



Cowboy Country Connection

Carbon/Albany FSA Newsletter

October/November, 2009

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Hours

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

COUNTY COMMITTEE

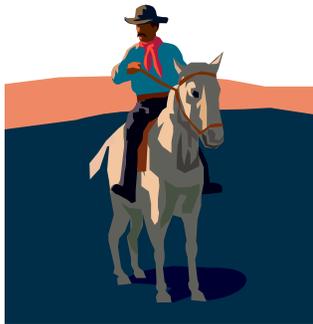
Kelly Kennedy, COC Albany
Tom Page, COC Albany
Scott Sims, COC Carbon
Matt Weber, COC Carbon
Ray Waliser, COC Carbon
Heidi Custis, Minority
Advisor

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Sheryl Hunter, CED Ext. 104
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County, 307-322-4050

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Mark Shirley, DC
Saratoga 326-5657 Ext.101
Marji Patz, Range Specialist
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Jerome Daugherty, Range
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Supplemental Disaster Assistance Programs

The 2008 Farm Bill amended the Trade Act of 1974 to create five new disaster programs, collectively referred to as Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Assistance programs. These programs include:

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)
Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program
Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

To be eligible to participate in LFP, SURE, ELAP and TAP you must purchase either NAP coverage for non-insurable crops and/or a minimum of catastrophic risk protection (CAT) level of crop insurance for all insurable crops.

In the 2008 Farm Bill; in general, the term "farm" means the sum of all crop acreage in all counties that is planted or intended to be planted for harvest by the eligible producer. In the case of aquaculture, the term "farm" means all fish being produced in all counties that are intended to be harvested for sale by the eligible producer. In the case of honey, the term "farm" means all bees and beehives in all counties that are intended to be harvested for a honey crop by the eligible producer.

Producers who meet the definition of a Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource Producer, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher, do not have to meet this risk management purchase requirement.

Livestock Forage Disaster Program

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to: drought conditions or fire on federally managed land.

Eligible livestock producers may receive assistance for eligible livestock grazing losses that occur due to drought or fire on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011, during the calendar year in which the loss occurs.

County committees can only accept applications after being notified by the National Office of qualifying drought as signified by a Drought Monitor level of D2 or higher, or if a Federal agency prohibits producers

from grazing normally permitted livestock on Federal managed lands due to a qualifying fire.

FSA began accepting 2008 calendar year applications September 14, 2009. **The applications must be filed by December 10, 2009. Late filed applications for LFP cannot be approved.**

For 2009 and subsequent years, signup applications must be filed no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the grazing losses occurred. Losses must occur in the calendar year the application is being filed.

The monthly payment rate will be an amount equal to 60 percent of the lesser of:

- the monthly feed cost for all covered livestock, using a feed grain equivalent (for example, the feed grain equivalent for an adult beef cow is 15.7 pounds of corn per day)
- the monthly feed cost calculated using the normal carrying capacity for the grazing land.

Drought eligibility criteria require that the drought must have occurred on:

- native or improved permanent vegetative cover
- small grains or forage sorghum planted specifically for grazing

Losses due to drought must occur during the normal grazing period for the specific type of grazing land.

Additional Information about LFP including eligible livestock and fire criteria is available at county FSA offices or on line at: www.fsa.usda.gov

FARM LOAN PROGRAM PRODUCERS NEED TO PREPARE FOR ANALYSIS

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will begin conducting analysis for the 2010 farm year beginning December 2009. With the number of loans that will need to be analyzed it will be necessary for everybody to have their actuals completed and reconciled to the amount in your checkbook. The plans for 2010 need to be completed to project the best plan possible so that all alternatives have been reviewed before you come into the office. If the best plan can be presented it will save you time and allow FSA to process your review in a timely manner. It is very important for the analysis to be completed timely. If you have any questions please call 322-4050 and talk to Farm Loan Officer Dixie Mount.

Important Dates

Nov. 11- Veteran's Day Holiday, **Office Closed**

Nov. 24- Albany County Office Day

Nov. 26 – Thanksgiving Holiday, **Office Closed**

Dec. 1- Final Date to purchase NAP coverage

Dec. 7- Last day to return voted ballots

Dec. 9- Albany County Office Day

Dec. 25- Christmas, **Office Closed**

Jan. 1-Happy New Year!
Office Closed

Within 15 days- File a Notice of loss on NAP crop losses

Within 30 days- file a Notice of Loss on livestock losses.

June 1, 2010- DCP/ACRE Signup Deadline

Anytime- Contact the office to report adverse weather conditions & losses.

Anytime- Accepting Continuous CRP applications.

Anytime- Accepting EQIP applications.

