



# Fremont County News

Fremont County  
USDA Service Center

Fremont County FSA  
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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

## NEWSLETTER BENEFITS

We hear from producers from time to time that they weren't aware of the program or provisions – sometimes months after it has been announced in our newsletters. The newsletter is for you benefit. Please, take the extra time to help us help you; moreover, see what programs you might be eligible for by reading our newsletter.

## LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM (LIP)

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from disaster. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for live-stock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold. Eligible losses must be reported to the County Office within 30 days of the loss.

Keep good records. We will need to verify your beginning and ending inventory, the cause of loss (weather records), and the date of loss. You will need reliable records, for example veterinarian bills, branding records, preg check records, sales slips, date stamped photographs, personal calendars/records. We do allow third party verification, relatives and employees are excluded.



## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to Chuck Murray who was re-elected to represent farmers from Wind River Indian Reservation on the county committee.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.



## 2010 NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occurred when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of crops that are not covered by crop insurance. The most applicable crops here in Fremont County include but are not limited to pasture/rangeland, grass hay, and alfalfa seed. **\*\*NAP will insure honey bees in Fremont County.** The application deadline for all 2010 NAP crops has been extended/changed to **April 1, 2010**.

The current service fee is \$250 per crop per county with a maximum of \$750 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1875 per producer for individuals with farming interests in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver for service fees.

To qualify, a producer must share in the risk of producing an eligible crop.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following: Timely file acreage reports; file a Notice of Loss within 15 days of apparent loss; report harvested production, weight ticket, bale counts, etc.; report change of ownership, operation, or share

When loss has occurred, please contact our office prior to harvesting or grazing.

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. We recommend producers submit 2009 production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All 2009 production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.**

**\*\*IMPORTANT NOTE\*\*** If you had 2009 NAP coverage and suffered from grasshopper infestation, those losses are eligible in Wyoming and late filed Notice of Loss applications will be accepted for the County Committee to review.

**CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE**

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

**ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME**

USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish 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 IRS review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to USDA.

The agreement ensures 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 average 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 local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet>.

**SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS**

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.



**2010 DCP SIGNUP**

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2010. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2010 DCP 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 2010, eligible producers may request advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment.

Payments are based on planted or prevented planted acres of commodity crops. In order to receive a payment for the crop, there must be both a stat and farm 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 assistance 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.

\*\*Producers must protect land enrolled in DCP from weeds, including noxious weeds, and erosion, including providing sufficient cover.

**ACRE**

The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net based on revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. The June 1, 2010, 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. For 2010, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2008 and 2009 crop years.

**APPEAL PROCESS**

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree.

Generally, program participants have three choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

**1099-G: NOTE CHANGES**

Producers who have received payments in 2009 from FSA should have received a CCC-1099-G. A CCC-1099-G is a report to the Internal Revenue Service about FSA payments made to producers during the previous calendar year. The CCC-1099-G is to help participating producers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the program participant’s responsibility to report income to the IRS.

When the CCC-1099-G is received, it should be checked with 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 an eAuthentication user ID and password may 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.

**CUSTOMER STATEMENT**

January signals the beginning of a new year, and a time to starting thinking about filing taxes. Producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement.

The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that’s at your fingertips and available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**FOREIGN BUYERS NOTIFICATION**

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

**SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS PROGRAM (SURE)**

Signup for SURE Program for 2008 crop losses began January 4, 2010. Please call for an appointment.

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 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 2008 crop year: 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.

<b>Selected Interest Rates for November 2009</b>	
Farm Operating - Direct	3.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.125%
Limited Resource - Farm Operating	5.00%
Limited Resource - Farm Ownership	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Farm Storage Facility	3.25%

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
March 15	Federal Crop Insurance Deadline
March 31	Loan/LDP Deadline for Small Grain
April 1	Application Deadline for all NAP Crops
May 31	Loan/LDP Deadline for Feed Grains
June 1	DCP Signup Deadline
July 1	Crop Reporting Deadline

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

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