



# Cowboy Country Connection

Carbon/Albany FSA Newsletter

January, 2009

Carbon/Albany County  
USDA Service Center

**Saratoga USDA Service Center**  
101 Cypress Avenue  
PO Box 607  
Saratoga, WY 82331

Phone: (307) 326-5657 #2  
FAX: (307) 326-8572  
<http://www.usda.gov>

**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### COUNTY COMMITTEE

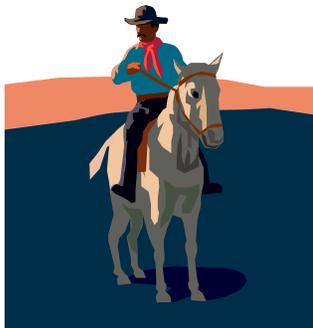
Kelly Kennedy, COC Albany  
Tom Page, COC Albany  
Scott Sims, COC Carbon  
Matt Weber, COC Carbon  
Ray Waliser, COC Carbon  
Heidi Custis, Minority  
Advisor

### FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Sheryl Hunter, CED Ext. 104  
Deb Shirley, PT Ext. 105

### NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Mark Shirley, DC  
Saratoga 326-5657 Ext.101  
Mike Evans, Soil Technician  
Saratoga 326-5657 Ext.107  
Marji Patz, Range Specialist  
Medicine Bow 327-2542  
Ruben Vasquez, DC  
Laramie 745-3698



## **County Committee Election**

Elections were held for the Farm Service Agency county committee representing producers in Local Administrative Area (LAA) number 3. Matt Weber was re-elected to a three year term. Thank you Matt for your continued service to the producers in the Baggs area.

## **Albany County Office Days**

The second Wednesday of each month will be reserved for meeting with producers in the Albany County Office. The new office is located at 5015 Stone Road in Laramie. It is the same building as the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Laramie Rivers Conservation District office. If you would like to schedule an appointment to meet please call the Carbon County FSA office at 307-326-5657 ext. 2 to schedule.

## **2008 Production Reports for NAP**

All 2008 Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) participants are required to submit a production report. Producers with NAP hay coverage need to report the number and average weight of hay bales harvested. The deadline is July 1, 2009; however, I recommend that you do this as soon as possible following harvest. Your production records need to match your acreage report. For example, if you reported fields of native grass hay, bromegrass hay, and legume grass mix hay, then your bales count needs to show how many bales were native, how many bales were brome, and how many bales were legume grass mix. Mail us your production record and we'll copy and mail it back along

with an Actual Production History form for you to sign and return.

## **Record Changes**

It is essential for prompt and timely service that you notify the County Office when any of the following changes take place:

- purchase or sell property, even small acreages for home sites,
- lease additional ground to farm,
- change banks or financial accounts in which you want FSA payments issued,
- address changes,
- restructuring your farm/ranching operation.

We do NOT get automatic notification from realtors or the Court House of land sales. If the buyer, seller, or tenant doesn't tell us, we don't know about it.

## **Signature Authority**

Many of you conduct your farm operation as an entity such as a corporation, trust, LLC, LLP, etc... In order for you to conduct business with Farm Service Agency, we are required to have documentation from you that shows who has authority to sign on the entity's behalf such as a Corporate Resolution, Power of Attorney, or other acceptable Delegation of Authority. This is a reminder for newly formed entities that we need a copy of the minutes of your annual meeting or other documentation that shows the selection of the officers or the positions of the members and who has authority to sign FSA program documents.

For signature authority 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 for each other and may not sign claim settlements for each other.

And, producers and landlords who previously

### **Important Dates:**

**January 14-** Albany County Office Day- COC meeting.

**January 19-** Martin Luther King Holiday- **Office Closed**

**January 31-** Last day to request 2008 LDP's on wool, mohair and unshorn pelts.

**February 11-** Albany County Office Day

**February 16-** President's Day Holiday- **Office Closed**

**Anytime-** Submit 2008 hay production records for NAP yields.

executed a FSA-211, Power of Attorney, form authorizing an attorney-in-fact to act on their behalf for programs need to check with this office to be sure this form is still current with the new farm programs.

### **Buyers of Agricultural Products**

It is required that buyers of agricultural products check or register with the Secretary of State's Office to determine if there are liens against the Seller of the product. If a lien is found you are required to place the lien holders name on the check as well as that of the Seller. Ag Products include but are not limited to: livestock (including horses), crops used for feed (hay, silage, oats, etc), machinery, equipment and all other crops. **Failure to place the lien holder's name on the check may result in civil legal action being taken against the Buyer of the product. Protect yourself as a Buyer!** You may contact the Secretary of State's Office at 1-307-777-7311.

### **Reasonable Accommodations**

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or learning impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

### **Foreign Buyers Notification**

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Act requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign person who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

### **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 lists the payment received by program. If you have any questions about your payment amounts, please contact the County FSA Office.

### **Eligibility**

As a requirement to participate in programs administered by the Farm Service Agency and/or the Natural Resources Conservation Service each individual or entity must meet eligibility requirements.

