



FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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

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FAX: 307-326-8572

<http://www.usda.gov/wy>

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

County Committee

Kelly Kennedy, Albany
Tom Page, Albany
Montie Munroe, Carbon
Pat Sheehan, Carbon
Scott Sims, Carbon
Heidi Custis, Minority Advisor

Farm Service Agency

Sheryl Hunter, CED
Deb Shirley, PT
Dixie Mount, FLO—Platte
County, 307-322-4050

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Mark Shirley, DC
Jerome Daugherty, Baggs
383-7860
Ruben Vasquez, DC
Laramie, 745-3698



Cowboy Country Connection

June, 2010

NAP Loss Filing

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. The timely filing of 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. This includes losses associated with weather or insect damage.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

Currently applications for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) are being taken for the 2008 Crop Year. SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster that were incurred starting in the crop year 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops of economic significance in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who have the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the

risk management purchase requirement.

The following are the conditions that trigger SURE payments:

- at least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition
- crop of economic significance is a crop that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5% or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm
- the farm experiencing the loss must be in a county declared a disaster county by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties. Those who

show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are also eligible to receive SURE payments for production losses or crop quality losses.

Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

A SURE calculator is available at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/sure_calculator_2008.xls. The calculator is not official, but is intended for educational use. A fact sheet and background are also available online.

Acreage Reporting

The acreage reporting deadline is fast approaching. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented

planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many FSA programs. For crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by the July 1 deadline on all crops. Acreage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be

paid are due in the county office by the earliest of these two options: 1) July 1 for all crops, or 2) 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

Important Dates

June 15- Deadline to file AGI form with IRS

June 16- Albany County Office Day

July 1- Acreage Report Certification Deadline

July 1- NAP Production for APH Deadline

July 5- Independence Day Holiday
Office Closed

July 21- Albany County Office Day

July 30-Aug 7- Albany County Fair

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

Within 30 days- file a Notice of Loss on live-stock losses for LIP.

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

Anytime- Accepting Continuous CRP applications.

Sheryl Hunter
County Executive Director

2010 FSA County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long established, with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and to represent all constituents. This means wherever possible, minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for these underrepresented groups.

County committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities
- Emergency programs
- Payment eligibility

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

Election Period

June 15, 2010 – The nomination period begins. Request nomination forms from the local USDA Service Center or obtain online at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_committeeselectform.pdf

Aug. 2, 2010 - Last day to file nomination forms (FSA-669A) at the local USDA Service Center.

Nov. 5, 2010 - Ballots mailed to eligible voters.

Dec. 6, 2010 - Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center.

Jan. 1, 2011 - Newly elected county committee members take office.

Who Can Hold Office

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria as follows:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA.

- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election.

- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate.

Causes for ineligibility:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee.

- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony.

- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

Nominations

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and online at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_committeeselectform.pdf

[FSA File/ fsa0669a_committeeselectform.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_committeeselectform.pdf)

Nomination forms for the 2010 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 2, 2010.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed in the office that administers the producer's farm records.

Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers of legal voting age may be eligible to vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm may also be eligible to vote. More information about voting eligibility requirements can be found in the FSA fact sheet titled "FSA County Committee Election - Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a County Committee Member." Producers may contact their local USDA Service Center for more information.

Areas open for election

In Carbon County the election area is in LAA1 or **Medicine Bow**. This area is currently represented by Scott Sims.

In Albany County the election area is LAA4 or **North Albany County**. This area is currently represented by Kelly Kennedy.



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101 Cypress Ave.
PO Box 607

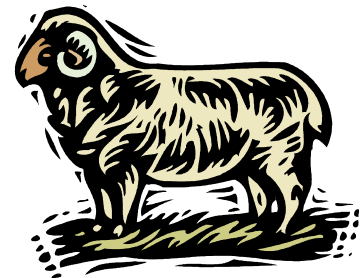
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Wool/Unshorn Pelt LDP Requirement

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



Banking Changes?

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.