

SERVICE CENTER NEWS

Campbell County Wyoming

March 2010

Farm Service Agency County Committee

307-682-8843, ext. 2
Lee Isenberger, Chairperson
David C Reed, Regular Member
Amanda Sorenson, Vice-Chairperson

Natural Resources Conservation Services

307-682-8842, ext. 3
Tim Kellogg, District Conservationist
Erika Peckham, Habitat Extension Biologist
Tyrel West, Civil Engineer

Campbell County Conservation District

307-682-1824
Michelle Cook, District Manager
Debbie Hepp, Program Assistant
Crystal Kellebrew, Admin. Assistant

Office Staff, ext 2

Susan Kramer, CED
Claudette Vander Voort, PT
Peggy Seppala, PT
Judy Bishop, PT
Rob Weppner, FLM
Stefanie Cowen, FLOT

District Board Members

Wanda Burget
Travis Hakert
Jason Oedekoven
Brenda Schladweiler
Richard VanCampen

2010 County Office Committee (COC)

The 2010 COC organizational meeting was held January 27, 2010. For the 2010 calendar year, Lee Isenberger will be the County Office Committee Chairperson. Amanda Sorenson will be the Vice-Chairperson and Dave Reed will be the Regular Member.

DCP Signup Continues

Signup for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program continues until June 1, 2010. The June 1, 2010 deadline is mandatory for all participants. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. **Call the FSA Office to schedule an appointment.**

NEW CLOSING DATES FOR NAP FOR ALL CROPS

The Wyoming State FSA Committee has established a single application closing date for all crops for NAP effective for 2010 and subsequent crop years.

Beginning with the 2010 crop year, for all crops in all counties the application closing date for NAP will be April 1st of the applicable crop year. This single application closing date will simplify the program and align Wyoming with its neighboring states. The December 1st deadline for some crops no longer applies. If you have not purchased your 2010 NAP policy and would like to do so, please contact the office any time before April 1st. The service fee is \$250 per crop per county or \$750 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1875 per producer for individuals with farming interests in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver for service fees.

To qualify, a producer must be a landowner, tenant or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop. **Reminder: you must have NAP or crop insurance on all crops to be eligible for disaster programs.**

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.**

Deadline for 2009 Grain (LDP) Loan Deficiency Payments and Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL)

March 31, 2010, is the deadline to apply for 2009 grain crop Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) and Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs).

2010 Loan Deficiency Payments

Producers wanting to file applications for LDP payment on wool, mohair, unshorn pelts or small grain harvested as grain or hay for 2010, need to complete and submit CCC-633EZ, page 1, **PRIOR** to losing "**beneficial interest**" (control) of the commodity. Contact the County office if you have any questions.

2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE)

Signup for the 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE) began on January 4, 2010. SURE 2008 is for those who suffered crop production losses during crop year 2008.

SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm. Total farm revenue takes into account the actual value of production on the farm as well as insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments.

Producers with a farming interest physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Agriculture Secretary must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. Producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or NAP coverage, for all economically significant crops. For 2008 crops, producers had the opportunity to obtain a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through a buy-in provision. Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage.

If there is no Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may also be eligible for SURE if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster. For SURE, a farm is defined as all crops in which a producer had an interest nationwide.

For more information on the new SURE program, please visit the county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)

USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the IRS review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to USDA.

The agreement ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service by June 15 to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at:

<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainervlet>. It is recommended by this office that producers file for both FY 2009 and FY 2010.

2010 Acreage Reports

Soon it will be time to complete 2010 acreage reports. We are again asking that you call the office for an appointment to report your acres.

Remember to inspect your hay fields to determine whether enough alfalfa exists to make the crop insurable. Reporting your acres incorrectly could result in losing or refunding benefits.

The deadline for filing this year's acreage report is July 1.

2010 Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from a natural disaster. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2010, and before Oct. 1, 2011. The losses must be a direct result of an adverse weather condition, including but not limited to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold, & lightning. Note that drought is not a qualifying event. Eligible livestock are adult/non-adult cattle, buffalo and beefalo, equine, sheep, alpacas, emus, swine, goats, llamas, poultry and domestic elk, deer and reindeer. Ineligible livestock include animals that died as a result of disease not related to adverse weather, malnutrition or poor handling practices. Payment rates are per head by livestock kind/type and weight range.

- 1) Report all livestock losses due to weather events within 30 days of the event.
- 2) Good record keeping of **ALL** livestock death losses, by approximate date of death, livestock type & weight class, and cause of death (natural or weather related)

Benefits Received – Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) benefits totaling \$ 408,000.00 were paid to 52 producers in Campbell County for 2008 & 2009 storm losses.

ANNUAL NOTIFICATIONS

Bank Account Changes - All payments issued by the county FSA office will be by direct deposit (electronic funds transfer) to a pre-designated checking or savings account with your financial institution. Forms are available at the FSA office to sign up for direct deposit if you haven't yet. For those already signed up, it is important that we are notified anytime there is a change in your account number or financial institution. If we aren't notified, future payments can be delayed or lost for a period of time.

