



JULY 2009

Crook County FSA News

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

Office Staff:

Mike Idler, CED
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(307) 682-8843

County Committee:

Mervin Peterson, Chairman
Larry Fowlkes, Vice-
Chairman
Ross Garman, Member
Roxie Dacar, Advisor

County Committee Elections

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.

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. .

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

Provides compensation to eligible producers for livestock death losses due to an eligible adverse natural weather event. Eligibility period is from January 1, 2008 to October 1, 2011.

Livestock owners/growers who suffered losses from 01/01/08 to 07/12/09 have until **September 13, 2009** to file a “Notice of Loss” and their “Application for Payment”. Separate applications will be taken for years 08 and 09 and a notice of loss must be filed for each adverse weather event in which livestock were lost. Only one application for payment need be filed per

calendar year.

From 07/13/09 to 12/31/09 the notice of loss must be filed within 30 days that the loss becomes apparent and the application for payment must be filed by 01/30/2010.

For Years 2010 and 2011 (10/01/11), the notice of loss must again be filed within 30 days that the loss becomes apparent and the application for payment form must be filed by 01/30 of the following year.

No “Late-filed” provisions apply. Program forms not filed by appropriate deadlines will be disapproved.

Eligible Adverse Weather Events are: Flood, Blizzards, disease – if associated to an event, Wildfire, Extreme heat, Extreme cold, Tornado, Lightning (list not all inclusive).

A producer is eligible to participate if they meet all of the basic “eligibility” provisions and assume the production and market risks associated with the agricultural production of livestock, and has legal ownership on the day the livestock died. Eligible livestock must have been owned on the date of death, been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the date of death, and died as a direct result of the eligible adverse weather event.

Eligible livestock include, but not limited to: adult/non-adult Beef, Dairy, Buffalo, Beefalo, Sheep, Goats, Equine, Swine, and Poultry. Feedlot cattle can be eligible. Ineligible livestock include those used for hunting, pleasure, pets, show animals, rodeo stock, roping, consumption by owner, etc...

Payment Rates are on a “per-head” basis by livestock kind/type/and weight range and are based on 75% of the fair market value per FSA Determinations.

Any other compensation for the same livestock deaths must be deducted before



(LIP cont.) payment is issued.

Required Documentation:

Inventory documents must be provided when the first Notice of Loss is filed for the given calendar year. (If inventory increases from one adverse weather event to the next then subsequent inventory documentation will be required.

Death loss documentation must identify kind/type/weight range of livestock and numbers lost.

This documentation can be one of the three methods: Verifiable, Reliable or Third Party

Verifiable – documentation that proves death loss such as: Rendering truck receipts, FEMA records, National Guard records, Veterinary records, Records for tax purposes, Private insurance documents, Written contracts, Bank or other loan documents, Purchase records, Production records, Property tax records, etc...

Reliable records – can be provided when verifiable records do not exist. Includes but not limited to: Contemporaneous records existing at the time of the event, Picture(s) with a date, Brand inspection records, or other similar reliable document.

Third Party Certification – can be used if verifiable or reliable records as proof of death cannot be provided. Owner must certify that no other form of proof of death is available; number of livestock, by category, in inventory when deaths occurred; and physical location of animals when death occurred. Livestock owner must also provide verifiable documentation that supports the reasonableness of the number of livestock in inventory when the deaths occurred.

The third party must complete specific details about how they have knowledge of the animal deaths, their affiliation to the applicant (cannot be involved in the operation such as a “hired hand” and cannot be a “family member”), plus other items will be needed and discussed during the application filing process.

Our office will not be sending out appointment cards for this program. Producers are encouraged to call and make an appointment to avoid lengthy delays from just “showing up” at the office.

All supporting documentation (inventory records, verifiable, reliable or third party certifications, and general eligibility forms) must be provided along with the necessary LIP forms, including all signatures, by the applicable deadlines to be considered “timely” filed. Any documents not timely filed will result in the LIP application being disapproved.

Crop Report Deadline

The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The reporting deadline has been extended to **August 14, 2009**

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Load Deficiency Payments.

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**

Reporting Crop Losses for NAP

For those of you with a NAP crop policy – you are reminded that if you suffer a crop loss, you must complete a notice of loss form with this office no later than 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence or no later than 15 days from the date that damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent. Notice of loss must be provided for each weather-related event or adverse natural occurrence that causes damage to or loss of the specific crop or commodity. Failure to report crop damage or loss in a timely manner will result in ineligibility for NAP payment. **When a loss is sustained an appraisal should be completed** by FSA personnel. This appraisal should be done before grazing occurs or before the land is put to another use. Any acreage of a crop not harvested due to the hay from that crop is not needed this year, should be appraised for production history purposes.

DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline

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

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 prices fall below a threshold level.

The regional office in Kansas City is sending a letter explaining the ACRE program to all producers that are eligible to participate in DCP. This letter is titled "Its Time to Make Your 2009 ACRE Decision, The Deadline to Sign up is August 14, 2009". Most of you have already signed up in the DCP program. A few of you are thinking about signing up in DCP-ACRE.

Remember, the ACRE program payment is not a guaranteed payment. There are factors/triggers that must be met before a payment is issued. Refer to the ACRE decision letter that you have already received or will soon get in the mail. It provides a good explanation of the program that should supplement the information we have provided to you. If after you receive the letter you are interested or need a refresher on the program details, give us a call

Non-Insured Assistance Program

Policies for crop year 2010 coverage can now be purchased at our office. **December 1, 2009** is the deadline to purchase 2010 NAP coverage on Pasture grass, Clover, Honey, Perennial grass hay (forage), Perennial forage crops not covered by crop insurance, Wheat forage – including both winter and spring varieties, and any other fall seeded annual crops intended for forage. Note: a policy for Spring Wheat must be purchased by Dec. 1st because for NAP purposes wheat is wheat, regardless of variety and as thus the first sales closing date (Dec. 1st for winter wheat) applies to all varieties of the crop.

April 1, 2010 is the deadline to purchase a 2010 NAP policy on all spring seeded crops for forage, chickpeas, Garbanzo Beans, Corn for grain and silage, and soybeans. Spring seeded forage crops include, but not limited to: Oats, Barley, Triticale, Millet, Sorghum, and Rye.

Policies cost \$250 per crop not to exceed \$750 per county and not to exceed \$1,875 per producer for all counties. The Policy provides payment for losses in excess of 50% of the expected production from the established Actual Production History yield (APH) and pays on 55% of the established market price of the covered crop.

When suffering a crop loss the participant must file a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days after the disaster occurrence or date damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent; and within 15 days after the final planting date for "prevented" planting. A notice of loss must be filed timely and for each weather related event or adverse natural occurrence that causes damage to or loss of the specific crop. Crops damaged that will be put to another use, such as grazing or destroyed due to farming, must be appraised first. Producers that harvest a damaged crop must report the production for that crop at time of notice of loss.

Appraisals are done to record the crops potential after the loss occurs, thus it works in reverse to document the lost production from the APH yield. Additionally, appraisals can be done in "good" years when fields won't be harvested for hay because the producer does not need the additional hay from these fields. In this case the fields are generally reserved for grazing later on. Again, an appraisal needs to be done before the fields are grazed in order to record the production from these fields for payment history purposes.

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