



Why Buy NAP Coverage? Deadline April 1, 2010

**Big Horn County
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Greybull, WY 82426
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Office Hours:
8:00 – 12:00 & 12:30 –
4:30
www.fsa.usda.gov
www.nrcs.wy.usda.gov**

March 2010

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Jan Barnett- Vice Chairman
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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 Federal Crop Insurance/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 and the livestock program ELAP all of your crops excluding grazing must be covered by either Crop Insurance or NAP to be eligible. The livestock program known as LFP requires 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.

Livestock Producers

What are you doing for insurance on you pasture? This may be something you have never considered before, but with the passage of the 2008 farm bill it has become a necessity for many programs.

The **Livestock Forage Program (LFP)** is one such program. LFP provides a monthly feed payment during periods of drought. The drought monitor is the trigger. You can view the drought monitor by going online at http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/DM_state.htm?WY Depending on the severity of the drought; you may be eligible to receive up to 3 months worth of feed costs. The feed costs vary depending on type of livestock, but for example, the monthly feed cost for an Adult Cow is \$40.04 per head in 2009. This is a considerable amount of money that could be available during a period of drought; however, you must insure your pasture in order to be eligible. In order to be eligible for the LFP disaster program you must insure your rangeland.

Noninsurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is available and explained in this newsletter. The deadline for purchasing NAP insurance for your forage is **April 1**. You may also choose to purchase Pasture, Rangeland and Forage (PRF) insurance from your insurance agent.

There is also an **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)** program. ELAP benefits are available for losses that are not covered under other Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Programs, such as LFP, LIP and SURE. Eligible loss causes include, but are not limited to, disease, adverse weather and wildfires. Losses must be the result of an eligible adverse weather or loss condition.

Examples of Covered Losses (includes, but not limited to)

- Loss of forage/feedstuffs
- Grazing losses
- Additional cost for purchase of additional feed & transportation
- Physical loss of livestock
- Honeybees

Also don't forget the **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)**. Losses of livestock due to adverse weather must be reported to the FSA Office within 30 days of when the loss is apparent by filing a Notice of Loss application. A Notice of Loss filed must be finalized by completing an Application for Payment by January 30 of the next year. Applications for livestock losses require documentation of beginning and ending inventory, records showing the date of death for normal death loss and show death losses due to the weather event, along with records showing the number of livestock in inventory on the date of the weather event. Beginning and ending inventory require a third party verification of losses, such as, vet records, loan documents, shipping records, brand inspections, etc. This program doesn't have any of the insurance purchase 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.

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.

ACRE

The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net based on revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. **The June 1, 2010, signup deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.**

A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. For 2010, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2008 and 2009 crop years.

Payments are based on planted or prevented planted acres of commodity crops. In order to receive a payment for the crop, there must be both a state and farm revenue loss. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. In exchange for participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20%, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30%.

The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

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.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call Bryan Schoenfelder, CED at (307)765-2689 Ext. 2.



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.

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 FSA
408 Greybull Ave.
Greybull, WY 82426-2037

Return Service Requested

Important Dates:

March 15, 2010 – Crop Insurance Deadline
March 30, 2010 – Tree Application Deadline
March 31, 2010 – Deadline for Small Grain LDP and Loans
April 1, 2010 – NAP Application Deadline
Anytime before June 1, 2010 – DCP/ACRE Signup

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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.