



NEWSLETTER



Crook County FSA Office

October 2010

307-283-2870 phone
307-283-2170 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/WY

Hours

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

County Staff

Mike Idler, CED
Danice Conzelman, PT,
Susan Johnson, PT
Rob Weppner,
Farm Loan Manager
Gillette 307 682-8843

County Committee

Mervin Peterson, Chairman
Larry Fowlkes, V. Chairman
Ross Garman, Member
Roxie Dacar, Minority Advisor

2010 DCP Final Payments

Final DCP payments for 2010 participants will be issued sometime after October 8, 2010. Producers who received an advance payment will be paid the balance they are due. Those who did not take an advance will be receiving their full payment amount. These payments will be deposited directly into personal bank accounts.

If there are any unearned payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the final Direct and Counter-cyclical Program payments you are about to receive.

Signup for 2011 DCP begins October 1, 2010.

FSA Conservation Loan Program

The Farm Service Agency makes and guarantees conservation loans on farms and ranches to help conserve our natural resources. The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the credit necessary to implement conservation measures on their land.

The direct CL limit is \$300,000 and the guaranteed CL limit is \$1,119,000. Guaranteed loans are available through lenders working with FSA.

Applicants will work with Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) staff to develop a conservation plan. Conservation practices must be approved by NRCS before FSA can provide financing. Examples of conservation practices include installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or

manure management, including manure digestion systems; and more.

County Committee Elections

Starting early next month, watch your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot. Mailing of ballots to all eligible voters starts on November 5, 2010. If, for some reason, you don't receive a ballot, contact the county FSA office to get one. Only those producers who have their primary farming interest in LAA 1 (the northern 1/3 of the county) will receive a ballot.

Completed and signed ballots will be due back in the county office by the close of business on **December 6, 2010**.

Paper Check Conversion (PCC)

Over the next year, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is moving toward an electronic method for processing producers' checks. This will allow FSA/CCC to process collections faster.

When producers present checks, either in person or through the mail, the checks will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt. Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information:

<https://www.pccotc.gov/pccotc/pcc/usingpcc/Legal%20Notices/legalnotices.htm>

DCP (Direct and Counter - cyclical Payment):

Provides payments to eligible producers on farms enrolled for the 2008 through 2012 crop years. There are two types of DCP payments - direct payments and counter-cyclical (CC) payments. Both are calculated using the base acres and payment yields established for the farm. The direct payment is guaranteed. The counter-cyclical payment provides support counter to the cycle of market prices as part of a "safety net" in the event of low crop prices. Counter-cyclical payments are only issued if the effective price is below the target price for the commodity. Annual sign-ups begin October 1st of each applicable contract year and end June 1st of that contract year. Producers who participate in DCP may plant cropland in excess of the total base acreage on the farm to any commodity. Certain restrictions apply to planting of wild rice, fruits, and vegetables. Weeds must be controlled on contract acres.

ACRE (Average Crop Revenue Election): Under the ACRE Program, producers may receive revenue-based payments as an alternative to receiving price based counter-cyclical (CC) payments.

Direct payments are based on the farm's base acres and program yields for covered commodity crops. The payment rates for direct payments are 20 percent less than the DCP direct payment rates. Similar to DCP, payment amounts are reduced if fruits or vegetables are planted on base acres, or the acres are used for nonagricultural purposes.

ACRE payments are tied to crop production and the National Average Market Price for planted, and considered planted, covered commodity crops on the farm. ACRE payment acreage is limited to the total amount of base acres on the farm, and can only be issued for a crop if two triggers are met for the covered commodity. State Trigger: The Actual State Revenue for the program year must be less than the State ACRE Guarantee. Farm Trigger: The participating farm's Actual Farm Revenue for the program year must be less the Farm ACRE Guarantee.

CRP (Conservation Reserve Program): Is a voluntary program for agricultural landowners. Through CRP, you can receive annual rental payments (based on the agriculture rental value of the land) and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible cropland. Participants enroll in CRP contracts for 10 to 15 years.

CRP General Sign-up. Producers can offer highly erodible land for CRP general sign-up enrollment only during designated sign-up periods. The purpose is to conserve erodible lands into a permanent cover. General CRP offers are competitively bid with no

guarantee of contract acceptance. If approved, land is set aside for a period from 10-15 years. Use of the land for any purposes is restricted.

CRP Continuous Sign-up. Environmentally desirable marginal pastureland devoted to certain conservation practices may be enrolled at any time under CRP continuous sign-up. Offers are not subject to competitive bidding, but the land must meet program eligibility requirements. Focus is on riparian buffer zones along water features for protection of runoff, soil and stream bank, lake bank stabilization. Contracts are from 10-15 years. Use of the land for any purposes is restricted.

SURE (Supplemental Revenue Assistance

Payments): Provides benefits for a farms crop year revenue losses (production/quality losses) due to natural disasters. It is the 2008 Farm Bill's successor to prior ad hoc crop disaster programs.

To be eligible a portion of the farm must be located in a county covered by a qualifying natural disaster declaration (USDA Secretarial Declarations only) or a contiguous county, and have at least one crop that has suffered at least a 10% loss; or, the actual production is less than 50% of the normal production in a county that does not have a disaster declaration. **Note:** A "farm" refers to all crop acreage in all counties that a producer planted or intended to be planted for harvest for normal commercial sale or farm livestock feeding.

Enrollment start and end dates will be announced for each crop year. All required forms and production documentation must be submitted no later than enrollment deadline. Must have crop insurance and/or NAP on all crops that are economically significant. A crop of economic significance is one that contributes at least 5 percent of the expected revenue for a producer's farm(s). Crops intended for grazing are exempt from the crop insurance or NAP requirement.