Anytime- Farm Stored Facility Loan Program



NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

The application deadline date for the 2009 NAP coverage on hay, fall seeded pasture and grass crops is

December 1st, 2009.

To be eligible to participate in LFP, SURE, ELAP and TAP you must purchase either NAP coverage for non-insurable crops and/or a minimum of catastrophic risk protection (CAT) level of crop insurance for all insurable crops.

Producers who already have coverage on 2008 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2009, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

For more information on NAP coverage please contact your nearest Farm Service Agency office.

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.

Happy Thanksgiving!
/s/ Sheryl Hunter, CED

Acreage Reports Needed For SURE

Because of the delay in announcing the provisions of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, producers enrolling in the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) are reminded that 2008 crop reports are required for SURE participation. This includes crops planted on cropland and/or non-cropland, including native pasture or improved grass that will be hayed.

Physical evidence of the crop in the field is not required for Farm Service Agency (FSA) to accept late-filed 2008 acreage reports. "However, evidence of existence or disposition, is required.

The following requirements for 2008 SURE include:

- producers **must** report all crops, in all counties, in which they have an interest
- late-filed fees shall be waived for late-filed 2008 acreage reports and physical evidence in the field is not required
- if the actual use of a crop is different from the intended use reported, the producer may report the final use to the County Office; however, the intended use shall **not** be changed.

The provisions noted are for 2008 only. For 2009 and 2010, normal acreage reporting requirements will be applied.

More details on the 2008 SURE Program are available at county FSA offices or on line at www.fsa.usda.gov

Attention all 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.

Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit. Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

2010 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2010. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2010 DCP contract.

USDA 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 2010, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment. USDA will issue advance direct payments beginning Dec. 1, 2009. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price. The effective price is the higher of the national average market price received during the 12-month marketing year for each covered commodity and the national average loan rate for a marketing assistance loan for the covered commodity.

The ACRE Option

The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. For 2010, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2008 and 2009 crop years.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The payment is based on 83.3 percent (85 percent in 2012) of the farm's planted acres times the difference between the State ACRE guarantee and the state revenue times the ratio of the farm's yield divided by the state expected yield. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. In exchange for participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent.

The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

The June 1, 2010, deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

Biomass Crop Assistance Program

The new Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) is of interest to biomass conversion facilities and those who own, chip and transport biomass material to these facilities.

Chippers and producers with conversion facilities contracts to prepare and deliver materials can apply for matching payments under the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) component of BCAP. Once an agreement is signed between FSA and a biomass conversion facility and funding is provided, the facilities can begin accepting materials under this program.

The matching CHST payments are paid at a rate of \$1 for \$1 per dry-ton equivalent received by a qualified biomass conversion facility, not to exceed \$45 per dry-ton equivalent. A biomass owner is eligible to receive payments for two years. The purpose of the matching payments is to assist biomass handlers with the CHST cost of delivering biomass to a qualified biomass conversion facility. Once a facility becomes qualified, eligible material owners or producers who deliver biomass to that facility may be eligible to receive CHST payments.

Eligible material owners or producers, who market eligible material to a qualified biomass conversion facility, may apply for the matching CHST payment at their FSA county office. An application must be submitted and approved before the eligible material is sold or delivered to a qualified biomass conversion facility. After the product is delivered, a material handler must provide FSA with documentation of product quantity, quality and payment rate. County offices will validate payment requests with information in the county office and information provided under the terms of MOUs with the qualified biomass conversion facilities. CHST payments will not be authorized until appropriate environmental analysis is completed. Contact your FSA state office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov for more information.

Electronic Services Available

Producers with Internet access can access many services from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours.

To participate in these services, you must meet all program eligibility requirements. Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private information.

To utilize electronic service, a producer needs an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account and an e-mail address. You can visit www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/ to complete the online registration form. Note that you must also visit your FSA county office for identity verification.

For assistance establishing your account, contact your local USDA Service Center or your nearest FSA County Office.

Succession in Interest

If you have made any changes that affect your interest in base acres since you signed your last Direct and Counter-cyclical Program contract, you must report these *successions-in-interest* to the county committee by Sept. 30, so that a final determination can be made on who is eligible for the program on the farm.

Changes that qualify as a succession-in-interest include:

- A sale of land
- A change of operator or producer, including an increase or decrease in the number of partners
- A foreclosure, bankruptcy or involuntary loss of the farm.
- A change in producer shares to reflect changes in the producer's share of the crop(s) that were originally approved on the contract.

If a succession-in-interest has taken place, you, as the “predecessor,” are required to refund any advance DCP payments you received for the affected base acres before a payment can be made to the “successor.”

Not reporting a succession-in-interest can result in contract termination and a loss of program benefits for all producers involved.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists eligible beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more that 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county’s average size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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