

# SERVICE CENTER NEWS

## Campbell County Wyoming

August 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

### District Board Members

Wanda Burget  
Travis Hakert  
Jason Oedekoven  
Brenda Schladweiler  
Richard VanCampen

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## **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Sign-up Announced**

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that a general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will begin on August 2, 2010 and continue through August 27, 2010. During the sign-up period, farmers and ranchers may offer eligible land for CRP's competitive general sign-up at their county Farm Service Agency (FSA) office. The 2008 Farm Bill authorized USDA to maintain CRP enrollment up to 32 million acres. Jim Miller, Agriculture Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agriculture Services, made the announcement on behalf of Secretary Vilsack during a conference call with reporters.

"America's farmers and ranchers play an important role in improving our environment, and for nearly 25 years, CRP has helped this nation build sound conservation practices that preserve the soil, clean our water, and restore habitat for wildlife," said Miller. "Today's announcement will help us create a greener and healthier America, and I encourage all interested farmers and ranchers to contact their local FSA office to learn more how to take advantage of this opportunity."

CRP is a voluntary program that assists farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers to use their environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. Producers enrolling in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers in exchange for rental payments, cost-share, and technical assistance. CRP protects millions of acres of America's topsoil from erosion and is designed to improve the nation's natural resources base. Participants voluntarily remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production by entering into long-term contracts for 10 to 15 years. In exchange, participants receive annual rental payments and a payment of up to 50 percent of the cost of establishing conservation practices.

By reducing water runoff and sedimentation, CRP also protects groundwater and helps improve the condition of lakes, rivers, ponds and streams. Acreage enrolled in the CRP is planted to resource-conserving vegetative covers, making the program a major contributor to wildlife population increases in many parts of the country. As a result, CRP has provided significant opportunities for hunting and fishing on private lands.

Land currently not enrolled in CRP may be offered in this sign-up provided all eligibility requirements are met. Additionally, current CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall covering about 4.5 million acres may make new contract offers. Contracts awarded under this sign-up are scheduled to become effective Oct. 1, 2010.

FSA implements CRP on behalf of Commodity Credit Corporation. FSA will evaluate and rank eligible CRP offers using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) for environmental benefits to be gained from enrolling the land in CRP. The EBI consists of five environmental factors (wildlife, water, soil, air and enduring benefits) and cost. Decisions on the EBI cutoff will be made after the sign-up ends and after analyzing the EBI data of all the offers.

Those who would have met previous sign-up EBI thresholds are not guaranteed a contract under this sign-up. In addition to the general sign-up, CRP's continuous sign-up program will be ongoing. Continuous acres represent the most environmentally desirable and sensitive land. For more information, visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp>.

## **Timely filing of Losses of NAP Crops**

Producers are reminded that crop losses, suffering at least a 50% loss on your unit, must be reported as follows: 1) **Within 15 days of the disaster occurrence** or 2) When it is apparent that a loss has occurred. This applies to all crops covered by NAP: grain (not covered by RMA), grain hay and grass hay. Losses filed after the requirements of number 1 & 2 above will be late-filed and may be ineligible for crop loss benefits.

## **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 of July 1st.***

## **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.

## **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.

We are currently reconciling 2009 FSA and RMA records. 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.

## **Deadline for 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE)**

The **deadline** for 2008 SURE program payment applications is **Close of Business September 30, 2010**. **There are no provisions for late-filed applications**. Applications **not** filed by **September 30, 2010**, regardless of the reasons why, will not receive a payment because of lack of funding.

## **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 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 Loan Programs – “Lender of First Opportunity”**

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. Currently guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. 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.

For detailed information, just contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CAMPBELL COUNTY SERVICE CENTER  
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GILLETTE, WY 82716-4127

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

**August 2 – 27, 2010 – CRP General Sign-up**

**August 11, 2010 – August County Committee Meeting 1:00pm**

**Sept. 6, 2010 – Labor Day Holiday – County Office Closed**

**Sept. 30, 2010 – Application period ends for 2008 SURE program payments**

**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.**

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