



TOWER OUTLOOK

APRIL 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

Mike Idler, CED
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County Committee:

Mervin Peterson
Larry Fowlkes
Ross Garman
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Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have incurred livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality up through October 1, 2011.

Losses of livestock due to adverse weather must be reported on form CCC-914 to the administrative FSA county office the earlier of: 1/ 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent, 2/ By September 30, 2011. Then, a Notice of Loss filed must be finalized by completing an "Application for Payment" (part 2 of form CCC-914) no later than January 30, 2012.

Applications for livestock losses require documentation of:

- a/ Beginning and ending inventory – which include verifiable records such as bank loan documents, vet records, shipping documents, brand inspections, etc...;
- b/ Records showing the date of death for normal death loss – including type of animal and numbers lost for each date of death;
- c/ Records showing the date of death for adverse weather event(s) – including type of animal and numbers lost to each weather event; in limited situations statements from third party persons (those that do not have an interest in the operation) may be used – call for details.
- d/ Records showing the number of livestock in inventory on the date of the adverse weather event.

2011 Acreage Reports

Appointments are scheduled through mid June and appointment postcards will be mailed out two weeks prior to your scheduled date and time. If the appointed time does not work for you please call our office and reschedule.

Reports must be filed on all crops in all counties where you have an interest in crop/range land.

Please ensure that your crop reports are accurate when you sign them. Inaccurate reports can lead to program ineligibility.

The crop report filing deadline is July 1st.

2010 Crop Production

Production reports for 2010 crops should be reported by July 1, 2011. This deadline is vital for producers participating in the NAP program. 2010 production records not submitted by this date will receive a "zero" yield when computing the 2011 NAP APH (Actual Production Yield) report. A "zero" yield in the APH report can have devastating results on a NAP crop loss payment.

If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your APH yield.

Records submitted must be reliable and verifiable and need to show crop disposition. It is recommended that production records be submitted as soon as possible after harvest.

SURE Signup

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) began Jan. 10, 2011. The signup goes through July 29, 2011. Please call for an appointment. SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties that have incurred crop production losses and/or crop quality losses during the crop year.
- Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of



(SURE Signup continued from page 1)

disaster-related conditions is 50 percent or less than the normal production of the farm.

At a minimum, to be eligible for the SURE Program, the producer must have purchased or be enrolled in the following for the 2009 crop year (This is called the Risk Management Purchase Requirement or RMPR):

- A plan of crop insurance of at least catastrophic (CAT) level for all insurable crops on all farms.

- And/or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for all non-insurable crops on all farms.

Note: RMA crop Insurance or NAP coverage on grazing land does not have to be purchased in order to be eligible for SURE. SURE does not pay for losses on crops intended for grazing.

RMPR means that eligible producers must carry crop insurance on all insurable crops at at least the CAT level of coverage and, have NAP coverage on all non-insurable crops. Coverage must be obtained on all crops in all counties where producer has an interest in crops.

Authorized waivers for RMPR are:

- *De Minimus Waiver*

Applies to crops that are not “economically significant”. Economically Significant means any crop that contributed, or is expected to contribute, 5 percent or more of the total expected value of all crops grown by the producer. Crops that add less than 5 percent of the total revenue will meet the waiver requirement.

- *Equitable Relief Waiver*

The program provides for special consideration to provide equitable relief in 2009 to eligible producers who failed to meet 2009 RMPR for SURE. The Wyoming State Committee with a recommendation from the County Committee may grant relief of the RMPR where the:

a/ Producer who met all other SURE requirements, including filing a timely application, inadvertently did not obtain NAP or insurance coverage for a crop (*Producers will be required to submit evidence supporting a conclusion that failure to obtain coverage was inadvertent or accidental.*), and,

b/ State Committee finds that the producer acted in good faith and did not intentionally fail to obtain NAP coverage or insurance, as may be applicable.

If equitable relief is granted the producer will be required to pay the “buy-in” fee in an amount of \$250 per crop to cover an administrative fee and will be determined eligible for SURE payments.

