



The Big Horn Bulletin

Important: All Producers Receiving 2009 or 2010 Payments from FSA or NRCS

FSA and IRS have finalized a data-sharing process for average AGI compliance and verification. Every individual, legal entity, and member of a legal entity receiving payments from FSA or NRCS in 2009 or 2010 is required to complete a CCC-927 for individuals or CCC-928 for legal entities and submit it to the IRS. The IRS will compare actual tax data on record to the average AGI limitation amounts for the applicable 3 year period and return the results to the FSA in a reports showing the participant either appears to meet or not meet the AGI criteria.

You may pick up copies of the CCC-927 and 928 forms at any FSA office or go to www.fsa.usda.gov and click on the forms tab at the top. You don't have to log in, just choose browse forms and enter 927 or 928 as the form number and choose the CCC form. It is up to each producer to complete the form and mail it to the IRS. At this point there is no electronic version to submit, they all must be mailed.

Participants who choose **not** to submit a completed CCC-927 or 928 as applicable, will be determined noncompliant.

Why Buy NAP Coverage?

FSA provides coverage for non insurable forage crops including your grazing, and small grain hay under **NAP**. FSA's NAP coverage is for crops not covered by RMA. By purchasing NAP coverage on your non-insurable crops and crop insurance on your insurable crops you will meet the linkage requirement needed to participate in the new farm bill disaster programs. On the livestock side there are the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) on the crop side. All of these disaster programs require the linkage to qualify.

Is it worth the money you pay for the coverage? By purchasing NAP coverage and meeting your linkage requirements, you would not only be eligible for a loss payment if the county has at least a 50% loss, you would also be eligible for:

- LFP assistance if the drought monitor reaches a D2 for 8 consecutive weeks, or a D3 or D4 anytime.
- ELAP for emergency not covered under the other Disaster Assistance Programs
- SURE for crop losses.

The NAP application fee is \$250 per crop per county with a maximum of \$750. If you have multiple counties, the fee cannot exceed \$1,875. The deadline to purchase NAP coverage for non insurable crops including grazing has changed to **April 1, 2010**.

An important reminder is for the crop disaster program known as SURE, all of your crops excluding grazing must be covered by either Crop Insurance or NAP to be eligible. The livestock programs known as LFP and ELAP require grazing coverage. If you will have non insurable crops please stop by our office prior to the April 1, 2010 deadline and purchase your NAP coverage and meet your linkage requirements.

2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

Signup for the **2008** SURE Program has been announced. This office began accepting application on **January 4, 2010**. If you had a loss in 2008 and had all of your crops covered by crop insurance or NAP please contact this office for further signup information. Additional information will need to be provided during the application process and making an appointment to complete your signup will expedite the process. We will be accepting application for the signup under an "interim" process until the "full" process is implemented. Please contact this office to set up an appointment to complete your 2008 SURE application.

LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides financial assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from natural disaster. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality. This is an ongoing program through 2011.

The losses must be a direct result of an adverse weather condition. Eligible adverse weather events include but are not limited to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat or cold, tornados, lightning, and earthquakes. Note that drought is not a qualifying event.

Payment rates are per head by livestock kind/type and weight range. Owners will be paid 75% of fair market value of the livestock as determined by FSA. All calculations will be performed separately by eligible livestock (kind, type, and weight range)

Livestock losses need to be reported within 30 days of the loss becoming apparent. The final date to submit an application for 2009 losses is **January 30, 2010**. For more information or to file an application please contact the Big Horn County Farm Service Agency.

**Big Horn County
Farm Service Center
408 Greybull Ave.
Greybull, WY 82426
Phone: (307)765-2689
FAX: (307)765-9243**

**Office Hours:
8:00 – 12:00 & 12:30 –
4:30**

www.fsa.usda.gov
www.nrcs.wy.usda.gov

January 2010

Farm Service Agency County Committee

Shawn Bullinger- Chairman
Jan Barnett- Vice Chairman
Wilford Tippetts- Regular
Member

Farm Service Agency Office Staff

Bryan Schoenfelder – CED
Brenda Miller – PT
Connie Anson-PT

Farm Loan Staff

Bill Morrison-FLM
Worland (307)347-2456
Kathy Palazollo-FLO
Powell (307)754-9411

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Monte Bush - Greybull – DC
Dave Preator-Greybull- SCT
Ben Bonella- Greybull- RMS
John Richards – Lovell-DC

South Big Horn Conservation District

Linda Hamilton – Chairman
Walter Hibbert – Vice Chair
George Kelso -Treasurer
Nancy Joyce – Secretary
Ted Zier – Member

Janet Hallsted – District
Manager

Shoshone Conservation District

Russell Boardman –
Chairman
Spencer Ellis – Vice Chair
Reed Williams– Sec/Treas
Allen Clark – Member
George Estes – Member

Kristin Tilley – District
Manager

LOAN DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS (LDP)

Loan deficiency payments are available if the posted county price goes below the loan rate. Barley sold between August 26 and September 25 is eligible for a payment. Payments are made based on the date you lose beneficial interest in a commodity. If your barley was sold during that time frame you will need to have a CCC 633 EZ page 1 on file and sign a page 2 and submit your settlement sheet or weight tickets to request payment. The deadline for requesting LDP's for barley is **March 31, 2010**. As of today there are no other crops eligible for LDP's. Wool and unshorn pelt LDP's can be paid as soon as the necessary paperwork is filed with a **January 31, 2010** deadline for wool produced in 2009.

