



SEPTEMBER 2009

# CROOK COUNTY FSA NEWS



Crook County FSA  
 PO Box 1070  
 117 S. 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
 Sundance, WY  
 82729  
 (307) 283-2870 Ext. 2  
 (307) 283-2170 Fax  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/wy](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wy)

Office Staff:  
 Mike Idler, CED  
 Danice Conzelman, PT  
 Susan Rasmussen, PT  
 Rob Weppner, Farm  
 Loan Manager - Gillette  
 (307) 682-8843 Ext. 2

County Committee:  
 Mervin Peterson, Chairperson  
 Larry Fowlkes, Vice Chairperson  
 Ross Garman, Member  
 Roxie Dacar, Minority Advisor  
  
 Office Hours: Monday - Friday  
 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 pm

## LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

**Did you suffer above normal livestock losses during 2008 and/or 2009?** The **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** provides financial assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from natural disaster. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011. The losses must be a direct result of an adverse weather condition. Eligible adverse weather events include but are not limited to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat or cold, tornados, lightning, and earthquakes. Note that drought is not a qualifying event. 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. Payment rates are per head by livestock kind/type and weight range. Owners will be paid 75% of fair market value of the livestock as determined by FSA. All calculations will be performed separately by eligible livestock (kind, type, and weight range).

The following table provides the final dates to file a notice of loss and/or application for payment for either 2008 or 2009 livestock losses.

Date of Livestock Death	Final Date to File a Notice of Loss	Final Date to Submit an Application for Payment
Calendar Year 2008	Sept. 13, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009
Jan. 1, 2009 to July 12, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009	Jan. 30, 2010
July 13, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2009	30 days after death is apparent	Jan. 30, 2010

**Notification of Spot Check for LIP:** FSA will be conducting spot checks of LIP applications submitted. All data provided in the application, and all supporting data provided by the producer is subject to spot check and verification by FSA. Inaccurate producer certification or data, or failure to provide verifiable data to support certifications, may result in denial or refund of program benefits, plus interest. In addition, provisions of criminal and civil fraud statues may be applied.

Data that may be spot checked includes, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1./ Number/kind/type/weight range of livestock claimed on FSA-914;
- 2./ Number of livestock in inventory before and after the eligible adverse weather events.;
- 3./ Verification of documents used as proof of death of livestock claimed on FSA-914.;
- 4./ Verification of cause of death of livestock claimed on FSA-914.;
- 5./ Ownership of livestock claimed on FSA-914.;
- 6./ Verification that livestock were maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation.
- 7./ Compliance with average Adjusted Gross Income provisions.
- 8./ Verification of monetary compensation received from contractors for contract growers.

Documents and information that may be requested or provided to verify producer certifications include but are not limited to the following:

1. Copies of purchase receipts for livestock claimed.
2. Copies of sale receipts of livestock.
3. Copies of corporate charter or bylaws, partnership agreements, trust agreement, last will and testament, estate documents, court orders of appointment or other documents providing evidence of authority to act on behalf of another.
4. Documents providing evidence that livestock claimed were maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation.
5. Copies of tax records indicating a farming operation.
6. Certifications from tax accountants.
7. Copies of veterinary records.
8. Copies of loan documents,

settlement sheets and bank records.

## **CROP INSURANCE AND NONINSURABLE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP) DEADLINES APPROACHING**

**Fall Crop Insurance Closing Date:** U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Risk Management Agency reminds producers in Wyoming that the fall sales closing date is **September 30, 2009**. Fall sales closing and cancellation dates are applicable for wheat, in counties with both a fall and spring sales closing date, forage (alfalfa, Alfalfa/grass mix), and pasture.

The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) Program has specific requirements for the 2010 crop year. To participate in the SURE program producers must purchase a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act for all insurable crops planted on all farms they have an interest in. In addition, if insurance is not available on a crop, producers will have to file the required paperwork and pay the applicable fee by the deadline at the Farm Service Agency for the **Noninsured crop Assistance Program (NAP)** for all uninsured crops planted on all farms they have an interest in to be eligible. The nationwide insurance coverage map is on the USDA Web site: <http://www.rma.usda.gov/policies/pasturerangeforage/>. This web site also has a mapping tool to locate which land is insurable. It also has historical data, coverage details and a premium calculator.

### **NON-INSURED CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM REMINDERS**

Eligible crops are those not covered by crop insurance. The deadline to purchase NAP coverage for Forage (hay), Pasture, Honey and Wheat (Winter and Spring varieties for forage) is **December 1, 2009**. The NAP application fee is \$250 per crop per county with a maximum of \$750. If you have multiple counties, the fee cannot exceed \$1,875.

### **COC ELECTION BEGINS NOVEMBER 6, 2009**

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning November 6, 2009 and must be returned to the county office by the close of business or postmarked no later than **December 7, 2009**.

### **REPORTING CROP LOSSES FOR NAP**

Producers are reminded that they must report losses on NAP crops within 15 days after the date of a disaster occurrence or date that damage to the crop(s) is apparent. Notices of loss that are filed after 15 days (late-filed) can still be approved by the county committee if verification of the specific crop and acreage can be made and if it can be determined that the cause of loss is due to an eligible disaster condition. If a positive verification of both of the above requirements cannot be made, the late filed Notice of Loss will be disapproved and the producer will not be eligible for a loss payment.

