



**Big Horn County  
Farm Service Center  
408 Greybull Ave.  
Greybull, WY 82426  
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**Office Hours:  
8:00 – 12:00 & 12:30 – 4:30**  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)  
[www.nrcs.wy.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.wy.usda.gov)

## October 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  
Daniel Matthews- Greybull-CET  
John Richards – Lovell-DC

### South Big Horn Conservation District

Linda Hamilton – Chairman  
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George Kelso -Treasurer  
Nancy Joyce – Secretary  
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Manager

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Allen Clark – Member  
George Estes – Member

Kristin Tilley – District Manager



# The Big Horn Bulletin

## Revised NAP Closing Dates

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance (from a crop insurance agent). Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

**The application deadline date for 2011 NAP coverage for biennial and perennial forage crops, regardless of intended use, is December 1, 2010.** *NOTE: This is a date change from April 1<sup>st</sup>.* Crops included in this date change are biennial forage (hay) crops such as sweet clover; perennial forage crops such as grass varieties, grass/alfalfa mix that are not insurable by crop insurance; and pasture grass for grazing. For all other crops (those not biennial or perennial) the application closing date remains the same – April 1, 2011. Call us for details of what crops are covered under the NAP program.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a “Notice of Loss” within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

## 2011 Direct and Counter-Cyclical and ACRE Signup Announced

It's that time of year again to start thinking about the new signup periods for the Direct and Counter Cyclical and ACRE programs.

The **DCP/ACRE** signup began **October 1, 2010** and will run until **June 1, 2011**. If you sign up for **DCP** advance payments are available at 22 percent of the payment 2009-2011, there will not be an advance payment option in 2012. Final payments will be issued each year as soon as practical after October 1 following the contract year. If the **ACRE** election is chosen this year all owners and cropland operators will be required to sign the election forms to complete the election. An election is irrevocable after June 1, in the year of the election through the 2012 crop year. Once an election is complete producers will need to submit production records for the prior 5 years to establish their benchmark yields that will be used to calculate the ACRE eligibility. Then, each year production records must be submitted by the acreage reporting deadline to maintain eligibility in the ACRE program. The production records impact eligibility for ACRE payments in the current year and future year's benchmark farm yield for covered commodities. The ACRE payments are triggered on both a State and farm basis for a covered commodity. Factors impacting the payment trigger include the State and farm triggers. In summary,

- State trigger occurs for a covered commodity when the State ACRE guarantee exceeds the actual State revenue.
- Farm trigger occurs when the farm's ACRE guarantee exceeds the actual farm revenue.

As soon as you know your farming intentions for the 2011 crop year stop by our office and complete your signups.

## Requirements to Purchase Crop Insurance and/or a FSA NAP Policy

Over the past few years, as part of the eligibility requirements to receive payments in disaster programs, producers were required to obtain crop insurance and/or NAP over the next two available years for crops that were not covered by an insurance or NAP policy during the year of disaster benefit. Currently, some of FSA disaster programs still require coverage (known as “Linkage”) while others do not. Listed below are the programs and coverage requirements.

**SURE:** (Crop Loss Disaster Program) Provides benefits triggered on an individual basis when a producer suffers a 10% loss, on any crop, in a disaster declared county or, when a 50% loss is suffered in a non-declared county.

**LFP:** (Grazing Loss) Implemented when the Drought Monitor indicates at least a D2 drought designation - (8 consecutive weeks at the “severe” level) during the normal grazing period.

**ELAP:** (Feed / Grazing losses) Implemented when disaster conditions are severe enough that the county committee requests assistance for losses not covered under other disaster programs.

### Linkage Requirements: (coverage needed)

Program:	Insurable Crops (Crop Insurance)	Non-Insurable Crops (NAP)	Exceptions
<b>SURE</b>	At least CAT level for all insurable crops planted. All interest, all counties	NAP on all non-insurable crops planted. All interest, all counties	Crops intended for grazing (pasture).
<b>LFP</b>	At least CAT level on grazing crops incurring loss. (Can buy for specific acreages)	NAP on grazing crops (Policy covers all acres of crop)	None
<b>ELAP</b>	At least CAT level for all insurable crops planted. All interest, all counties	NAP on all non-insurable crops planted. All interest, all counties	Crops intended for grazing (pasture).

If you have any questions about linkage requirements give us a call.

## Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The Livestock Indemnity Program provides benefits for livestock producers who suffer a death loss in excess of normal mortality because of an adverse weather event. Big Horn County had minimal qualifying adverse weather events that would have caused livestock loss in 2010. However producers have reported losses due to events that were products of severe summer storms such as lightning. If you have any livestock loss due to a weather event, contact the office to see if it qualifies for payment. Losses must be reported within 30 days of occurrence. There is no linkage (crop insurance) requirement for LIP.

## 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.

## **Financial Services Web Site**

A public web site has been developed to assist customers with financial needs. Registered users may view both current and historical financial information, including payment information, collections, outstanding debt, and CCC-1099-G. To access this web site go to: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/fmi>.

## **FSA Farm Loans**

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,094,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

## **Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged**

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches. While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants. A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders. If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA loan office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

## **Farm Storage Facility Loan Program**

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 and permanent drying and handling equipment. 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.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The 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. A FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

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

Return Service Requested

**Important Dates:**

**Anytime - File a NAP Notice of Loss within 15 Days of Event**

**Anytime - DCP/ACRE Signup**

**October 11 - Office Closed, Columbus Day**

**December 1 - NAP Policy Purchase Deadline**

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.