



The Big Horn Bulletin

PLANTING OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES (Dry Beans) ON FARMS ENROLLED IN DCP

For farms that are enrolled in the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) and the ACRE program, don't forget the regulations concerning the number of acres of Fruits and Vegetables (FAV's), including **dry beans**, that may be grown without penalty or payment reduction. To avoid a payment reduction, liquidated damages penalty or contract termination, FAV acres may not exceed the non-contract acres for the farm. Depending on the farm or producer's FAV history, the penalty that is assessed can range from an acre for acre DCP payment reduction to severe cash penalties and possible termination of the DCP contract. A farm or producer will have a dry bean FAV history if dry beans were grown on the farm or were grown by the producer on any farm, at least once during the years of 1991 through 1995 or 1998 through 2001. An acreage report showing the dry bean acres grown must be on file in this office for the respective year(s). Following are some examples using a farm with the following information:

Cropland acres: 80
Barley DCP Contract Acres: 35
Corn DCP Contract Acres: 5
Non-contract Acres: 40

Example 1: Farm has an FAV history of dry beans

40 Acres of dry beans may be grown without payment reduction. If more than 40 acres are grown, an acre for acre payment reduction is applied.

Example 2: Neither the farm nor the grower has an FAV history of dry beans

40 acres of dry beans may be grown without payment reduction or penalty. If more than 40 acres of dry beans are grown, liquidated damages and possible contract termination will apply.

Example 3: Farm has no FAV history of dry beans, but grower has 10 acres of dry bean history

40 acres of dry beans may be grown without payment reduction or penalty. An additional 10 acres of dry beans may be grown with an acre for acre DCP payment reduction applied to those 10 acres. If more than 50 acres of dry beans are grown, liquidated damages and possible contract termination will apply.

We will be happy to review the cropping history of your farms and your personal FAV history and show you what your options are regarding the FAV provisions. **Don't forget the FAV provisions before finalizing your crop year 2010 planting plans.**

ELAP Deadline Announced

Under the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) provisions, FSA may spend up to \$50 million per year nationwide to provide emergency relief for losses due to feed or water shortages, adverse weather, such as blizzards and wildfires and now wolf depredation. With some exceptions, losses that are not adequately addressed by other disaster programs, such as Livestock Forage Program (LFP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), are covered under ELAP. To be eligible to receive payments under ELAP applicants must have had crop insurance or Non Insured Crop Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on all commodities on all farms in which the producer has an interest, except grazing. This requirement can be waived for socially disadvantaged, limited resource, or beginning farmers/ranchers. Signup for ELAP is on-going; however 2008 and 2009 losses need to be reported immediately because the deadline to file 2008 and 2009 losses is **May 5, 2010**.

ACREAGE REPORTING TIME

It's time to start thinking about planting your crops and reporting these planting to this office. The deadline for reporting your crop is **July 1, 2010**. When reporting your crops we will need to know the intended use of the crop and the date the crop was planted. It is very important to report all crops and grazing to be eligible for future programs.

We will start accepting these acreage reports as soon as you have all of your crops planted. Stop by this office and complete your acreage report prior to the **July 1, 2010** deadline to prevent late file penalties

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

April 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

2010 Direct and Counter Cyclical/ACRE Signup June 1, 2010 Signup Deadline

Signup for the 2010 DCP and ACRE has started. **June 1, 2010** is the signup deadline. 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.

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. FSA cannot 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.

NAP Production Reporting

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our 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 and verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. It is recommended producers submit production records as soon as possible after harvest. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date which is July 1.**

Reporting Crop Losses for NAP

For those of you with a NAP policy for crops or grazing – you are reminded that if you suffer a crop loss, you must complete a notice of loss form with this office no later than **15 calendar** days after the disaster occurrence or no later than **15 days** from the date that damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent. Notice of loss must be provided for each weather-related event or adverse natural occurrence that causes damage to or loss of the specific crop or commodity. Failure to report crop damage or loss in a timely manner will result in ineligibility for NAP payment. **When a loss is sustained an appraisal should be completed** by FSA personnel. This appraisal should be done before grazing occurs or before the land is put to another use.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

LIP is an ongoing program to compensate for losses of livestock due to an eligible adverse weather event including blizzards, disease, extreme heat or cold, floods and wildfires. Eligible livestock include but are not limited to cattle, sheep, swine, buffalo, and equine.

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.

Notices of loss must be filed within 30 days of when the loss is apparent. Application for payment must be filed no later than January 30 of the following crop year.

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.



FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

It's time to start thinking about this year's County Committee Election process. This year's county committee election will be held in Local Administrative Area – 2 (LAA-2) which includes all ground west of the Big Horn River South of Sheep Mountain, including all ground south of Manderson to the Washakie County line.

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees 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 (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

County committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities
- Emergency programs
- Payment eligibility

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

Now– The nomination period begins. Request nomination forms from the local USDA Service Center or obtain online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.

Aug. 2, 2010 - Last day to file nomination forms at the local USDA Service Center

Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers of legal voting age may be eligible to 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 may also be eligible to vote. More information about voting eligibility requirements can be found in the FSA fact sheet titled "FSA County Committee Election - Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a County Committee Member." Producers may contact their local USDA Service Center for more information.

Nominations

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.

Nomination forms for the 2010 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 2, 2010.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed for the county committee of the office that administers a producer's farm records.

Don't Miss Out on Voting

Ballots will be mailed to voters by Nov. 5, 2010, and must be returned to the FSA county office or postmarked by Dec. 6, 2010. Eligible voters must contact their local FSA county office before the final date if they did not receive a ballot.

For More Information

For more information about FSA county committees, visit a local FSA or USDA Service Center or the Web site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>

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

Return Service Requested

Important Dates:

May 5, 2010 – ELAP Signup Deadline
May 31, 2010 – Office Closed Memorial Day
Anytime before June 1, 2010 – DCP/ACRE Signup
July 1, 2010 – Acreage Reporting Deadline
July 1, 2010 – NAP Production Reporting Deadline
July 5, 2010 – Office Closed Independence Day

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.