



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



2010 DCP FINAL PAYMENTS

Final DCP payments for 2010 participants will be issued sometime after October 8, 2010. Producers who received an advance payment will be paid the balance they are due. Those who did not take an advance will be receiving their full payment amount. These payments will be deposited directly into personal bank accounts. Please let us know if you do not receive your payment by October 31st.

If there are any unearned payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the final Direct and Counter-cyclical Program payments you are about to receive.

Signup for 2011 DCP begins October 1, 2010.

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM (ECP)



Fremont County did receive a Secretary of Agriculture Flood Disaster Designation. We do not have any new programs yet but will let you know when something new becomes available.

Did you miss the ECP sign up but have losses from the flood in June? The County Committee has the ability to approve late filed applications and we want to help! We cannot do in stream practices, which include but are not limited to stream bank stabilization, riprap, and diversions, but we can help with debris removal, sink holes, fence and more. Come in and see us, if you need help.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Starting early next month, watch your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot. Mailing of ballots to all eligible voters starts on **November 5, 2010**. If, for some reason, you don't receive a ballot, contact the county FSA office to get one. Only those producers who have their primary farming interest in LAA 1 (the northern 1/3 of the county) will receive a ballot.

Completed and signed ballots will be due back in the county office by the close of business on December 6, 2010.

PAPER CHECK CONVERSION (PCC)



Over the next year, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is moving toward an electronic method for processing producers' checks. This will allow FSA/CCC to process collections faster.

When producers present checks, either in person or through the mail, the checks will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt. Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information:

<https://www.pccotc.gov/pccotc/pcc/usingpcc/Legal%20Notices/legalnotices.htm>,

LIVESTOCK FORAGE PROGRAM (LFP)

Fremont County has been determined eligible for 2010 LFP. **If you have a 2010 NAP grazing policy**, come in the County Office with your livestock numbers and support documentation.

This program provides financial assistance to producers who suffer grazing losses due to drought or fire during the calendar year in which the loss occurs. Drought losses must occur during the normal grazing period, as established, and on land that is either native or improved pasture for grazing. Drought signup occurs when the county experiences at least a D2 (severe) drought designation for 8 consecutive weeks according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. (Assistance levels increase with severity of drought designation).

The deadline is **January 29, 2011**.



REVISED NAP CLOSING DATES

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance (from a crop insurance agent). Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

The application deadline date for 2011 NAP coverage for biennial and perennial forage crops, including but not limited to grass hay and pasture/rangeland, regardless of intended use, is **December 1, 2010**. For all other crops (those not biennial or perennial) the application closing date remains the same – April 1, 2011. Call us for details of what crops are covered under the NAP program.

****Remember you must have NAP and/or federal crop insurance to participate in SURE, ELAP, LFP, and many other disaster programs.**

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc. .
- Report hay production.

CHANGE IN 2011 NAP POLICY



A major change in procedure for the 2011 crop year will allow producers to purchase both PRF-VI (pasture, rangeland, forage – vegetative index) and NAP coverage on the same acres with the same intended use. It has been determined that the two insurance policies do not cover the same perils; therefore, producers may purchase both types of coverage. If there were to be disaster conditions, producers could collect indemnity payments from both types of coverage.

To access a free online course about PRF-VI, visit <http://RightRisk.org>, and click on "products."

REPORTING CROP LOSSES FOR NAP

For those of you with a NAP policy for crops or grazing – you are reminded that if you suffer a crop loss, you must complete a notice of loss form with this office no later than 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence or no later than 15 days from the date that damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent. Notice of loss must be provided for each weather-related event, or adverse natural occurrence that causes damage to or loss of the specific crop or commodity. Failure to report crop damage or loss in a timely manner will result in ineligibility for NAP payment. When a loss is sustained an appraisal should be completed by FSA personnel. This appraisal should be done before grazing occurs or before the land is put to another use.



EMERGENCY LIVESTOCK ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ELAP)

Producers of livestock, honey bees and farm-raised fish can apply for benefits under ELAP. Benefits are available for losses that are not covered under disaster programs like SURE, LFP, and LIP. Eligible losses include, but are not limited to, loss of purchased/harvested forage, additional cost incurred for providing or transporting feed to eligible livestock, grazing losses, disease, adverse weather, wolf depredation and wildfires.



Eligibility

- Suffered eligible loss between Jan. 1, 2008 and Oct. 1, 2011 (and in the calendar year that benefit are being requested)
- Obtain crop insurance and/or NAP for all crops on the farm in all counties
- Timely file a notice of loss and application for payment
- Timely file an acreage report for all acres, owned & leased, honey bee colonies and farm raised fish ponds.

Filing Deadlines

2010-2011 losses, file a notice of loss the earlier of 30 days of when the loss is apparent or after the end of the calendar year that the losses occurred and file application for payment no later than January 30 of the calendar year following the year that benefits are being requested.

There are no late file provisions for ELAP. Physical livestock losses must be thoroughly documented. All deaths, including normal mortality losses, should be documented to ensure maximum payment. Normal mortality rates must be met before payment will be earned.

Please contact the County Office for more information if you believe you may qualify for ELAP benefits.



GRASSHOPPER DISASTER

We know most of Fremont County has suffered severe grasshopper damage this 2010 season. We have submitted a request for a Secretary of Agriculture Grasshopper Disaster Designation but have not been approved or disapproved. We will let you know when a determination has been made.

If we do get a designation, program availability is unknown. When and if we do get some assistance, we will let you know both through this newsletter and the local newspapers.

If you had NAP insurance and/or any other type of federal crop insurance please file a Notice of Loss immediately.

CONSERVATION LOAN PROGRAM

The Farm Service Agency makes and guarantees conservation loans on farms and ranches to help conserve our natural resources. The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the credit necessary to implement conservation measures on their land.

The direct CL limit is \$300,000 and the guaranteed CL limit is \$1,119,000. Guaranteed loans are available through lenders working with FSA.

Applicants will work with Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) staff to develop a conservation plan. Conservation practices must be approved by NRCS before FSA can provide financing. Examples of conservation practices include installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; transitioning to organic production; manure management, including manure digestion systems; and more.

FSA FARM LOANS

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. 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.

EMERGENCY LOANS

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine. Fremont County is eligible for flood related Emergency Loans.

Emergency loan funds may be used to: Restore or replace essential property; Pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year; Pay essential family living expenses; Reorganize the farming operation; and Refinance certain debts.

BEGINNING AND LIMITED RESOURCE FARMERS

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more that 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 average size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

LOANS FOR THE SOCIALLY DIS-ADVANTAGED



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 June 2010	
Farm Operating - Direct	2.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.375%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment	1.50%
Beginning Farmer or Rancher	
Farm Storage Facility – 7 yr	2.125%
Farm Storage Facility – 10 yr	2.625%
Farm Storage Facility – 12 yr	2.875%






Dates to Remember	
Nov. 5	COC Election Ballots Mailed
Dec. 1	Deadline to Purchase 2011 NAP
Dec. 6	Ballots Due to County Office
Dec. 9	COC Meeting; Count Ballots
Jan. 29	Livestock Forage Program Deadline

30 days after apparent - Deadline to file livestock losses for (LIP &ELAP)

15 days after apparent – Deadline to file NAP losses on hay and grazing

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

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