



<p>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  <a href="http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA">www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA</a></p>	<p>Office Staff:          Danice Conzelman, PT          Susan Johnson, PT          Mike Idler, CED          Rob Weppner, Farm          Loan Manager - Gillette          (307) 682-8843 Ext. 2</p>	<p>County Committee:          Mervin Peterson, Chairperson          Larry Fowlkes, Vice Chairperson          Ross Garman, Member          Roxie Dacar, Minority Advisor           Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.          Monday - Friday</p>
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**ELAP (EMERGENCY LOSS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM)**

**May 5, 2010** is the deadline to file an application for 2009 pasture losses due to grasshopper damage. Livestock producers who lost actual grazing days during the period of May 1 thru October 15 can receive a payment equal to 60 % of the cost of feed for the covered livestock or the value of the lost grazing whichever is smaller. Producers can also receive compensation for up to 60% of costs associated with providing additional feed for livestock during the same period.

To be eligible to receive payments under ELAP applicants must have had crop insurance or Non Insured Crop Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on all commodities on all farms in which the producer has an interest, except grazing.

Along with completing an application producers will need to complete FSA worksheets to provide information on normal grazing patterns and actual grazing activity for 2009. Additionally, records to support loss claims need be provided as well.

**ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME (AGI):**

Written consent (on form CCC-927 or 928) will be required from each producer or payment recipient authorizing IRS to verify compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Note: No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service by **June 15** to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet>.

**LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM (LIP):**

Be documenting when you lose livestock due to both Adverse Weather and Normal Mortality. This documentation is required for eligibility in this program. Losses due to Adverse Weather must be reported timely (within 30-days when loss is apparent). Losses due to Normal Mortality should be kept in your records and then reported when you complete your application for payment.

**CROP PRODUCTION REPORTS**

The deadline to file your 2009 crop production is **July 1, 2010**. This deadline particularly applies to crops covered by a NAP policy. Failure to timely file crop production will result in a lower APH (Actual Production History) yield - which is the basis for when a payment is issued on a crop.

## CROP ACREAGE REPORTS

Crop reports are underway. Crop reports ARE required for farms participating in DCP, NAP, CRP and possibly the new disaster programs of ELAP and LFP. 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.

Additionally, 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.

We are sending appointment cards out two weeks in advance and only to producers who participate in our programs. Producers that do not participate in our programs who wish to file a crop report should contact our office and schedule an appointment to do so.

Reports must be filed by **July 1, 2010**. After this deadline there is a minimum fee of \$46.00 per farm to file a crop report.

## 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), 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.

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.

## DCP / ACRE

Signup for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program and Average Crop Revenue election continues until **June 1, 2010**. FSA will not accept late-filed applications.

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 2010, 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 for a commodity is only issued if the effective price for a commodity is below the commodity's target price.

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

A 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. Payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The payment is based on 83.3% (85% 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. Participants in ACRE will forgo counter-cyclical payments. Also a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20% and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30%.

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.

## ACTIVELY ENGAGED

USDA has amended the rules that govern the requirements to be 'actively engaged' in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by FSA.

Normally the stockholder or a member of a legal entity **must** make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management for the farming operation. The contributions are to be performed on regular basis, must be identifiable, and separate from the contributions of others.

The exception to this rule for a stockholder or member of a legal entity only occurs if both of the following apply: At least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management; and The total direct payments received, both directly and indirectly, by the legal entity and each of the members cannot exceed \$40,000.

## DIRECT AND GUARANTEED LOANS

FSA is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available. Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner. FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

## FARM RECONSTITUTIONS

In program terminology, farms are *constituted* to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. If payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded. Request for recons should be filed by **June 1**.

## FARM SAFETY

Flowing grain in a storage bin or gravity-flow wagon is like quicksand; it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped.

The mechanical aspects of grain handling equipment, also presents a real danger. Augers, power take offs, and other moving parts can grab you or the clothing you might be wearing.

These hazards, along with pinch points and missing shields, are dangerous enough for adults; not to mention children. It is always advisable to keep children a safe distance from operating farm equipment. Always use extra caution when backing or maneuvering farm machinery. Insure everyone is visibly clear and accounted for before machinery is engaged.

Your friends at FSA want all farmers and ranchers to have a productive crop year, and that begins with putting safety first.

Have a nice day, *Mike Idler*



*Important Dates to Remember*

<b>May 5</b>	<b>ELAP program signup deadline</b>
<b>May 31</b>	<b>Memorial Day – Office Closed</b>
<b>Continuous and Timely</b>	<b>Document Livestock Losses due to Adverse Weather and due to Normal Reasons</b>
<b>Within 30 days</b>	<b>File Notice of Loss on Livestock Losses when Loss is Apparent (Due to Adverse Weather Event)</b>
<b>Continuous</b>	<b>Report Adverse Weather Conditions and Affect on your Operation</b>
<b>June 1</b>	<b>DCP / ACRE signup deadline</b>
<b>June 15</b>	<b>Deadline to Submit Form(s) to IRS</b>
<b>July 1</b>	<b>Crop Report Deadline / 2009 Crop Production deadline</b>

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