Controlled Substance

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

Statement of Reasonable Accommodations - Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please contact the county office to make arrangements.

Regular COC Meeting Date and Time Established

At the January 7, 2009 County Committee meeting, the regular date and time of the 2009 COC meetings was set. The established COC meeting date and time is the first Wednesday of every other month, with the meeting beginning at 1:00pm.

Farm Record Changes

If you have bought, sold, or are leasing different land, make sure you report the changes to the FSA office as soon as possible after they occur. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or a recorded land contract. It is also the producer's responsibility to notify FSA of ANY changes in their farming operation or entity status throughout the year. Changes that may affect a determination include, but are not limited to a change in shares of a contract which may reflect change of land lease from cash rent to share rent or from share rent to cash rent; modification of a variable/fixed bushel rent arrangement; a change in the size of the producer's farming operation by the addition or deletion of a farm; a change in the structure of the farming operation, including any change in the member's shares; a change in the contributions of farm inputs of capital, equipment, active personal labor, or active personal management; and a change of farming interest not previously disclosed on CCC-902 or update, including the farming interests of a spouse or minor child. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and fines if you are participating in our programs.

Payments Reported to IRS

As required by law, FSA must report all program payments, earned by producers, to the Internal Revenue Service. Producers who received payments in 2008 should receive a notice (CCC-1099-G) near the end of January. This notice states the amount of the program payments they received. If you have any questions about your payment amounts, please contact the County FSA Office.

Signature Authority for Spouses - For FSA and CCC programs, husbands and wives can sign documents on behalf of each other for programs in which either has an interest unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to this office. Spouses may not grant Power of Attorney or sign claim settlements for each other.

Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) – AFIDA requires foreign persons or entities who acquire, transfer, or hold interest in agricultural land to report these holdings and transactions to the Secretary of Agriculture. Such holdings and changes must be reported within 90 days of any purchase, sale or change in status or ownership of land. Foreign agriculture investors must report investments to the local FSA office on form FSA-153.

Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELIC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification - Producers are reminded that eligibility to receive any USDA loans or other program benefits is subject to compliance with provisions certified to on the form AD-1026. See 'Breaking Up New Sod'.

BREAKING UP NEW SOD

If you will be breaking up new land, sod or very old cropland that has gone back to pasture, you need to contact this office prior to planting a crop. To be in compliance with sodbuster provisions you must notify this office, Farm Service Agency, of the area to be broken out and must file a revised form AD-1026. We will then delineate the "field" boundary and refer the new land to NRCS for a determination of highly erodible. If the land to be broken up and farmed is highly erodible you must comply with the conservation plan developed by NRCS. Contacting NRCS and getting their concurrence to break up this land without first contacting this office to complete the necessary paperwork does not constitute compliance with sodbuster provisions. Producers who violate sodbuster provisions risk becoming ineligible for program benefits through USDA. If you will be breaking up new land you must contact FSA first to start the compliance paperwork. If in doubt about the land you will be breaking up call us. Basically, if you have not been reporting this acreage on a crop report and we do not have it identified as an existing field you need to notify FSA and file form AD-1026.

CROP INSURANCE COMPLIANCE and FARM SERVICE AGENCY

The Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 requires Farm Service Agency and Risk Management Agency to work together to help prevent waste, fraud and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. To meet these requirements:

- FSA will assist RMA and insurance providers in monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season.
- FSA will refer suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse about the Federal Crop Insurance program to RMA.
- Producers may report suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to the local FSA office, RMA office or the Office of Inspector General.
- FSA will assist RMA with auditing claims.

If there are discrepancies between information reported to your crop insurance agent and information reported to FSA, we may be contacting you to determine the reason for the difference.

CAMPBELL COUNTY SERVICE CENTER
601 4-J Court, Suite # B
GILLETTE, WY 82716-4127

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

March 3, 2010 – 1:00 pm COC Meeting – Gillette Service Center
March 15, 2010 – Federal Crop Insurance Deadline to purchase insurance on spring planted crops
March 31, 2010 – Deadline to file LDP's on 2009 Grain crops.
April 1, 2010 – Deadline to purchase 2010 NAP Coverage on all NAP Crops and grazing
May 5, 2010 – 1:00 pm COC Meeting scheduled – Gillette Service Center
May 31, 2010 – Memorial Day Holiday – County Office closed
June 1, 2010 – Deadline for 2010 DCP Signup
July 1, 2010 – Deadline to file 2010 acreage reports
July 1, 2010 – Deadline to submit 2009 production reports

IMMEDIATELY --File Notification of Loss Forms within 15 Days of Loss of crops
--File Notification of Loss Forms within 30 days of livestock losses due to a weather event
--Notify County office of any changes in Direct Deposit information,
--Payment limitation changes, Farm records changes, etc.
Any time --CRP Continuous Signup
--Paid measurement services from FSA

Office Hours are from 8:00am to 4:30pm. Producers are urged to call for an appointment, so the office staff can assist you timely. Due to the computer environment, some applications/processes are unable to be completed after 4:00pm.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above dates or information in this newsletter, please contact the County office for more information (307) 682-8843, ext.2.

"The United States 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 part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (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 USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."