



Goshen County FSA Newsletter June 2008

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FSA Home Page
www.fsa.usda.gov

USDA Home Page
www.usda.gov

2005/2006/2007 Disaster Sign-ups Continue

Goshen County FSA is continuing to take applications for 2005/2006/2007:

- Crop Disaster Program (CDP) Quantity losses
- Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

We will begin to take signups for CDP Quality losses in the near future. If you believe that you may qualify for benefits due to crop quality issues, get your production evidence together. We will let you know when this application process begins.

The deadline to apply for LCP has been announced as July 18, 2008.

NAP Reminder

Concerning Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policies, in the event of a crop failure caused by natural disaster, the producer needs to notify the local FSA office by completing a "Notice of Loss" (form CCC-576). The notice of loss must be executed within 15 days of the date the damage became apparent. Failure to timely report the loss could result in loss of benefits.

Acreage Reporting Deadline Nears

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive program benefits.

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. **Producers in Wyoming are reminded that the deadline to timely file 2008 reports is July 1, 2008.**

Continuous CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) allows landowners to voluntarily enroll acreage in to conservation practices that reduces soil erosion, improves water and soil quality, and provides wildlife habitat and food sources. Eligible landowners enter into 10-15 year contracts in return for receiving annual rental, maintenance, incentive, and cost share payments. Signup can take place anytime during the year. For more information on CCRP, contact this office.

Rotational Clipping/Disking

Several CRP contracts contain an annual requirement for clipping or light disking 25-35% of a field on a rotational basis. The Goshen County FSA Committee has set the policy that this practice must be completed by September 30 each year. We will be randomly checking these contracts to verify compliance.

Things to keep in mind concerning this requirement:

- This practice cannot be done between the primary nesting season dates of May 15 – July 15.
- We ask that you inform this office when the practice is done so we can track completion.
- This requirement is on a per field basis, not on a contract basis. If there are multiple fields in a contract, each field stands on its own.

If you have any questions, please contact this office.

2008 COC Election Information

From June 16 through Aug. 1, farmers and ranchers can nominate eligible peers as candidates for election to the Goshen County Farm Service Agency County Committee. This is an important time for Local Administrative Area (LAA) communities, because county committee members make decisions that have significant effects on you and the area's agricultural sector as a whole. For example, committee members make decisions on applications for federal farm program and disaster payments. Committee members play a vital role by helping local farmers and ranchers manage tough financial times and natural disasters. County committee members make many other important decisions that affect local farmers and ranchers, such as whether haying and grazing should be allowed on Conservation Reserve Program land. Talk to a county committee member or the County Executive Director for details on the types of decisions county committee members make. This year's election in Goshen County covers LAA 2, which covers all of Townships 24 & 25.

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet basic eligibility requirements. Contact the county office staff or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections> for details about candidate eligibility. Nomination forms can be obtained at the county office or online at the above web address. Remember, the nomination period runs June 16 through Aug. 1. Voting takes place in the fall. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 3. Dec. 1 is the last day to return voted ballots to the county office. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office Jan. 1, 2009.

Farm Loan Program Information

Farm Service Agency (FSA) has loan programs that could help farmers and ranchers experiencing financial problems in today's economy of tight profit margins. Several types of loan programs are offered through FSA.

Under the Guaranteed Loan program, FSA guarantees farm ownership, term operating loans, and lines of credit used for annual operating through conventional agricultural lenders for guarantees up to 95%. The guarantee generally allows the conventional lender to provide the applicant with longer terms and lower rates of interest. All applicants must meet certain qualifying criteria to be eligible for guarantees. Farmers and ranchers interested in Guaranteed Loans should apply directly with a conventional lender, who arranges for the guarantee.

For those unable to qualify for a Guaranteed Loan, FSA offers Direct Loans, which are made and serviced by FSA officials. Funding is limited for Direct Loans, and applicants must sometimes wait until funds are available. To qualify for a Direct Farm Ownership or Operating Loan, the applicant must meet eligibility criteria and have sufficient repayment ability and loan collateral. FSA will work with you to analyze your situation, provide technical assistance, and tailor loans to meet your needs.

Youth between the ages of 10 and 21 may also apply for a direct loan up to \$5,000 associated with their 4-H, FFA, or other youth organization activities.

Farm Service Agency is an Equal Credit Opportunity Lender. Beginning farmers and members of traditionally underserved gender and ethnic groups are encouraged to apply for guaranteed and/or direct loan assistance from FSA. Each year, farm ownership and operating loan funds are temporarily set-aside to meet the needs of beginning farmers and traditionally underserved groups.

Anyone having questions please call your local Farm Service Agency in Torrington WY at 307-532-4021.

2007 Farm Bill

The new Farm Bill has recently become law. At this time, no details are available. We will keep you informed on programs and signup dates. In the meantime, keep up to date on new details at this website:

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/_s.7_0_A/7_0_1UH?navid=FARM_BILL_FORUMS

USDA ANNOUNCES CRP PERMITTED USE FOR LIVESTOCK FEED NEEDS

Eligible CRP Acres Allowed to Hay and Graze; \$1.2 Billion Forage Made Available

Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer has announced that USDA has authorized certain acreage enrolled under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to be available for hay and forage after the primary nesting season ends for grass-nesting birds.

"This action will provide much needed feed and forage while maintaining the conservation benefits from the nation's premier conservation program," said Schafer. "Eligible farmers and ranchers will be able to plan for harvest of forage after the end of the primary nesting season this summer."

Prices for most field crops have advanced to record or near record levels in recent months, reflecting strong demand, tight supplies and competition for acres. The increased demand for commodities and resulting higher prices has impacted the livestock industry in particular.

More than 24 million acres of land enrolled in CRP will be eligible for this critical feed use program. USDA estimates that this program will make available up to 18 million tons of forage worth \$1.2 billion.

"In authorizing this critical use of CRP acres for forage, USDA is also taking strong measures to preserve CRP's environmental benefits," said Schafer.

Eligible land may not be hayed or grazed until after the end of the primary nesting season (July 15 in Wyoming). Also, some of the eligible land or forage of the land must be reserved for wildlife and any land that is used under this authority must have a conservation plan. In many instances, the removal of some of the grass cover will increase the diversity of the stand and provide long-term benefits for wildlife. Further, the most environmentally-sensitive land enrolled in CRP will not be eligible. The land will be subject to a site inspection to ensure compliance with the conservation plan. No rental payment reduction will be assessed on contracts being utilized for this critical use. However, a \$75 fee will be charged to process the required contract modification.

Signup for interested CRP participants will begin June 2, 2008, at local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices. This modification for critical feed use is only for 2008. All forage use must be completed no later than November 10, 2008.

Under CRP, farmers and ranchers enroll eligible land in 10- to 15-year contracts with USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). FSA administers CRP on behalf of CCC. Participants plant appropriate cover such as grasses and trees in crop fields and along streams. These plantings help prevent soil and nutrients from running into regional waterways and affecting water quality. The long-term vegetative cover also improves wildlife habitat and soil quality.

Additional details including Fact Sheets, Maps and statistics are available on the Web at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation>.

NOTE: Farm Service Agency (FSA) news releases are available on the Web at FSA's home page: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Office Personnel Changes

After more than 20 years of serving the producers of Goshen County in this office, Susan Wilson has recently retired. The County Committee and office staff thank her for her years of dedication and wish her a long and enjoyable retirement.

Erin Sturdivant has been hired in this office as a Program Technician. Erin comes here with an extensive agricultural background. We welcome Erin to our staff and wish her the best of luck.

/s/ Darrell L. Jones-CED

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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