ANNUAL FSA NOTIFICATIONS

FSA is required to annually notify producers of many program requirements, policies, and reminders. The following are some of those notifications:

COG Meetings: The Big Horn County FSA Committee will hold their monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of the month on the months that meetings are necessary. These meetings will be held at the Greybull USDA office conference room at 1:30 p.m.

Foreign Buyers Notification: The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of United States agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. FSA administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties up to 25% of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Foreign Person Rule: A foreign individual is someone who is not a citizen of the United States or a lawful alien possessing a valid Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551 or I-151). A foreign entity is a corporation, trust, estate, limited partnership, limited liability company, or other similar organization that has more than 10 percent of its beneficial interest held by individuals who are not citizens of the United States or lawful aliens possessing a valid Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551 or I-151). In addition to the requirements for "person" and "actively engaged in farming," the following significant contributions must be provided by an individual or entity considered to be a "foreign person." An individual determined to be a "foreign person" must provide a significant contribution of land, capital, and active personal labor. Each foreign individual who is a member of an entity determined to be a "foreign person" must provide active personal labor to enable the entity to provide a significant contribution of active personal labor.

Special Accommodations: Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

Under-Represented Groups: FSA solicits and accepts nominations of under-represented groups such as females and minority (American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander) producers for county committee representation.

Power of Attorney: For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., we have a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information. If you want a crop loan, a power of attorney form will need to be completed for husband and wife, if both do not come into the office to sign the forms on the day the loan is disbursed.

Change in Farming Operation or Address: Producers are reminded to notify this office to report change in address or ownership. This is vital to assist this office in keeping records.

Change in Direct Deposit Account: The Debt Collection Act of 1996 mandates that payments from FSA be directly deposited into a producer's checking or savings bank account. It is important that any change in the producer's account such as type of account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

Controlled Substance: Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance may be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting, possessing or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium poppies and other drug producing plants.

Spousal Signature: A husband and wife may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) programs in which either has an individual interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office from either spouse. Exceptions include claim settlements, power of attorney forms and signatory authority for an entity.

FSA Appeal Process: After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree. Generally, program participants have three choices – an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and appeal to the USDA National Appeal Division.

Cash-rent Tenant: A cash-rent tenant rule applies to any producer that rents land from another producer for cash or a crop share guaranteed as the amount of the commodity to be paid in rent. The rule also applies to any producer who rents land for zero dollars or who farms the land in exchange for compensation other than cash, such as controlling weeds on land not owned, or barter arrangements. Any cash-rent tenant shall be ineligible to receive payment unless the cash-rent tenant makes a significant contribution of active personal labor to the farming operation; or a significant contribution of active personal management **and** a significant contribution of equipment. A cash-rent tenant must also meet all applicable requirements to be considered "actively engaged in farming."

Faxed Signatures: Certain faxed signatures shall be accepted for all applicable program forms or other documents approved for faxed signatures, if all other requirements are met.



South Big Horn Conservation District News

DROUGHT STRESS ON TREES

What a tree under “drought stress” looks like: Symptoms of drought injury to trees can be sudden or may take up to two years to be revealed. Drought injury symptoms on tree leaves include wilting, curling at the edges, and yellowing. Deciduous leaves may develop scorch, brown outside edges or browning between veins. Evergreen needles may turn yellow, red or purple. They may also turn brown at the tips of the needles and browning may progress through the needle towards the twig. In continued drought, leaves may be smaller than normal, drop prematurely or remain attached to the tree even though brown. Often times, drought stress may not kill a tree outright, but set it up for more serious secondary insect and disease infestations in following years.

Where to water your tree: Deep watering to a depth of 12” inches below the soil surface is recommended. Saturate the soil around the tree within the “dripline” (the outer edges of the tree’s branches) to disperse water down toward the roots. For evergreens, water 3’-5’ beyond the dripline on all sides of the tree. The objective is to water slowly, dispersing the flow of water to get the water deep down to the trees roots. Watering for short periods of time only encourages shallow rooting which can lead to more drought damage. Don’t dig holes in the ground in an effort to water deeply this dries out roots. A soil needle/deep root feeder attached to a hose is acceptable to insert into the ground if your soil is not too hard and compact. Overhead spraying of tree leaves is inefficient and should be avoided during drought conditions. Watering at ground level to avoid throwing water in the air is more efficient.