- *SDA / LR / BF*

Producers who are determined Socially Disadvantaged (SDA), Limited Resource (LR), or a Beginning Farmer (BF) are not required to meet the RMPR.

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.

Hispanic and/or Women Farmers and Ranchers Notice to:

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

To register your name to receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit: www.farmerclaims.gov

The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility claims process

Public Access to FSA Aerial Imagery

The public can use FSA Aerial Imagery (also referred to as NAIP) to search for land by legal description (also known as

PLSS). The latest NAIP imagery was taken in 2009. To find coverage by PLSS go to <http://gis.apfo.usda.gov/naipcoverage/> . Once in the website: 1/ Click the **find PLSS** button in the toolbar. Select the state and enter a township and range in the following format: 55N 63W, N means North and W means West. Do not include the section number. Crook County Townships range from 49 N to 58 N and the Ranges go from 60 W to 68 W. 2/ When the township and range appears in the **Results** box, right click on the township and range description and select **Zoom to**. The township you searched for is shown in the map. 3/ At this point, the numbered sections can be seen by expanding the **Land Management** layer in the **Map Contents** box and checking both the **Land Management** and **PLSS** layers. The user will have to zoom in to see the sections appear.

FSA Website:

FSA has a host of information available to producers on the web. To view general information about FSA go to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>. To find specific State information click on **State Offices** in the top horizontal menu bar. Click on state of interest and the States home page is then displayed. From there a variety of tool bars are available to search for program information, newsletters, links to other USDA agencies, etc...

Payment Eligibility

Actively Engaged Determinations:

USDA has amended the requirements of being '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). 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 a regular basis, must be identifiable, and separate from the contributions of others.

Adjusted Gross Income:

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

This is to ensure 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 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 FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainervlet>.

Prevented from Planting Crops / Failed Acreage

"Prevented Planting" is the inability to plant the intended crop acreage with proper equipment by the final planting date because of natural disaster.

To be considered timely, producers who request prevented planting acreage credit must report the "prevented" acreage on the FSA-578 crop report and complete CCC-576 Part B within 15 days after the final planting date.

The final planting dates for NAP crops are: 5/15 – Soybeans; 5/20 - Barley hay, Peas (Garbanzo, Chick) for hay; 5/31 – HRS Wheat hay, Oat hay, Millet hay, Corn forage, Sorghum hay, Rye hay and Triticale hay.

The final planting dates for Crop Insurance crops are:

5/20 – Barley grain, Oats grain, HRS Wheat grain.

5/31 – Corn forage (silage).

Many crop insurance policies have "prevented planting" clauses in them that require you to file prevented planting reports on our FSA-578 crop report form. To avoid multiple trips to this office to take care of this issue with your insurance policy you should contact your insurance agent prior to filing FSA-578 with our office.

"Failed Acreage" must be reported as failed before the disposition of the crop, and the acreage must have been planted under normal conditions but failed as the result of a natural disaster and not a management decision.

For insured crops, acreage must be reported as "failed" acreage before the final crop reporting date of July 1st and you must provide FSA with crop insurance data to support the "failed" report.

Conservation Compliance

All participants in USDA programs are required to have a conservation system in place on all the highly erodible land (HEL) that they operate. Signed Conservation Plans are in place for each farm or tract and only allow certain changes to the original plan. Several areas where problems arise with complying with a conservation system/plan are; renting new cropland, purchasing new land, breaking out additional cropland, planting different crops not included in the original signed plan, expanding field strips and changing or removing existing conservation practices.

(Conservation Compliance continued from page 3)

It is very important that you contact the FSA and NRCS office before doing any of the above. Plans may need to be modified before any changes are made to stay in compliance and earn farm program benefits. Also, it is very important that you contact our office before modifying - tiling, draining, dredging, filling, or leveling - any wetland or drainage ditch. Failure to obtain advance approval by modifying the conservation plan for any of these situations can result in loss of all Federal payments and eligibility.

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

Important Dates:

April 15...Regular CRP Signup Deadline	May 30...Memorial Day Holiday-Office Closed
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 2011 LDP Page 1 "Request to Participate" - Before Losing Beneficial Interest	
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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