



Fremont County News

Fremont County
USDA Service Center

Fremont County FSA
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(307)856-2383 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
John P Stoll – Chairman
Charles Murray –
Vice Chairman
Bryan Hamilton - Member

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

DCP Signup Continues

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program continues until June 1, 2009. The June 1, 2009 deadline is mandatory for all participants. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service is available to save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. To find out more visit <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> for on-line registration. You will also need to visit a local USDA Service Center to complete registration and identity verification.

FSA 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 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments later this month. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price. Note that for 2008 cotton crops, advance counter-cyclical payments are being issued now.

Eligible producers for the DCP Program are also eligible to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program or the Counter-cyclical Program. The enrollment period for the ACRE Program will begin in the spring. You may first enroll in the DCP Program, receive advance direct payments and then later modify your enrollment to the ACRE program or you may wait and elect to enroll in DCP and ACRE at the same time in spring 2009.

Crop Disaster Program Signup Deadline – February 27

The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Crop Disaster Program (CDP) signup period for years 2005-2007, will end July 1, 2009.

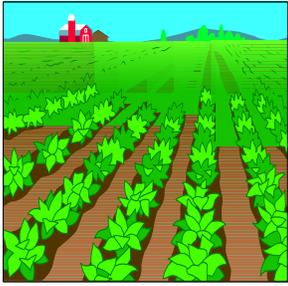
The ending date of July 1 applies to the receipt of a signed and completed FSA-840 application along with all supporting documentation and required forms at the applicable county FSA office. Sign-up information and required forms are available at each county FSA office. Late filed applications will not be approved after the July 1 deadline.

For further questions about CDP and the sign-up deadline, producers may contact their county FSA office or visit FSA's website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Kansas City Mails 1099-G

During the last week of January, producers who have received payments from FSA should have also received a CCC-1099-G from the Kansas City office. A CCC-1099-G is a report to the Internal Revenue Service about FSA payments made to you during the previous calendar year. The CCC-1099-G is a service to help participating producers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the program participant's responsibility to report income to the IRS.

If you received a CCC-1099-G, we recommend that you check the amounts shown with those in your records to see that the amounts are correct. Refunds will no longer be reported on the 1099-G, but will be available online from the FSA Financial Inquiries (FSA-FI) web-based database. Program participants with eAuthentication user ID's and passwords can 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.



Payment Limits and Direct Attribution

For commodity and disaster programs under the new farm bill, the AGI limitation was reduced from \$2.5 million from all sources to a three-year average non-farm AGI of \$500,000 such that a person or entity shall not be eligible for such programs if the non-farm AGI exceeds \$500,000. Also, under the new regulations, an individual or entity must have a 3-year average AGI less than or equal to \$750,000 per year from farm income in order to qualify for direct payments issued under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

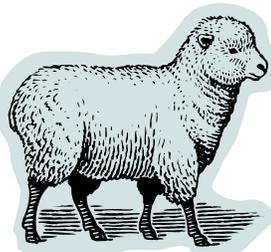
For conservation programs, the average nonfarm AGI limitation is \$1 million or less for eligibility. However, an individual or entity who has non-farm AGI in excess of \$1 million remains eligible for conservation programs only if 66.66 percent or more of the total AGI is derived from farming, ranching and forestry operations. In addition, the AGI limitation for conservation programs may be waived on a case-by-case basis if it is determined that environmentally sensitive land of special significance would be protected.

Program payments are limited by direct attribution to individuals or entities. A legal entity is defined as an entity created under Federal or State law that owns land or an agricultural commodity, product or livestock. Through direct attribution, payment limitation is based on the total payments received by the individual, both directly and indirectly. Qualifying spouses are eligible to be considered separate persons for payment limitation purposes, rather than being automatically combined under one limitation.

Individuals and entities must be "actively engaged in farming" with respect to a farming operation in order to be eligible for specified payments and benefits. To be "actively engaged in farming," the individual or entity must make significant contributions to the farming operation of: (1) capital, equipment, land, or a combination; and (2) personal labor or active personal management, or a combination. For more detailed information contact your local FSA office.

Lamb Referendum

A nationwide referendum allowing lamb producers, feeders, and first handlers to vote in a nationwide referendum on whether to continue or terminate the Lamb Promotion, Research, and Information Order, authorized under the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996 will be held February 2 - 27, 2009.



To be eligible to vote, persons must certify and provide documentation, such as a sales receipt or remittance form, which shows they have been engaged in the production, feeding, or slaughtering of lambs during the period, Jan. 1, 2008, through Dec. 31, 2008.

Beginning February 2 and continuing through February 27, the Wisconsin Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices will conduct the referendum. Eligible voters should obtain form LS-86 from a county FSA office either in person, by mail, fax, or via the Internet at:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsmarketingprograms>.

Persons must vote in the referendum at the County FSA office where their administrative farm records are maintained. For eligible voters not participating in FSA programs, voting opportunities will be provided at the county FSA office where the person owns or rents land.

Form LS-86 and supporting documentation must be returned in person, by mail, or by fax to the appropriate county FSA office. The form and documentation returned in person or by fax must be received in the appropriate county office prior to the close of business on Feb. 27, 2009. Mailed forms and documentation must be postmarked no later than midnight on Feb. 27, 2009, and received in the county FSA office by March 6, 2009.

Farm Loan Programs - FSA is "Lender of First Opportunity"

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Currently guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,094,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.



FSA Farm Loans For Beginning Farmers or Ranchers

Beginning farmers or ranchers may obtain a farm ownership loan by using funds set aside especially for them by the Farm Service Agency. These loans can be finance up to the \$300,000 loan limit, and the term of the loan can be up to 40 years.

The interest rate is set the first of each month, and is currently 3.75%. The rate for “limited resource producers” is 5.00%.

Farm ownership loan funds may also be used in joint financing where FSA lends up to 50 percent of the amount financed and another lender provides 50 percent or more. FSA may charge an interest rate of not less than 4 percent with terms up to 40 years.

Farm Ownership Program - Down Payment

Purpose: To finance a down payment up to 45 percent of the purchase price of a farm. The Farm Service Agency financing cannot exceed 45 percent of the lesser of: the purchase price of the farm, the appraised value of the farm, or \$500,000. The applicant must put down 5 percent. The remainder of the purchase price can be financed on contract with the seller or a loan through a conventional lender. The lender can obtain a guarantee from FSA if the customer is eligible.

Rates: The FSA loan rate will have a term of 20 years, and currently the interest rate is 1.5 percent. Other financing must be amortized over 30 years with the interest rate negotiated by the farmer and the lender.

Qualification: Applicants must either meet the definition of a “beginning farmer” or a “socially disadvantaged applicant”. Beginning farmer applicants must have three years of farm experience, must have farmed for less than 10 years, and cannot own real estate that exceeds 30 percent of the median farm acreage for the county. Socially disadvantaged applicants include women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

Youth Loans Help Start Ups

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:

Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien

Be 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; be unable to get 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, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms. The FSA staff can help you with questions you may have about a particular program.

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.



Selected Interest Rates for February 2009	
Farm Operating - Direct	2.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.75%
Limited Resource - Farm Operating	5.00%
Limited Resource - Farm Ownership	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility	1.875%

Dates to Remember	
Feb. 16	Washington's Birthday – Office Closed
Feb. 27	Lamb Referendum Deadline
Feb. 27	Crop Disaster Deadline
Feb. 31	Small grain, honey, some oilseeds – Commodity Loan & LDP Final Report Date



Washington

Visit our Web site at
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

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