### **NEW FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN REGULATIONS**

New regulations for the Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL) have made major changes to this program. If you are interested in constructing a facility for your grain or hay crops please stop by or call this office for further details.

### **NEW ELIGIBILITY PAPERWORK FOR PRODUCERS**

**All producers** receiving payments will be required to file new payment eligibility forms for 2009 programs and provide current information for FSA to verify ownership and signature authority for all entities requesting program benefits. The paperwork includes the CCC-926 – Average Adjusted Gross Income; CCC-902 – Farm Operating Plan for an Individual or Entity; and AD-1026 – Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification.

### **FARM LOAN PROGRAMS**

#### **“Lender of First Opportunity”**

FSA has programs that can help farmers and ranchers get started and keep going! Loan assistance for eligible: Beginning farmers and ranchers • Rural Youths • Socially disadvantaged producers • Established farmers suffering setbacks • Farmers with limited resources. All loans must meet qualifying criteria to be eligible. Maximum loan amounts are \$300,000 for Direct Farm Ownership and Operating loans; \$1,049,000 for Guaranteed Farm Ownership and Operating loans. Youth loans are available for up to \$5,000 to individual youths to establish and operate income producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H Clubs, FFA and similar organizations.

Each fiscal year the Agency targets a portion of its direct and guaranteed loan funds to beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers. A beginning farmer is someone who has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years. A socially disadvantaged applicant is someone who is one of a group whose members have been subject to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice.

### **ATTENTION ALL BUYERS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS**

It is required that buyers of agriculture 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 to determine if there is a lien on a product you are buying.

### **COMMODITY LOANS AVAILABLE FOR 2009 COMMODITIES IN STORAGE**

Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) provide financing and marketing assistance for wheat, feed grains (Barley, corn, oats), honey, wool and mohair. This assistance is available to eligible producers beginning with harvest season and extending through the program year.

The 2008 Farm Bill included several changes to the Marketing Assistance Loan and Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) program. Some of the changes include: 1) Beginning with the 2009 crop year, MAL's and LDP's will no longer be subject to a per person payment limit; 2) Loan rates will no longer be adjusted on warehouse-stored loans by premiums and discounts at loan making time; 3) Beginning with the 2009 crop year, warehouse-stored loans will be adjusted by premiums and discounts only at loan settlement, if the commodity is either farm-stored delivered or warehouse-stored forfeited; and 4) The Commodity Credit Corporation will no longer require the execution of a storage agreement in storage facilities that are either 1) federally-licensed or 2) in compliance with applicable state laws and issue warehouse receipts. This provision also begins with the 2009 crop year. MAL's are nine month loans. The interest rate is well below conventional lenders. The 2009 loan rate for each commodity is as follows: Corn \$2.11/bu Barley \$1.80/bu Oats \$1.25/bu Wheat(Spring) \$3.26/bu Wheat(Winter) \$2.43/bu

The final date to request a commodity loan for barley, oats, and wheat is March 31, 2010, and for corn May 31, 2010. If you plan on holding your crop for awhile and need some operating money until the commodity is sold, a MAL might just be a good option to look at.

### **LOAN DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS (LDP)**

LDP's are available if the posted county price falls below the loan rate. In recent years the only commodities eligible for LDP have been wool, unshorn pelts and mohair. Currently, Barley now shows an LDP payment rate as its posted county price has fallen below the loan rate. Eligible types of harvested production for Barley, and other crops, are "grain", "silage", or "forage (hay)". Page 1 of form CCC-633 EZ must be filed prior to losing beneficial interest in the commodity (before selling or contracting the grain, hay, wool, mohair or unshorn pelts, and before feeding any eligible commodity). Payments are based on the earlier of the date beneficial interest is lost or when request for LDP payment is made on appropriate page 2 or page 4 of form CCC-633 EZ.

### **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](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) for more information.



**DIRECT DEPOSIT CHANGES**

Some changes to be aware of after this office deposits payments to your bank account. 1) there will now be a one day delay in receipt of funds due to our payments needing to be sent through the treasury, 2) any producer with a delinquent Federal debt will automatically be offset when the payment is sent through the treasury, and 3) the description of the payments used to show up on your bank statements as “USDA-FSAKSMOCDSP” and they now will read “FSA TREAS 310”.

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

<b>SEPTEMBER 7, 2009</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER 13, 2009</b>	<b>FINAL DAY TO FILE LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM APPLICATION FOR 2008/2009</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER 30, 2009</b>	<b>LAST DAY TO PURCHASE FALL CROP INSURANCE</b>
<b>OCTOBER 12, 2009</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED FOR COLUMBUS DAY</b>
<b>NOVEMBER 11, 2009</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED FOR VETERAN’S DAY</b>
<b>NOVEMBER 26, 2009</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING DAY</b>
<b>DECEMBER 1, 2009</b>	<b>LAST DAY TO PURCHASE NAP FALL CROP COVERAGE</b>

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual’s income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.” Special Accommodations will be made for the physically handicapped, vision or hearing impaired person upon request. If accommodations are required, please call Mike Idler, CED at (307) 283-2870.