



Cowboy Country Connection

Carbon/Albany FSA Newsletter

July, 2009

Saratoga USDA Service Center
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<http://www.usda.gov>

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

COUNTY COMMITTEE

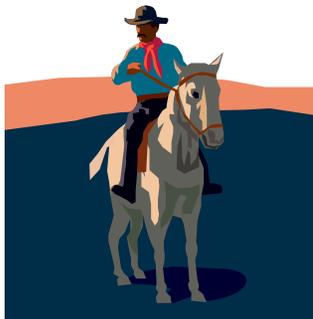
Kelly Kennedy, COC Albany
Tom Page, COC Albany
Scott Sims, COC Carbon
Matt Weber, COC Carbon
Ray Waliser, COC Carbon
Heidi Custis, Minority
Advisor

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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County, 307-322-4050

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
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Jerome Daugherty, Range
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Ruben Vasquez, DC
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FSA COC Nomination Deadline

County committee members play a crucial role in helping the county office staff implement the Farm Bill Programs. Right now, producers can have an impact on the election of the county committee by nominating eligible candidates by the August 3, 2009, deadline.

The Carbon/Albany County Office will be holding elections to the County Committee for the Saratoga/Encampment/Rawlins (LAA2) district of Carbon County and south Laramie (LAA5) district of Albany County.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must complete and sign form FSA-669A. The form and other valuable information about FSA county committee elections are available online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>; click on News & Events, then County Committee Elections. Nomination forms for the 2009 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 3, 2009.

FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to five members who are elected by eligible local producers.

FSA will mail ballots to producers beginning Nov. 6, 2009. The completed ballots are due back at the local county office by Dec. 7, 2009 either via mail or in person.

Successor In Interest

Many FSA programs will allow payments to be made to heirs or successors when a program participant passes away. Additionally, contracts in programs such as CRP must be revised to reflect the successor(s) to a deceased participant's interest.

In the event of an FSA program participant's death, it is important that FSA be notified. Entities and joint operations that participate in FSA programs also need to notify FSA if a

shareholder or member passes away. Since FSA benefits are reported to IRS, maintaining current, accurate records about participants is vital to ensure that those payments are reported correctly.

DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until August 14, 2009. Signup in the ACRE option is also available through August 14, 2009. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

The new ACRE Program is an option for eligible DCP farms that allows participants to receive additional payments base on crop revenue reductions instead of only low national prices. Revenue considers both yields and prices, so the reductions can be attributed to low yields and/or low prices. Note that there must be both a revenue reduction for the farm and at least a 10% revenue reduction for the State.

Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) 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 persons 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, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Important Dates

- July 27-31-** Albany County Fair
- Aug. 3-** Last day to file COC nomination form
- Aug 3-7-** Carbon County Fair
- Aug. 12-** Albany County Office Day
- Sept. 7-** Labor Day Holiday, Office Closed
- Sept. 9-** Albany County Office Day
- Sept. 13-** Deadline to sign up for Livestock Losses under LIP
- Nov. 6-** Ballots mailed to eligible voters
- Dec. 7-** Last day to return voted ballots
- Within 15 days-** File a Notice of loss on NAP crop losses
- Within 30 days-** file a Notice of Loss on livestock losses.
- Anytime-** Contact the office to report adverse weather conditions & losses.
- Anytime-** Accepting Continuous CRP applications.
- Anytime-** Accepting EQIP applications.



Help Available to Stressed Farmers

In the past year, the economy, inclement weather, drought and other factors have hurt many farming operations around the country. These events pushed some farmers to the emotional breaking point. Watching their livelihood being threatened is difficult for farmers and ranchers and especially for those who care about them.

The National Suicide Prevention Hotline is available to help. If you know a farmer or rancher who is under stress and is reluctant to ask for help, or if you just need to talk to someone, call 1-800-273-TALK (8255). Your call will be routed to the crisis center nearest you, where trained staffers are available 24/7. This nationwide service is free and confidential. Help is just a phone call away.

