growers are not required to own the land on which eligible trees, bushes, and vines are planted.
- o Replace eligible trees, bushes, vines within 12 months from the date the application is approved.

Orchardists and nursery tree growers may apply to receive TAP benefits for losses suffered during calendar years 2008, 2009, and for losses suffered during January 1, 2010 to May 10, 2010.

The following table provides the final dates to submit a TAP application and supporting documentation.

Date of Loss	Final Date to Submit an Application and Supporting Documentation
Calendar year 2008	July 6, 2010
Calendar Year 2009	July 6, 2010
January 1, 2010, to May 7, 2010	July 6, 2010
May 8, 2010, to September 30, 2011	Within 90 calendar days of the disaster event or date when the loss of trees, bushes, or vines, is apparent.

Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program Restrictions on Fruits, Vegetables and Wild Rice

DCP provides payments to eligible producers for the 2008 through 2012 crop years using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by the 2008 Farm Bill regardless of market prices. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices.

Producers who participate in DCP are subject to certain restrictions on the planting of fruits, vegetables and wild rice (FAV/Wild Rice). FAV/Wild Rice planting provisions apply to the following commodities: fruits (including nuts), vegetables, other than mung beans and pulse crops and wild rice.

In general, harvesting FAV/Wild Rice on DCP base acres is a violation of the DCP contract. Also, planting perennial FAV/Wild Rice on DCP base acres is a violation of the DCP contract even if the FAV/Wild Rice is destroyed without benefit before harvest. FAV/Wild Rice may be planted on DCP base acres and a DCP contract violation will not occur if any of the following two exceptions for Colorado to the planting restrictions rules apply:

- Farm History Exception: FAV/Wild Rice may be planted on a farm with an established history of planting FAV/Wild Rice. The following provisions that apply to this exception are farm-specific:
 - Although no contract violation will result, the DCP payment acres will be reduced by an acre for each acre of base acreage planted to FAV/Wild Rice
 - FAV/Wild Rice farm history is based on the farm's plantings for crop years 1991-1995 or 1998-2001
- Producer History Exception: A producer with an interest in planting a specific FAV/Wild Rice has an established history of planting that specific FAV/wild Rice. The following provisions apply to this exception:
 - Although no contract violation will result, the DCP payment acres will be reduced by an acre for each acre of base acreage planted to FAV/Wild Rice.

- The planting must not exceed the producer's average annual planting history for the specific FAV/Wild Rice for either (but not both) the 1991-1995 or 1998-2001 crop years, as chosen by the producer and determined by FSA.

In general, if FAV/Wild Rice are planted on DCP base acres and one of the above two exceptions does not apply, the DCP contract has been violated and may be terminated by FSA.

If FSA determines the violation does not warrant contract termination, the farm's payment acres will be reduced by an acre for each acre of FAV/Wild Rice planted on base acres. FSA will also assess an additional payment reduction based on the market value of the FAV/Wild Rice. FSA state committees establish the percent market value of the FAV/Wild Rice planted. The reduction cannot exceed the total amount of DCP payments for the farm for that crop year.

Payment Calculation for Direct Counter-cyclical payments (DCP)

The Director Counter-cyclical (DCP) payments for each covered commodity will be computed by multiplying the following:

- 83.3 percent of the covered commodity's or peanut's base acres, times
- The covered commodity's or peanut's program payment yield, times
- The producer's share of the covered commodity or peanuts

Commodity Credit Corporation will make advance direct payments available to producers who request an advance by multiplying the payment amount determined times 22 percent for enrolled for the applicable 2009 and 2011 program year. These payments may be made as soon as practical after December 1 of the contract period through September of the contract period. A final direct payment will be made to producers as soon as practical after October 1 following the contract year.

Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill. Acre offers producers who have base acres on their farm an alternative to Direct and Counter-cyclical (DCP) payments. The ACRE

alternative provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price.

July 15, 2010 is the deadline for producers to certify actual yields or accept the county average farm benchmark yield in order to receive payment. If certification is not completed by July 15 the farm will become ineligible for 2009 ACRE payments. If this should happen, the Commodity Credit Corporation may assign a zero yield, which would be used in calculating future benchmark yields.

Contact your local county office for questions related to completing the Record of Production and Yield for the 2009 ACRE election.

SURE Disaster Program Signup

To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. However, crop insurance or NAP coverage is not required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required by NAP coverage exceeds 10 percent of the value of the coverage.

Please contact your local FSA office for more information, including SURE sign-up deadline.

2010 County Loan Rates for wheat, Feed Grains and Oilseeds

The 2008 Farm Bill authorizes the national loan rates for the 2010 crops of wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, soybeans and other oilseeds (sunflower seed, flaxseed, canola, rapeseed, safflower, mustard seed, crambe and sesame seed). The 2010 rates are as listed:

Wheat	\$2.94 per bushel
Corn	\$1.95 per bushel
Grain Sorghum	\$1.95 per bushel
Barley	\$1.95 per bushel
Oats	\$1.39 per bushel
Soybeans	\$5.00 per bushel
Other Oilseeds	\$10.09 per hundredweight for each "other oilseed"

The rates are posted on the Farm Service Agency website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport>.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program Changes

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Early partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Hay (Alfalfa &/or Grass)
- Renewable biomass

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to Conduct Acreage and Livestock Surveys

The United States Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct a series of acreage and livestock surveys in early June and July to measure planted acreage and livestock inventories in Colorado and the Nation.

If you are selected, you will receive a letter and a questionnaire followed by a phone call or visit from one of NASS interviewers during the period of May 28 – July 14. As with all data collected by NASS, individual reports are strictly confidential. Data collected from individual operations is combined with other responses to arrive at Colorado and U.S. estimates. NASS will publish the 2010 Acreage Report with state and national estimates on June 30, 2010. National cattle and sheep inventories will be published July 23, 2010. For a copy of these reports or to obtain other agricultural statistics, please visit www.nass.usda.gov or call (800) 392-3202.

2010 FSA County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committee is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long established, with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County committee (COC) members are a critical component of the operations of the FSA. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and to represent all constituents. This means wherever possible, minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for these under-represented groups. Counties are divided into local administrative areas (LAA). Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the FSA county committee.

Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. In counties with three LAAs, one seat is up for election and in combined counties, in some years, two seats may be up for election.

To hold office, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate.

Nomination Period June 15 – August 2

Candidate nominations for the FSA county committee election will be accepted June 15 through August 2, 2010. Producers who are residents in the LAA holding the election and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates.

The nomination form is also available at the county office or may be downloaded from <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> under News & Events/County committee Elections.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected. The completed nomination form must be post-marked or received in the county office by close of business on August 2, 2010.

Who Can Vote

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning November 5, 2010, and must be postmarked or returned to the county office by the close of business day on December 6, 2010. If you do not receive a ballot, eligible voters may contact their local FSA county office before the final date to return ballots.

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 on an entire farm can also vote.

No one can 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.

Role of Advisors

In addition to elected members, FSA county committees may also include advisors. Advisors are appointed to county committees in counties or multicounty jurisdictions that have significant numbers of minority or women producers and lack such members of FSA county committees.

For more information, please contact your local FSA office or our web site at www.fsa.usda.gov.



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PRESORTED STANDARD
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LAKEWOOD, COLORADO
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**THE FSA COLORADO STATE OFFICE WILL BE MOVING AUGUST 1, 2010.
THE NEW MAILING ADDRESS WILL BE:
USDA-Farm Service Agency
Denver Federal Center
Building 56
P.O. Box 25246
Denver, CO 80225**

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