



**February 2011**

**Crook County  
FSA Office**

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**

Susan Johnson, PT  
Danice Conzelman, PT  
Mike Idler, CED

**County Committee:**

Mervin Peterson  
Larry Fowlkes  
Ross Garman  
Roxie Dacar



**SURE – 2009 and Later**

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters.

**SURE sign up for crop year 2009 losses runs from Jan. 10 to July 29, 2011.**

**Deadlines for 2010 and 2011 crop years will be announced later.**

To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. This requirement does not apply for crops that are not of economic significance or where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the crop coverage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

The following conditions are required to trigger SURE payments:

- at least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition
- crop of economic significance is a crop that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5% or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm
- producers in counties declared disaster counties by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are eligible to receive SURE payments for crop producer or crop quality losses. Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

Note that due to the need to wait for end of year market price data to make SURE final calculations, SURE assistance payments lag the crop year's end by one full year.

If you would like additional clarification call or stop by your local FSA office.

**2011 DCP Signup**

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2011 DCP contract.

USDA 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 2011, eligible producers may request partial direct payments as an advance on the total amount.

**ACRE**

The optional 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, 2011, signup deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

A farm's 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.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss.

The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. In exchange for participating in ACRE, in

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addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20%, and marketing 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.

## Sorghum Checkoff Referendum Scheduled

USDA will conduct a referendum on the Sorghum Checkoff Program Feb. 1-28, 2011, at local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices. Ballots may be obtained in person, by mail or facsimile at county FSA offices, or via the Internet at [www.ams.usda.gov/sorghumpage](http://www.ams.usda.gov/sorghumpage).

Any eligible person engaged in the production or importation of sorghum from July 1, 2008, to December 31, 2010, is eligible to participate. Individuals are required to provide documentation such as a sales receipt or remittance form that shows they engaged in the production or importation of sorghum.

Sorghum Checkoff is a national, coordinated, self-help marketing program designed to strengthen the position of sorghum in the market place, maintain and expand existing domestic and foreign markets and uses for sorghum, and develop new markets and uses for sorghum.

## 1099-G is in the Mail

Producers who have received payments from FSA are also receiving a CCC-1099-G in the mail. A CCC-1099-G is a report to the Internal Revenue Service regarding FSA payments made to producers during the previous calendar year. The CCC-1099-G is a service to help participating producers report taxable income.

When the CCC-1099-G is received, it should be checked with your records to see that the amounts are correct. It is not intended to replace the program participant's responsibility to report income to the IRS.

**ATTENTION: Refunds are no longer reported on the 1099-G, but will be available online from the FSA Financial Inquiries (FSA-FI) web-based database.**

Program participants with an eAuthentication user ID and password may access their refund information at FSA-FI and select "Inquiry Type 1099/Refund Reports". Refund amounts are displayed on the Producer's Year-to-Date Activity web page.

If you have a question concerning the 1099-G refund information, you may contact your local FSA office for assistance locating the correct payment data.

## Conservation Loan Program

The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the funding necessary to implement NRCS approved

conservation measures on their land. The available limit for a direct CL is \$300,000, and the limit for a guaranteed CL is \$1,119,000.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will work with applicants to develop a conservation plan containing approved conservation practices. Examples of some conservation practices are: water conservation structures, forest cover, permanent pastures, manure digesters and other installations.

For more information on a potential Conservation Loan, call the local FSA office and make an appointment with your farm loan officer.

## 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 when 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 by the legal entity and each of the members does not exceed \$40,000.

## Adjusted Gross Income

USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent from the IRS to verify AGI compliance will be required from each producer or payment recipient. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to USDA.

The agreement ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

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. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at:

<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet>.

## BCAP – Two Phases

There are two categories of assistance in the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP). The first category provides financial assistance to producers or entities that deliver eligible biomass material to approved biomass conversion facilities (BCF) for use as heat, power, bio-based products or bio-fuels. Initial assistance will be for the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) costs associated with the delivery of eligible materials.