The South Big Horn Conservation District can accept tree orders until April 7th. Contact the District Manager, Janet Hallsted at 765-2483 ext. 103 for order forms & free windbreak design assistance.

WACD STATE CONVENTION

This year Board Member Linda Hamilton and Nancy Joyce of the South Big Horn Conservation District attended the WACD State Convention that was held in Cheyenne November 17-19. Those that attended the convention assisted the state association with their planning process by prioritizing what the district felt were important regarding District Operations & Education, Conservation Forestry, Private, State, and Federal Lands, Wildlife, and Water Resources. With goals and objectives set by the district the WACD has a direction in which to head in the next year. Board members also attended the business meeting where they approved the next fiscal year’s budget, discussed the priorities set by the districts and heard reports from the Bridger Plant Material Center, and the WACD Employees Association President. Even with all the business there was to take care of there was still time for entertainment. Keynote speaker Rulan Gardner, 2-time Olympic Greco-Roman Wrestling medalist and 3-time National Champion spoke on never giving up and never stop trying. During this speech he described his Greco-Roman wrestling career, his academic struggles (as someone who suffers from a learning disability) and an account of his near-death experiences. The one thing everyone walked from convention with was this message “You do not have to be THE best, but you need to strive every day to be YOUR best.”

PROTECTING YOUR EVERGREENS

Now that the winter season is upon us your young evergreen trees will be susceptible to desiccation. Desiccation results from the loss of moisture through transpiration and the inability of the tree to replenish that moisture from the soil.

Evergreens continue the transpiration process throughout the winter, although at a slower rate than summer months. If soil moisture is low and we have a dry, windy winter (normal around here) then the trees will not be able to take up enough moisture to replace what they are transpiring. When this happens the needles will dry up and turn red.

Severe desiccation can result in loss of small branches. Most of this damage will not show until next spring. Damage from desiccation is usually easy to spot. You will see dead needles, and maybe branches, on the upwind side of the tree. In severe cases it can be throughout the entire tree and sometimes result in the death of the tree.

To protect against this problem there are several things you can do. First you can provide protection from the wind with some sort of shelter or barrier. There are many ways of doing this depending on the size of the tree. There are various commercial tree shelters available or you can make your own shelters. A commonly used item is a wood pallet. Putting two pallets together upwind of the tree will give it good protection from the wind.

The second important thing to do is provide moisture to evergreens throughout the winter. In October or early November you should thoroughly water around your evergreens to get good moisture in the soil before it freezes. Then, once or twice a month through the winter you should provide more water to keep that soil moisture high. Once spring arrives and the soil thaws, ensure the trees are well watered.

The third thing you can do for evergreens is apply an anti-transpirant to them in November and early March. An anti-transpirant is a waxy coating that helps keep needles from drying out. The product that we use and have available is called Transfilm. We recommend that you use it on young evergreens, newly planted evergreens, or ones that have exhibited damage from desiccation in the past.

Proper care of your trees through the winter will go a long way toward having healthy trees next summer. Now is the time to protect your conifer seedlings by applying an anti-transpirant to prevent winter desiccation.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
Big Horn County FSC
408 Greybull Ave.
Greybull, WY 82426-2037

Return Service Requested

Important Dates:

January 31, 2010 – Wool/Mohair LDP Deadline
February 15, 2010 – Office Closed Presidents Day
March 30, 2010 – Tree Application Deadline
**March 31, 2010 – Deadline for Small Grain LDP
and Loans**
April 1, 2010 – NAP Application Deadline

Honey Loans

Marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments for 2009 crop year honey are available until **March 31, 2010**. Market prices currently exceed the loan rate; so LDPs are not available right now.

To be eligible for a loan, the producer must have produced honey in the United States during the calendar year for which the loan is requested, and extracted the honey on or before Dec. 31 of the applicable crop year; have continuous beneficial interest in the honey through date of repayment of the loan; and been responsible for the financial risk of keeping the honey. Producers are responsible for maintaining the quality of farm-stored honey during the term of the loan. Contact your county FSA office for more information

2010 Direct and Counter Cyclical/ACRE Signup

Signup for the 2010 DCP and ACRE has started. Signup will run from October 1, 2009-June 1, 2010. Advance payment of 22 percent will be available upon completion of all signup paperwork. Stop by this office and complete your signups as soon as you are sure of your 2010 farming intentions.

Election Results

The results are in, Jan Barnett was re-elected to serve the Local Administrative Area 3, which covers the Shell and Hyattville communities. 47 ballots were received with 45 eligible votes being cast for Jan and two ballots being invalid. The organizational meeting was held January 13, 2010 with Shawn Bullinger being elected to serve as chairman, Jan Barnett being elected to serve as vice chairman, and Wilford Tippetts serving as the regular member. Thank you to all that participated in this years election.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Special Accommodations will be made for the physically handicapped, vision- or hearing-impaired person upon request. If accommodations are required, please call Bryan Schoenfelder, CED at (307)765-2689.