



TOWER OUTLOOK

March 2011

**Crook County
FSA Office**

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www.fsa.usda.gov/WY

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

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Livestock Assistance Programs

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Wyoming State Director Gregor Goertz is reminding producers throughout Wyoming who are experiencing harsh winter weather that FSA programs may be available to assist them. Many areas of the state are dealing with harsh winter weather, which is causing serious harm to livestock and forage due to heavy snow, ice and extreme cold temperatures.

“During this tough winter producers need to learn about our FSA programs,” said Goertz. “We need producers to document the number and kind of livestock that have died as a direct result of these winter storms and timely notify their local FSA office of these losses. There may be situations where producers are transporting additional feed to their livestock. Producers should document these additional costs.”

FSA administers several programs that help producers recover from livestock deaths that are beyond normal mortality rates, losses of purchased and/or harvested forage, and with the additional costs of providing or transporting feed. Among the key programs are the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP).

LIP is a continuous program. Meaning when losses are suffered a producer can take action on that loss. ELAP requires the county committee to compile data and submit an application when an adverse condition, that is not covered by other disaster programs, affects the county.

Both of these programs require producers to file a notice of loss with their local FSA office within 30 calendar days from when the loss is apparent to the producer.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

Losses of livestock due to adverse weather must be reported to the FSA office within 30 days of when the loss is apparent by filing a Notice of Loss application. A Notice of Loss filed must be finalized by completing an Application for Payment by January 30 of the next year.

Applications for livestock losses require documentation of beginning and ending inventory, records showing the date of death for normal death loss and show losses due to the weather event, along with records showing the number of livestock in inventory on the date of the weather event. Beginning and ending inventory require third party verification, such as, vet records, loan documents, shipping records, brand inspections, etc.

2011 Acreage Reports

Soon it will be time to complete 2011 acreage reports. Appointment cards will be mailed with your scheduled date and time. If the appointed time does not work for you please call our office and reschedule.

Remember to inspect your hay fields to determine whether enough alfalfa exists to make the crop insurable. Reporting your acres incorrectly could result in losing or refunding benefits.

The crop report deadline **July 1, 2011**.

SURE Signup

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) began Jan. 10, 2011. SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters.

For SURE, all crops must be covered by crop insurance, NAP or be eligible for waivers.

A farm enrolled in SURE is eligible when either:

A/ a portion of the farm is located in a county covered by a qualifying natural disaster declaration (USDA Secretarial Declarations only) or a contiguous county; or,

B/ the actual production is less than 50% of the normal production.

NAP Sales Closing Date / Spring Planted Crops

For spring planted small grains - intended for harvest as hay, and spring planted crops which are not insurable, NAP coverage must be purchased no later than **April 1, 2011**. Covered crops include: Spring Wheat, Oats, Barley, Millet, Triticale, Sorghum, etc.

2011 Wool, Mohair & Pelt Loans or LDP's Sign-Up

Producers have until **January 31, 2012** to request a 9 month Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) or agree to forego the loan for a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) on their Wool, Mohair or Unshorn Pelts for 2011 crop year. A CCC-633 EZ Loan Deficiency Payment Agreement must be filed before beneficial interest is lost on a commodity. After this agreement is completed a producer may request an LDP on the date beneficial interest is lost or the date of delivery to a storage facility or stored at home where beneficial interest is maintained.

Eligible producers of unshorn pelts may also apply for Loan Deficiency Payments. An unshorn pelt is defined as the removed skin and attached wool from a slaughtered lamb that has never been shorn. To be eligible for an LDP for unshorn pelts, producers must have owned the unshorn lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. Immediate slaughter is considered slaughter of the lamb within a 7 to 10 day period, after the loss of beneficial interest. Eligible producers are considered to have lost beneficial interest on the date of delivery or the date of the receipt of payment, whichever comes earliest. The completion of a CCC-633EZ LDP Agreement is also required on unshorn pelts before beneficial interest is lost.

The FSA office is accepting page 1 of the CCC-633EZ, Loan Deficiency Payment Agreement for 2011. MAL and LDP requests for 2011 graded and ungraded wool, mohair and

unshorn pelts will be accepted through January 31, 2012. Remember, page 1 must be completed prior to loss of beneficial interest as explained above.

