



2011 DCP Final Payments



TOWER OUTLOOK

OCTOBER 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.

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

County Committee:
Mervin Peterson
Larry Fowlkes
Ross Garman
Roxie Dacar

Committee Meetings:
11:00 a.m. as follows:
December 12th
If you wish to attend a committee meeting you should check with our office first, as a meeting date is subject to change for unforeseen reasons.
Meetings are open to the public for items that are available to the public.

DCP payments for 2011 participants will be issued after Oct. 1, 2011. These payments will be deposited directly into participating producers' personal bank accounts.

If there are any unearned payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the October Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program payments.

2012 DCP Sign-Up

Enrollment for the 2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) will begin Jan 23, 2012 and will continue through June 1, 2012. Producers can make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or they can visit the FSA office to complete their 2012 DCP contract. Advanced payments are not authorized for 2012 DCP.

Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices.

County Committee Elections

Watch your mailbox for the official county office committee election ballot starting early in November. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters starting Nov. 4, 2011. The committee seat for area 2 (middle third of the county) is up for re-election.

Completed and signed ballots are due, (delivered or postmarked) back in the county office by the close of business on Dec. 5, 2011.

NAP (Non-Insured Assistance Program)

December 1, 2011 is the deadline to purchase a NAP policy for crops to be harvested in 2012. This deadline applies to

HRW Winter Wheat for forage (hay) or grazing (if winterkill coverage is desired); All Perennials for forage or grazing including: Mixed Grass or Single Variety Grasses; Sanfoin; Clover; Sudan Grass. Alfalfa or Alfalfa/Grass mix for grazing; Grass Varieties for Seed; Honey

April 1, 2012 is the deadline to purchase a NAP policy on spring planted crops for forage or grazing; such as HRS Spring Wheat – which includes HRW Winter Wheat (if winterkill coverage is not desired), Barley, Beans, Corn, Millet, Oats, Peas, Rye, Sorghum, Soybeans, Triticale, etc.,

Crop coverage begins, for annual crops, the later of either of the following: 30 calendar days after the date CCC-471 (Application for Coverage) is filed; or the date the crop is planted, not to exceed the final planting date; for Perennial crops and Honey, it begins 30 days after Dec. 1st (application closing date); .

Some folks plant winter wheat for grain; insure it with crop insurance, and then buy a NAP policy for a spring crop, such as oats, with the intention of planting the winter wheat ground to oats in the event the winter wheat crop fails. This is acceptable under the NAP program as long as the initial crop (winter wheat) failed after the final planting date for winter wheat but before the final planting date of the subsequent crop (oats). In this event, there is potential that both crops earn an indemnity payment.

Any crop covered by a NAP policy that suffers a production loss this year can be eligible for loss benefits. A Notice of Loss must be filed on form CCC-576. To be considered "timely" the notice of loss must be filed the earlier of: 1/ 15calendar days after damaging weather or disaster occurrence or date damage to the crop is apparent; 2/ 15 calendar days after the normal harvest date.

The notice of loss must be filed with the FSA county office that maintains the farm records for the specific crop. Appraisals must

(NAP continued from page 1)

be performed on any crop acreage that will be destroyed or otherwise disposed of without benefit of mechanical harvesting (chemical spraying, farming up acreage, grazing, etc.). Production must be reported for any acres of the crop harvested for hay.

Adjusted Gross Income Report to IRS

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) verification consent form (CCC-927 or CCC-928) must be submitted to the IRS as soon as possible in order to maintain eligibility for 2009 and 2010 program benefits.

The consent form authorizes IRS to verify for FSA whether a payment recipient's AGI meets the eligibility requirements for FSA programs.

Producers who fail to file these forms before Sept. 2011 will receive a notice from the National Office stating that the producer is ineligible for 2009 and/or 2010 payments.

IRS requires written consent from all individuals or legal entities before verification of the average AGI can be provided to USDA.

Acreage Spot Check Determinations and Notification

Each year the Farm Service Agency completes spot checks of acreage reports. Acreage reports are an integral part of farm program participation. Acreage spot checks are completed to ensure accurate acreage reports are used in farm program computations.

FSA will conduct spot checks on a selected number of farms in each state. All acreage determinations will be completed using the FSA Geographic Information System official acreages.

After farms are spot checked, a Notice of Determined Acreage will be sent to the farm operator. Producer notifications will be issued by FSA as spot checks are completed. Questions concerning determined acres should be directed to your local FSA office for further explanation.

Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- United States citizenship (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements

- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
Inability to obtain a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan and provide adequate supervision.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises with financing through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Farm Loan Program Limits

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 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 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 have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000 starting on Oct. 1, 2011.

The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans has increased from 1 percent to 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan, for loans obligated after Oct. 1, 2011.

Actively Engaged

FSA wants to remind producers about 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.

(Actively Engaged continued from page 2) 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.

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 don't exceed \$40,000

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

eNewsletters and eUpdates from FSA – watch for more news!

Last month we talked about a new option for our farmers and ranchers to receive this newsletter and other news, information, deadlines and bulletins

This new tool is called “GovDelivery” and is now available from the USDA / FSA. Just open the FSA home page at www.fsa.usda.gov and click on the E-MAIL UPDATES icon where you can select your subscriptions. To receive this information via E-mail you must provide your email address to the local county office where it will be added to FSA's name and address database.

Livestock Indemnity Program

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 or; 2/ By December 29, 2011. The “filed” Notice of Loss must be finalized by completing an “Application for Payment” (part 2 of form CCC-914) no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss of livestock occurred. (For 2011 losses this means by January 30, 2012).

Applications for livestock losses require the following:

Verifiable documentation of beginning and ending inventory; Records showing normal death loss – including type of animal and numbers lost for each date of death;

Records showing the date of death for adverse weather event(s) – including type of animal and numbers lost to each weather event; And, in limited situations, statements from third party persons (those that do not have an interest in the operation) may be used; and records showing the number of livestock in inventory on the date of the adverse weather event.

Hispanic and Women Farmers

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established.

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.

For additional information contact:

- **Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process:** www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429. **Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation:** www.blackfarmercase.com or call 1-866-950-5547. **Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement:** www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506.

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 people or clothing.

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. Ensure everyone is visibly clear and accounted for before machinery is engaged.

FSA wants all farmers to have a productive crop year, and that begins with putting safety first.

Crook County FSA Office
PO Box 1070
Sundance, WY 82729



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

Important Dates:

Within 15 days: File NAP Notice Of Loss (from disaster occurrence, when loss is apparent, or from harvest date – see specifics as listed in above article)

Timely...File Notice of Loss on Livestock Deaths from Adverse Weather events (see specifics as listed in above article)

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