

# Farm Service Agency

508 N. Broadway Ave., Riverton, WY, (307) 856-7524



November 2008

## OFFICE STAFF

Annie Warren – County Executive Director  
Brian Harrell – Farm Loan Manager  
Cheyenne Magnan – Farm Loan Officer  
Mary Lou Wickstrom – Program Technician  
Carol Zogata – Program Technician

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## DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (DAP)

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Act), Pub. L. 110-246, was enacted June 18, 2008. The 2008 Act created several new disaster programs under the title, "Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance".

To be eligible for the SURE crop disaster program, producers **must** purchase at least CAT level of crop insurance for **all** insurable crops and NAP coverage for **all** non-insurable crops.

\*Change from previous newsletter information: Crops (including pasture grass) intended to be grazed are not required to be covered by crop insurance or NAP in order for regular crops harvested for grain or hay to be eligible for the SURE crop disaster program.\* Only those crops intended to be harvested as grain or hay must be covered by crop insurance or NAP – this includes all interest in crops in all counties nationwide. \* Another change announced is a crop, determined and certified by the applicant in writing; to not be of "economic significance" (which means the crop does not contribute at least 10 percent to the total farm revenue) is exempt from the crop insurance or NAP purchase requirements.

\*LFP livestock forage program: eligible acres of crops intended for grazing, i.e. pasture grass, are those covered by either: 1/ Crop insurance under the PRF-VI policy – which coverage is obtained by the "grid" method, or 2/ By purchasing a NAP policy with FSA which covers all of the acreage for the crop in the applicants "unit" – which is basically all of the acres of the crop in the county for all farms.

\*Change in policy - If a producer's pasture grass is located in three crop insurance "grids" and they purchase a PRF policy on one grid only, they cannot obtain a NAP policy to cover the land in the other two grids. Thus, eligible acres for the LFP program will be the acres located in the PRF grid. Likewise, if they purchase NAP they cannot purchase crop insurance PRF. Thus, eligible acres for the LFP program will be all of the acres in the producers NAP unit. Bottom line – if a producer has a crop insurance grazing policy, regardless of number of acres insured they cannot purchase a NAP grazing crop policy and vice-versa.

The above changes for the SURE and LFP programs are important because of the confusion related to the crop insurance or NAP purchase requirements as originally announced by FSA and by crop insurance agents. With the fast approaching crop insurance and NAP policy purchase deadlines producers should keep the above changes in mind when buying a policy. Remember – crop insurance and NAP, for all grain and all forage (hay) crops, are only required if a producer wants to be eligible to participate in the SURE crop disaster program. Keep in mind that if the "eligibility to participate" clause is met it does not guarantee a crop loss payment. There are additional loss requirements that must be met before a payment is triggered. Also, if a producer wants to be eligible to participate in the LFP program they must purchase either crop insurance – by grids, or purchase NAP. Eligible LFP acres with crop insurance are those "grid" acres. Eligible LFP acres with a NAP policy are those included in the NAP unit. Again, a payment is triggered when certain loss thresholds have been met.

Watch for more detailed information about these and other farm bill disaster programs in future newsletters.

## ADDITIONAL FARM BILL PROGRAMS

A few more disaster programs are provided for in the 2008 farm bill. Direct / Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) will be back as well as a new crop base payment program called ACRE. DCP will be administered like it has been in the past and will have "direct" payments and "counter-cyclical (CC) payments when the market triggers are met. ACRE provides for direct payments like DCP but instead of CC payments a producer will receive a payment based on the number of acres planted of a contract crop. More detailed information will be coming out in the near future.

Other items of importance in the new farm bill are a restructuring of the Person and Payment Limitation program with a host of other eligibility and program items being redesigned – some with major changes.

We may hold town meetings to explain the new programs and provisions. Watch for further information in future newsletters.



### COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

FSA's county committee system is very important to the administration of FSA programs to this country's farmers and ranchers. Ballots for the upcoming elections will be mailed in November. Please take the time to actively participate in the election process and return the ballots by December 1<sup>st</sup>. The ballots will be counted at the Riverton Service Center on December 4<sup>th</sup>. The election this year is for Local Administrative Area number 2 which encompasses all areas around Riverton excluding the Wind River Indian Reservation. If you live in this area and do not get a ballot by November 24<sup>th</sup> and would like to vote please let our office know.

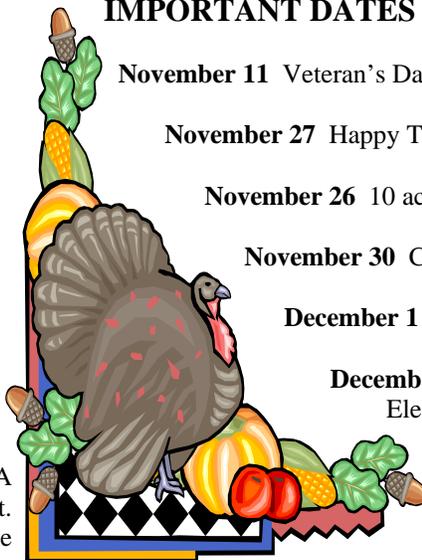
### FORT WASHAKIE OFFICE DAYS

You don't have to come to us, we'll come to you. The FSA program and loan staff is now offering business hours in Ft. Washakie. Appointments are encouraged, so that we can provide necessary forms and/or staff, but you are also welcome to just stop by and we will try to answer any of your questions. Office days will usually be held the first Wednesday of every month, from 1pm to 3pm, at the NRCS trailer next to the WIC building. Our next office day is **December 3<sup>rd</sup>**; we look forward to seeing you!

### NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

**December 1, 2008** is the application deadline for the Non-Insurable Assistance Program for forage (hay) crops, fall seeded grain crops that are intended to be harvested for hay, and grazing land. This deadline also includes Spring Wheat since Wheat is considered one crop (winter and spring) the earliest application deadline (December 1st) thus applies. The application service fee for NAP is \$250.00 per crop per county, with a county maximum of \$750.00. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1,875.00 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties. **NOTE:** Producers must cover all crops in all counties where they have an interest to qualify for the new crop disaster program.

### IMPORTANT DATES



**November 11** Veteran's Day – Office Closed

**November 27** Happy Thanksgiving – Office Closed

**November 26** 10 acres or less DCP deadline

**November 30** Crop Insurance policy deadline

**December 1** NAP deadline

**December 1** Deadline for returning Election Ballots

**December 8** Election Ballots to be counted

### CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CCRP)

Although the Secretary of Agriculture has determined there will not be a general CRP sign-up in the near future, the continuous CRP program is still an option. The Continuous CRP is designed for environmentally desirable land devoted to certain eligible practices. For additional information contact our office.

### DIRECT AND COUNTER CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP)

The 2008 DCP program procedure has been updated to extend 2008 sign-up for farms with 10.0 base acres or less. This extension does not include farms with greater than 10.0 base acres that were not initiated by September 30, 2008 and enrolled by October 15, 2008. If you had a 2008 contract for 10.0 acres or less you must complete your application and corresponding eligibility paperwork by **November 26, 2008**.