

# Cowboy Country Connection



# NEWSLETTER



**November 2010**

## **Carbon/Albany County**

101 Cypress Ave.  
PO Box 607  
Saratoga, WY 82331

307-326-5657  
Fax: 307-326-8572

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

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

### County Committee

Montie Munroe, Chairperson  
Scott Sims, Vice-Chairperson  
Kelly Kennedy, Member  
Tom Page, Member  
Pat Sheehan, Member  
Heidi Custis, Minority Advisor

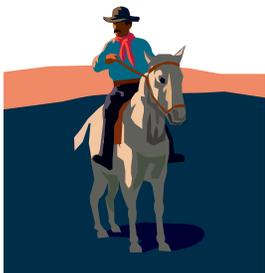
### Farm Service Agency

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

### Natural Resources

### Conservation Service

Mark Shirley, DC  
Jerome Dougherty, Baggs  
383-7860  
Jeremie Artery, Med. Bow  
379-2221  
Ruben Vasquez, DC Laramie  
745-3698



## **2011 NAP Purchasing Deadline is Approaching!**

NAP is available for crops which crop insurance is not available for. It protects the producer against catastrophic losses. The deadline to purchase NAP for forage (hay), pasture, honey and wheat (winter & spring for forage) is **December 1, 2010**. The fee for NAP is \$250 per crop per county, with a county maximum of \$750. For producers with interest in multiple counties, the total fee cannot exceed \$1,875.

To participate in Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), Livestock Forage Program (LFP) and Emergency Assistance Program for Livestock (ELAP), producers must purchase crop insurance on all insurable crops and/or NAP on all non-insurable crops (required for all).

Producers who have 2010 NAP policies may choose continuous coverage on the same crops for 2011. Continuous coverage does not require a new CCC-471, Application for Coverage, to be signed. HOWEVER, if you want to add/delete a crop a new CCC-471 must be filed and signed.

To qualify for NAP benefits and continuous disaster programs the producer must:

1. Timely file acreage reports
2. File a Notice of Loss within 15 days of when a loss is apparent
3. Report production records to the County Office.

Continuous coverage reminder letters will be mailed to all 2010 NAP policyholders. Call the county office for more information and to get your 2011 NAP policy.

## **Change in 2011 NAP Policy**

**~could affect 2011 disaster payment amounts~**

A major change in procedure for the 2011 crop year will allow producers to purchase both PRF-VI (pasture, rangeland, forage – vegetative index) and NAP coverage on the same acres with the same intended use. It has been determined that the two insurance policies do not cover the same perils; therefore, producers may purchase both types of coverage. If there were to be disaster conditions, producers could collect indemnity payments from both types of coverage.

To access a free online course about PRF-VI, visit <http://RightRisk.org>, and click on “products.”

## Important Dates

**Nov. 5-** Ballots mailed to eligible voters

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

**Nov. 17-** Albany County Office Day

**Nov. 25-** Thanksgiving, **Office Closed**

**Dec. 1- Deadline to purchase NAP coverage for 2011**

**Dec. 6-** Last day to return COC ballots

**Dec. 8-** Ballot Counting, Saratoga Office @ 11 AM

**Dec. 15-** Albany County Office

**Dec. 24-** Christmas Day Holiday, **Office Closed**

**Dec. 31-** New Years Day Holiday, **Office Closed**

**15 Days-** after realizing a loss to file a Notice of Loss on NAP covered crops.

**30 Days-** after realizing a loss of livestock due to weather, contact the office.

**Anytime-** contact the office to report adverse weather conditions & livestock losses.

**Anytime- Accepting EQIP and Continuous CRP applications**

## County Committee Elections

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on November 5, 2010. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 6, 2010. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 6, 2010.

**Voter Requirements** Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, are eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either a) or b):
  - a) an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, *or*
  - b) a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper;
2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; *and*
3. Eligible to participate in any applicable FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

**Discrimination Prohibited** No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.



## FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

## Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit.