The new 2008 Farm Bill has provided new eligibility requirements. Such requirements include that each member must be actively engaged in the operation and must meet income revenue limits. With these changes all current and future participants will be required to update all forms.

New forms will be mailed out to all current program participants. If you need assistance in completing these forms, please contact the office and arrangements will be made to help over the phone or in person.

### **LDP's on Wool, Mohair and Unshorn Pelts**

Producers of wool, mohair or unshorn sheep going to slaughter need to have a signed CCC-633 page 1 on file at the FSA office prior to loss of beneficial interest in the commodity. Once you have sold or have a weight on the commodity you need to bring the information tour office to complete the application for payment. **The deadline for requesting Loan Deficiency Payments for wool, mohair shorn and unshorn pelts in 2008 is January 31, 2009.**

*Have a wonderful day!*  
*/s/ Sheryl Hunter, CEDT*

## **NRCS OFFERS SIGN-UP FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES**

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and cost-share assistance to ranchers and farmers, to address soil, water, air, plant and related natural resources concerns on their land. Through EQIP, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides assistance to agricultural producers in a manner that will promote agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals. EQIP is available in all 50 states, and agricultural producers can apply on continuous bases. However, each fall and/or winter, a batching period is set to review and rank applications received for possible acceptance into EQIP.

Producers interested in applying for EQIP should visit the NRCS field office to discuss their proposed project. NRCS will schedule a field visit to evaluate the project as well as discuss conservation practices to address the natural resource concern or problem. Working with NRCS staff prior to the batching period deadline allows evaluation of the project. Applying early also allows the applicant to complete all EQIP eligibility documentation with the Farm Service Agency. All EQIP applications are screened, ranked and submitted for possible technical and financial assistance. The EQIP screening and ranking process is based on national and state guidelines and local priorities as identified through the county Local Work Group. The Local Work Group helps identify and prioritize the natural resources to be addressed in the county. Once the producer's application is accepted into EQIP, the participant enters into a contractual agreement and conservation plan that can range from 1 year, after the last cost-share item is installed, not to exceed 10 years. The contract participant, with NRCS assistance, will schedule planned conservation practices through the contract period. A requirement of EQIP is that a cost share practice must be installed within the first 12 months of the contract approval date.

To be eligible for EQIP, producers or entities must be engaged in agricultural or livestock production and must have filed all eligibility documentation with the Farm Service Agency. The EQIP application cannot be processed if eligibility documentation is not filed or complete. There are, however, certain situations that may limit an individual or entities participation in EQIP and will be determined at the time of applying or shortly after an application is made. Federal and State governments are not eligible. Eligible land must produce an agricultural commodity or livestock. Cropland, rangeland, pasture or hay land, and private, non-industrial forestland are eligible for EQIP.

Conservation practices that address the resource problem or concern must meet NRCS specifications to be eligible for cost-share assistance. Cost-share assistance is approximately 50 percent, and can be up to 75 percent for certain practices to address specific resource issues. Conservation practices can include livestock pipelines, livestock watering facilities, water control structures, fencing, moving corrals away from water sources, filter strips and irrigation pipelines. For more information on EQIP, please contact the following Natural Resources Conservation Service employees: contact Mark Shirley at 307-326-5657 ext 3 for interest in the Saratoga, Encampment and Baggs areas; Ruben Vasquez at 307-745-3698 for Albany County; and Maji Patz at 307-379-2221 for the Medicine Bow area.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
CARBON/ALBANY COUNTY FSA OFFICE  
101 CYPRESS AVENUE  
PO BOX 607  
SARATOGA, WY 82331

## ***NRCS Offers Sign-up for 2009 Conservation Programs***

**Carbon/Albany Counties-** Agricultural producers may submit applications for fiscal year 2009 conservation programs to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offices through Feb. 6, 2009. Private landowners are encouraged to sign-up for the Environmental quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) and Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) program.

"We are pleased to begin the new calendar year by offering a sign-up to Wyoming's private land managers for these four Farm Bill conservation programs," said Xavier Montoya, state conservationist. "Completing the application process now helps our employees better manage their workload for the upcoming field season as they plan to help people help the land."

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals. The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) offers financial incentives to create high quality wildlife habitat that supports state and local priorities.

The Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) offers landowners assistance to restore and protect wetlands and associated uplands through permanent easements, 30-year easements and cost-share only restoration agreements. The program is designed to achieve maximum wetland functions and values while obtaining optimum wildlife habitat.

The Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) Program is available in Wyoming and 15 other states where participation in the Federal Crop Insurance Program is historically low. It provides financial assistance to agricultural producers to voluntarily address issues such as water management, water quality and erosion control.

Applications are available at the following NRCS Field Office: Laramie at 5015 Stone Road, Saratoga at 101 Cypress Ave., Medicine Bow at 510 Utah Street, and Baggs at 285 N Penland Street.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs 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 of 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 employment opportunity employer.