For more information, go to <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>. **This service is not affiliated with the US Department of Agriculture.**

Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

Estate Method — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

DCP Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland

for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

Default Method — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

Wool/Unshorn Pelt LDP Requirement

Loan Deficiency payments will be available to eligible producers that produce non-graded wool in the form of unshorn pelts, non-graded and graded shorn wool and mohair for crop years 2008-2012.

Wool, Mohair, Unshorn Pelts Producers: You are reminded to call our office prior to shearing and/or selling your wool to ensure your “page 1” of form CCC-633EZ is filed. This form has to be signed, dated and filed in our office prior to the loss of beneficial interest (delivery or sale) of the wool. The CCC-633EZ page 4 requesting payment needs to be filed in the county office at anytime after shearing and no later than Jan. 31, 2010.

Timely Filing of Loss

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for **ALL CROPS INCLUDING GRASSES**. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (notice of loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

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



Did you suffer above normal livestock losses during 2008 and/or 2009?

The Farm Service Agency has just announced the sign up of the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Livestock owners and contract growers who suffered livestock losses during 2008 through July 12, 2009 must file a notice of loss and application for payment no later than September 13, 2009. Livestock losses after July 12, 2009 through September 30, 2011 must have a notice of loss filed within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent.

The losses must be a direct result of an adverse weather condition. Eligible adverse weather events include hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat or cold, tornado lightning, tropical storm, earthquake or typhoon.

The eligible livestock must have been owned by an eligible livestock owner on the day the livestock died, been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the day the livestock died, and died as a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event on or after January 1, 2008 and before October 1, 2011.

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. Livestock maintained for hunting, pleasure, pets, show, rodeo stock, roping, or consumption by owner also are ineligible livestock for the LIP program.

An eligible livestock owner is an individual or entity who assumes the production and market risk associated with the agricultural production of livestock and meets all of the following:

- Had legal ownership of eligible livestock on the day they died under conditions in which no contract grower could have been eligible for benefits with respect to the animal;
- Citizen of the United States or resident "lawful" alien; and
- Compliance with payment eligibility requirements; which include but are not limited to: Highly erodible wetland certification, Adjusted gross income provisions, not be in violation of fraud provisions (including FCIC), and not be in violation of controlled substance provisions.

An eligible contract grower is an individual or entity that is not the legal owner of the eligible livestock but possessed an independent financial interest in eligible livestock, or products derived from such livestock, on the day the livestock died. The contract grower must have suffered a loss of income as a direct result of the death of the eligible livestock subject to the terms, conditions, and obligations of the written contract with the owner of the specific livestock. They must provide a copy of the grower contract to the County FSA Office.

Payment rates are per head by livestock kind/type and weight range. There will be a separate payment rate for owners and contract growers. Owners will be paid 75% of fair market value of the livestock as determined by FSA and contract growers will be paid 75% of average income loss sustained as determined by FSA. All calculations will be performed separately by eligible livestock (kind, type, and weight range) and producer type (owner or contract grower).

For more information, or to schedule an appointment, please contact the Carbon/Albany County Farm Service Agency at 307-326-5657 ext. 2.

NAP Deadlines and Program Changes for 2010

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) deadlines for various crops are coming up as early as **August 1, 2009**. Contact your local office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov for deadlines and details for your crops. When low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs due to natural disaster, NAP can provide financial assistance.

For nursery producers, the 2010 crop NAP application closing date is **September 1, 2009** and NAP only covers loss of inventory. The NAP coverage period for 2010 nursery crops has been changed to June 1, 2009, through May 31, 2010. For those producers who obtained 2009 NAP coverage for nursery, and choose not to obtain 2010 continuous coverage, the 2009 NAP coverage for nursery will continue until September 30, 2009.

NAP coverage may be continued for each subsequent year for the same crop or crops, if the producer pays the applicable service fee by the next year's application closing date

Eligible producers must apply for coverage of noninsurable crops and pay the applicable service fees at their local FSA office. The service fee is \$250 per crop or up to \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Limited resource producers are not subject to annual fees.

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