Producers who harvest, transport and store these materials can apply for FSA matching payments under the CHST. An application must be submitted before the eligible material is sold and delivered to a BCF. After the product is delivered, a producer must provide FSA with documentation of product quantity, quality and payment rate. County offices will validate payment requests with information in the county office.

In the second category of BCAP, incentives are provided to producers who enter into contracts with the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to produce eligible biomass crops on contract acres within BCAP project areas. For this phase, Project Area Proposals are required and must be submitted to FSA for review and approval. For more information, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/bcap](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/bcap).

## Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency 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 ranch, 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 \$1,119,000. 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.

## Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)-2011

Producers are reminded to "timely" file a notice of loss of livestock deaths due to adverse weather events. The notice of loss must be filed on form FSA-914 and can be filed in person at the county office or by fax. Also, a notice of loss can be "phoned" in to the county office. If a loss is phoned in office personnel will complete the FSA-914 form. Spot checks may be done to help ensure producer eligibility while upholding program integrity.

Filing a notice of loss is Step 1 of the application process:

The *Notice of Loss* Must be filed the earlier of:

1. 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock was apparent to the participant;
2. October 31, 2011 (note: this is a change from previous announcements which dealt with years 2008, 09 and 2010. 2011 is the last year for this program and FSA's statutory authority to administer this program ends on October 1, 2011.

Step 2 consists of filing an *Application for Payment*. The application for payment can be completed at any time but must be filed no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss of livestock occurred. In other words - by January 30, 2012.

Records / Documentation required include but are not limited to:

1. Records to substantiate adverse weather event death loss(es), AND, normal death losses. These records / documentation must include date of death (or when death was apparent), event that caused death, numbers and livestock type that died. Records made at the time of the event, such as diaries or calving books, etc. work the best for submission of this data. Additionally, third party certifications can also be used. A third party is someone who does not have a direct interest in the ranching operation. Veterinarians who have been to the place to treat livestock and saw the livestock that died from the recent adverse weather event are a good source for a third party certification. Family members, hired hands, employees, etc. are not eligible to be a third party certification.
2. Records that document the beginning and/or ending inventories – such as bank balance sheets, pregnancy test records, vaccination records, or sales receipts must be submitted. Spot checks may be performed to verify livestock numbers.

There is specific information that must be provided for both the notice of loss and the application for payment. Refer to previous newsletters or call the county office for details. When all required information is submitted the county committee will review the application for eligibility.

## Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP)

Producers are encouraged to file form CCC-633 EZ "Page 1" (Request to Participate) as early in the year as possible, even before shearing and definitely before losing beneficial interest. Beneficial Interest is defined as retaining ownership or control of the commodity. Filing Page 1 is the first step to ensuring your eligibility to earn LDP payments on your wool / mohair / unshorn pelts or annually planted crop (wheat, oats, barley, corn, etc.) harvested as hay or grain.

Once beneficial interest is lost the commodity is ineligible for payment in the LDP program. Ensure your eligibility – file Page 1 today!

Crook County FSA Office  
PO Box 1070  
Sundance, WY 82729



**Important Dates:**

February 21...Office Closed (Presidents Day)	March 15...Deadline to Purchase Crop Insurance (Contact an agent)
March 31...Deadline to File small grain LDPs	April 1...Deadline to Purchase 2011 NAP on Spring Planted Crops
June 1...DCP / ACRE Signup Deadline	July 1...Crop Report Deadline
July 1...2010 Crop Production Reporting Deadline	July 29...2009 SURE Program Signup Deadline
NOW...File 2010 Crop Production with FSA	NOW...File 2011 LDP Page 1 "Request to Participate"
Within 30 Days from when loss is apparent...File Notice of Loss on Livestock Deaths from Adverse Weather events	
Ongoing...Record Livestock "Normal Death Losses"	

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