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.



## CCC-927 or CCC-928 Must Be Sent To IRS

Producers who participated in 2009 or 2010 programs subject to adjusted gross income limitations (AGI) had to certify compliance with AGI rules. The average AGI verification process for 2009 and 2010 payment eligibility requires all program participants to provide written consent to IRS for the disclosure of certain information to FSA.

On October 6, 2010, a letter was mailed to producers who have not submitted:

CCC-927: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Individual Form"

CCC-928: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Legal Entity"

Individuals and legal entities, including members of legal entities, that certified to average AGI compliance for 2009 and/or 2010 payment eligibility must submit a completed CCC-927 or CCC-928 to IRS regardless of whether they received program benefits directly or as a member of a joint operation or entity. These forms must be submitted to IRS in order to avoid a demand for refund of program payments and benefits received.



## Selling Land

If you're planning to sell farmland, there may be some program consequences you should be aware of. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't want to continue the CRP contract, you might have to refund all of the payments you've received to date.

Reviewing program implications with your local Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.



# Carbon/Albany FSA Deadlines



Program	Covered Events	Notice of Loss/Application for Coverage	Application for Payment	Late Filed Provisions
<b>Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)</b>	Livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adverse weather including blizzard, flood, disease, extreme heat/cold</li> </ul>	Earlier of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&lt;30 days after loss is apparent</li> <li>January 30 of the calendar year following the losses</li> </ul>	January 30 of the calendar year following losses	NO
<b>Livestock Forage Program (LFP)</b>	Qualifying drought or fire on federally managed lands and/or private land <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grazing losses</li> </ul>	COC will announce county eligibility in newsletter	January 30 of the calendar year following losses	NO
<b>Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)</b>	Due to disease, adverse weather (not covered by other disaster programs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of forage/feedstuffs</li> <li>Grazing Losses</li> <li>Additional costs for purchase of additional feed &amp; transportation</li> <li>Grazing losses</li> <li>Physical loss of livestock</li> <li>Honeybees</li> </ul>	Earlier of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&lt; 30 days after loss is apparent</li> <li>January 30 of the calendar year following losses</li> </ul>	January 30 of the calendar year following losses	NO
<b>Non-insured Crop Assistance Program (NAP)</b>	Losses in crop production (hay/grazing) over 50%  <b>**Most new disaster program require crop insurance and/or NAP coverage**</b>	December 1 of preceding crop year for honey, fall-seeded & perennial crops  APH reporting: July 1 of following crop year	July 1 of following crop year  Honey- January 2 of following crop year	NO on application for coverage YES- notice of loss
<b>Wool LDPs and other eligible commodities</b>	LDPs are available when the loan rate exceeds the CCC determined value for that particular commodity.	Later of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>January of crop year file "Page 1"</li> <li>Before beneficial interest is lost (i.e. sold)</li> </ul>	Wool- January 31 of following crop year.	NO
<b>Annual Crop Reporting</b>	Producers are required to report crop type, acreage and intended use annually.	July 1 of crop year		YES, fees apply

LOOK for additional deadlines and info in the monthly newsletter

Carbon/Albany County FSA Office  
101 Cypress Ave.  
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## **Disaster Assistance / Risk Management**

FSA disaster assistance programs include:

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

To be eligible for SURE, TAP, and ELAP, producers must purchase catastrophic risk protection insurance for all insurable crops and NAP coverage for non-insurable crops. For LFP, grazed acres must be covered.

Farm-Raised Fish means all fish being produced for sale by an 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 Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource Producer, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher, do not have to meet this risk management purchase requirement.

## **Farm Loan Year End Reviews**

Producers that have a farm loan with FSA are reminded they must provide data for their Year-End Analysis to their loan officer each year. Borrowers are urged to provide this information timely so that their files can be maintained.

## ***Applications for FSA Farm Loan Assistance***

Farmers and ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Failure to apply early may result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan representative for more details and assistance in applying.