



# Cowboy Country Connection

## Carbon/Albany FSA Newsletter

### March, 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

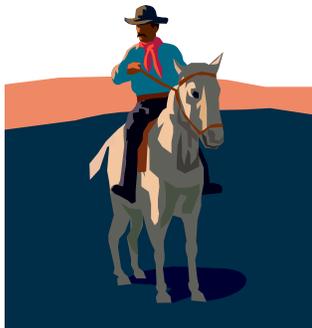
Kelly Kennedy, COC Albany  
Tom Page, COC Albany  
Scott Sims, COC Carbon  
Matt Weber, COC Carbon  
Ray Waliser, COC Carbon  
Heidi Custis, Minority  
Advisor

#### 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



## Payment Limitation Comment Period Extended

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced that the comment period for the regulation defining actively engaged participation in a farming operation has been extended for an additional 60 days, FSA is seeking a diverse range of comments from different areas of the United States and farming communities.

With this extension, the public may continue to submit comments until April 6, 2009. The extension document is available at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/federalNotices?are=home&subject=lare&topic=frd-ii>.

The regulation, published Dec. 29, 2008, invited comments on the interim rule for implementation of key eligibility requirements for many FSA and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs. The regulations were revised as mandated by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) to make changes in payment eligibility, payment attribution, maximum income limits and maximum dollar benefit amounts for participants in CCC-funded programs. In addition, certain provisions were incorporated that are discretionary.

The actively engaged provision requires that individuals and entities must be "actively engaged in farming" with respect to a farming operation in order to be eligible for specified payments and benefits. To be "actively engaged in farming," the individual or entity must make significant contributions to the farming operation of (1) capital, equipment, land, or a combination; and (2) personal labor or active personal management, or a combination.

Under rules in effect since 1988, not every member of an entity is required to contribute active personal labor or management. The interim rule requires each partner, stockholder, or member with an ownership interest to make a contribution of active personal labor or active personal management. The contribution must be regular and substantial, and documented as well as

separate and distinct from any other member's contribution. The rule limits the ability of passive stockholders to continue to realize benefits from the entity.

## Stimulus Funding for FLP Loans

As part of the recently approved economic stimulus package, FSA's Farm Loan Programs (FLP) is scheduled to receive an extra \$173 million in funding for the direct operating loan (OL) program. Many states have a current backlog of approved OL loans waiting for funding. As of February 23, the backlog stood at 1,039 loans valued at more than \$72 million. Producers' financial needs have increased significantly with the elevated costs of production inputs and the downturn in the agricultural economy. This growing need, coupled with FLP's successful marketing efforts, has generated increased demand for FSA OL loans as well as farm ownership loans.

## Livestock Indemnity Program

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) is designed to compensate producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality rates due to adverse weather that occurred on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011. Producers who had livestock deaths due to adverse weather conditions should document these losses as to the kind, weight range, number of livestock, and the date the animals were lost. Producers must have proof of death of livestock by the following means:

- Rendering truck receipts or certificates
- Veterinary records
- Dairy herd improvement records
- Third-party verification

The third party must certify in writing their name, address, telephone number, affiliation of the third party to the participant, details of knowledge of livestock deaths, and the number and kinds of livestock. The third party may not be someone who is affiliated with the operator, such as a hired

**Important Dates:**

**April 7-** COC meeting, Saratoga, 10 AM

**April 8-** Albany County Office Day

**April 18-** Small Acreage Workshop, location & time to be determined

**May 13-** Albany County Office Day

**May 25-** Memorial Day Holiday- **Office Closed**

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

**Anytime-** Accepting Continuous CRP applications.

**Anytime-** Accepting EQIP applications.

hand, or family member. Producers should also document the loss by taking photos of the animal, keep veterinary records, record disposal costs and secure third-party verification.

**Please contact the Farm Service Agency as soon as you have a loss so that the proper documentation can be timely filed.** Maintaining records of your losses is important.

### Sodbuster, Swampbuster

Most Farm Service Agency programs require compliance with sodbuster and swampbuster provisions. These provisions require producers to follow an approved conservation system on all highly erodible land planted to an annual crop as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Be sure to have determinations made on any new land you plan to plant to annual crops. If you plan to plant a different crop on your current cropland, check with NRCS to assure the new crop will qualify under your conservation system.

Swampbuster provisions state that converting a wetland to make possible the planting of a crop will result in the loss of all USDA benefits. To avoid this possibility it is strongly recommended that producers check with NRCS before starting to work in the fields.

### Little Snake River Watershed

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service has received funding for a pilot project in the Little Snake River Watershed in Carbon County. The purpose of the project will be to assist landowners with conservation planning on private lands. Applications will be accepted until May 1, 2009. If you would like more information, please call the NRCS office at Baggs (383-2550) or Saratoga (326-5657).

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

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

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, audiotope, 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.