Note: Unshorn pelts are eligible for LDP only. Wool Loan, Loan Repayment and LDP rates are announced weekly on graded and ungraded wool/mohair. Rates may be viewed at the internet site: www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/mktpricclean2.xls.

Dates for CRP General Signup Announced

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has set general signup for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to begin on March 14, 2011, and continue through **April 15, 2011**. During the signup period, farmers and ranchers may offer eligible land for CRP's competitive general signup at their county Farm Service Agency (FSA) office.

Land currently not enrolled in CRP may be offered in this signup provided all eligibility requirements are met. Additionally, current CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall may make new contract offers. Contracts awarded under this signup are scheduled to become effective Oct. 1, 2011.

As administrator of the Conservation Reserve Program, FSA will evaluate and rank eligible CRP offers using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) that assists in calculating the environmental benefits to be gained from the contract. The EBI consists of five environmental factors (wildlife, water, soil, air and enduring benefits). Cost factors are also entered into the equation.

In addition to the general sign-up, FSA's CRP Continuous Sign-up Program is ongoing. Continuous acres represent the most environmentally desirable and sensitive land. For more information, visit www.fsa.usda.gov and view *Conservation Programs*.

NEW PROGRAM SIGNUP ANNOUNCED

Additional Land in SAFE Program Will Protect Endangered or Threatened Species

WY State Executive Director Gregor Goertz today announced that USDA has approved the addition of 10,000 acres for conservation projects in northeastern Wyoming.

The acreage will be added through a portion of the Conservation Reserve Program called "State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement," or SAFE. Eligible cropland in

Campbell, Converse, Crook, Johnson, Natrona, Niobrara, Sheridan and Weston can be bid into the program. A signup period of **February 28 through March 18th, 2011** has been established and producers with interest in the program should contact their local County FSA Office. Annual payments and signing incentives are made to producers who are accepted into the program. Offers made during the signup period will be ranked according to the amount of wildlife benefits received and the best offers will be accepted into the program.

"Through cooperative efforts like the SAFE initiative, farmers and ranchers can play a key role in protecting wildlife that may be threatened or endangered," said Goertz. "These additional 'SAFE acres' will provide new opportunities for state and regional agencies, non-profit organizations, farm groups and other conservation partners to work with farmers and ranchers to restore wildlife habitats and conserve rare species before they have to be listed under the Endangered Species Act."

Gary Butler, terrestrial habitat supervisor for the WY Game and Fish said, "Private land provides important habitat for Wyoming's wildlife. We look forward to working with the landowners in northeast WY and our FSA and NRCS partners to make this program a success."

"The SAFE program will help sage grouse and many other species of wildlife that rely upon mixed sagebrush and grassland communities in northeastern WY" according to Erika Peckham, Gillette WY Game and Fish habitat extension biologist who was instrumental in helping develop the program.

SAFE is a voluntary program administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Due to the program's popularity, FSA received enrollment requests beyond the number of available acres nationally. To date, USDA has approved 89 SAFE projects in 34 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. There are 384,942 acres enrolled in SAFE. SAFE is a cooperative conservation effort that helps state and regional agencies, non-profit organizations, farm groups and other conservation partner's work with farmers and ranchers to restore wildlife habitats. Landowners who are interested in enrolling land in SAFE should visit their local FSA service center.

Under the Conservation Reserve Program, farmers and ranchers enroll eligible land in 10- to 15-year contracts with

USDA. Participants plant appropriate cover such as grasses and trees in crop fields and along streams to help prevent soil and nutrients from running into waterways and affecting water quality. The long-term vegetative cover also improves wildlife habitat and soil quality.

DCP Signup Deadline

Signup for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program continues until **June 1, 2011**. Contracts will be mailed out. Please complete them and return to our office by June 1st. Or, stop by the office to complete your 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 Option to the DCP Program

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 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.

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Fact sheets for FSA programs can be found at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>; click on **Newsroom**, then **Fact Sheets**.

Important Dates:

March 15...Deadline to Purchase Crop Insurance (Contact an agent)	March 18...SAFE Signup Deadline
March 31...Deadline to File small grain LDPs	April 1...Deadline to Purchase 2011 NAP on Spring Planted Crops
April 15...Regular CRP Signup Deadline	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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