LFP (Livestock Forage Program): This program provides financial assistance to producers who suffer grazing losses due to drought or fire during the calendar year in which the loss occurs. Drought losses must occur during the normal grazing period, as established, and on land that is either native or improved pasture for grazing. Drought signup occurs when the county experiences at least a D2 (severe) drought designation for 8 consecutive weeks according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. (Assistance levels increase with severity of drought designation.

Fire losses must have occurred on federally managed lands. Payments will be issued if livestock producers are prohibited from grazing by the Federal Agency that manages the land.

When either loss condition is announced by the FSA county office, individual producer applications must be submitted with all required documentation no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year (January 30th) in which the grazing loss occurred. Must have crop insurance or NAP coverage on the affected grazing crop acreages.

ELAP (Emergency Livestock Assistance Program):

This program provides assistance to producers of livestock, farm raised fish and honey bees. The program is implemented when the county, or area of the county, suffers livestock, fish or honey bee losses, livestock feed losses or grazing losses from a natural disaster event not covered under other disaster programs. The local county committee must submit a county application. If the application is approved producers have to file a notice of loss the earlier of: 30 days when the loss is apparent, or the end of the calendar year. Then, the application for payment must be submitted, along with all loss documentation no later than 30 calendar days after the calendar year end (January 30th).

All crops must be covered by either crop insurance or NAP in all counties that applicant has an interest in. Crops intended for grazing are exempt from this rule.

NAP (Non-Insured Assistance Program): Provides

benefits for crop production and/or quality losses. Applicable to crops that are not eligible for crop insurance. Losses or prevented planting must have occurred as a result of an eligible cause of loss. Notices of loss must be filed the earlier of: 15 calendar days after damaging event or disaster occurrence or; date damage is apparent; or within 15 days after normal harvest date. For prevented planting must file within 15 calendar days of final planting date. Late-filed notices of loss run the risk that not enough crop and disaster event evidence is present to determine loss and cause of loss. An application for payment must be filed no later than the subsequent year acreage reporting date (July 1st of the next year). All supporting loss documentation must be submitted timely. Acceptable records of loss include contemporaneous producer records such as field notebooks, elevator summary sheets, measurement services, etc... Crop purchase deadlines are December 1st for perennial forage and grazing crops, winter wheat for winterkill coverage and honey; April 1st for annual crops.

LIP (Livestock Indemnity Program): Provides monetary assistance to eligible owners and contract growers for eligible livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality that occurred as a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event. Normal mortality deaths must be documented and records submitted when application for payment is made. Adverse weather event deaths must be documented and reported the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent or by January 30th of the next year. The application for payment must be filed no later than January 30th of the next year. Death loss documentation can include verifiable records such as a veterinarian statement, records that the applicant keeps for their own use or third party statements – with restrictions. There are no signup dates. Signup is ongoing as outlined above for notice of loss and application for payment filing timeframes.

LDP (Loan Deficiency Payments): Provides payments for harvested crops when local markets are depressed. Crops include: wheat, oats, barley, corn (harvested for grain, silage or hay); wool, mohair and unshorn pelts. Participants must file form CCC-633EZ page 1 (intention to participate) before losing beneficial interest (control) of the commodity. Page 1 should be filed prior to crop harvest. We recommend filing page 1 as early in the calendar year as possible. The application for payment (page 4) can be filed anytime after the crop is harvested and the production quantity is determined. Production evidence must accompany page 4 application. Payment is based on the payment rate in effect at the time page 4 is signed. Deadline to file page 4 is January 31st for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts and March 31st for small grain crops.

MAL (Marketing Assistance Loans): Are available to producers of wheat, oats, barley, etc. that harvested the crops for grain. Provides a low interest 9-month loan to provide operating capital which allows the producer to market the commodity later when prices are generally higher.

Crop Reports: Many of FSA programs require that a crop report be filed for each farm that a producer has an interest in. For some programs the eligible acres are determined from the reported acreage on the crop report. The crop report deadline is July 1st. Late-Filed provisions apply which include a late-file fee and field inspections to verify the late-filed crop report.

NRCS News: We have a new face in town! Andrew Cassiday took over the reigns as the District Conservationist. Stop in and meet him. He looks forward to working with you.



NRCS EQIP Program: The deadline to submit an application is **October 29, 2010**. EQIP addresses conservation measures that will improve the efficiency of an operation by providing cost share to install fences, livestock watering systems, irrigation structures, permanent covers and weeds/woody forbs control measures. Applications submitted will be ranked based on feasibility and eligibility factors. Application practice installations will be scheduled to begin in 2011. Contact NRCS for further details.

ECP (Emergency Conservation Program): Provides cost-share for practices installed to rehabilitate farmland and conservation facilities/structures damaged by natural disasters, i.e. drought, fire, wind, tornado, flood, etc... Areas of assistance include: providing emergency water facilities, pipelines, and tanks for livestock in pastures where water sources are dry; rebuilding fences and cleaning up debris from fire, wind/tornado and flood damage. Funding is available when the damage created is of such magnitude that it would be too costly for the producer to rehabilitate without Federal assistance.

The process begins with the FSA County Committee assessing damages and submitting an application to the national level for approval. If approved a signup period is announced (usually a thirty-day signup). Producers file application and indicate restorative measures to be performed. If approved, producer's practice completion timeframes are generally short due to the nature of the program.

Have a wonderful day, Mike Idler

Important Dates to Remember:

Continuously...Report Adverse Weather Conditions and the Affects on your Operation

Continuously...Document Livestock Losses due to Normal Reasons

Within 30 days...File Notice of Loss on Livestock Deaths from Adverse Weather Conditions

Timely (Within 15 days)...File Notice of Loss on NAP Crops

October 11... Office Closed – Columbus Day

December 1...NAP Policy Purchase Deadline

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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.