



February 2009

Goshen County News

Goshen County FSA Office
1441 East M St. Suite C
Torrington WY 82240-3521

Phone: (307) 532-4880
FAX: (307) 532-5783

Office Hours:
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee:
Stan Speckner
Larry Mullock
Linda Nichol

County Executive Director:
Darrell Jones
darrell.jones@wy.usda.gov

Farm Loan Manager:
Duane Wisroth
duane.wisroth@wy.usda.gov

Office Staff
Doris Hyatt
Brian McKenna
Todd Smith
Susan Thomas
Erin Sturdivant
Marty Yorges
Jennifer Dutton

FSA Home Page
www.fsa.usda.gov

USDA Home Page
www.usda.gov

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office staff if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

2009 DCP Signup

County FSA Offices have begun signups for the 2009 Direct & Counter Cyclical Program (DCP). How does the 2009 program differ from the 2008 program? Well, basically there are no changes:

- Crop bases are the same as they were in 2008
- Payment yields are the same
- Direct payment rates are the same, including:

Barley	\$0.24/bu.
Corn	\$0.28/bu.
Oats	\$0.024/bu.
Sunflowers	\$0.80/cwt.
Wheat	\$0.52/bu.
- Advance payments of 22% are available starting immediately. Final 2009 payments will be issued in October 2009.

One change from the previous Farm Bill-Farms with 10.0 or less base acres will not be eligible for DCP benefits, with two exceptions:

1. The farm is owned by a member of an identified Socially Disadvantaged group.
2. The farm is owned by a limited resource farmer/rancher.

2009 DCP signup will run through June 1, 2009. By law, applications received after this date will not be valid. For more information, contact your local FSA Office. Otherwise, stop in and get your signup completed.

Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program

Producers who are eligible for the DCP Program will also be eligible to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. The enrollment period for the ACRE Program will begin in the spring. Producers may first enroll in the DCP Program, elect to receive advance direct payments and then later modify their enrollment to include the ACRE program or they may wait and elect to enroll in DCP and ACRE at the same time in Spring 2009.

The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net based on State revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. 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 the 2009 crop, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2007 and 2008 crop years.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the State and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The payment is based on 83.3 percent (85 percent in 2012) of the farm's planted acres times the difference between the State ACRE guarantee and the State revenue times the ratio of the farm's yield divided by the State expected yield. 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 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent.

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.

2008 Payments

Program participants were recently mailed income statements covering 2008 payments. If you have any questions regarding the information contained on the 1099 form, feel free to contact this office for verification.

Farm Loan Program Information

Farm Service Agency (FSA) is the lender of first opportunity. 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 307-532-4880.

Attention All Buyers of Agricultural Products

It is required that buyers of agricultural products check or register with the Secretary of State's Office to determine if there are liens against the seller of the product. If a lien is found you are required to place the lien holder's name on the check as well as that of the seller. Ag products include but are not limited to: Livestock (including horses), crops used for feed (hay, silage, oats, etc.), machinery, equipment, and all other crops. **Failure to place the lien holder's name on the check may result in civil legal action being taken against the buyer of the product. Protect yourself as a buyer!** You may contact the Secretary of State's Office at (307) 777-7311.

Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

April 1, 2009 is the application deadline for NAP for spring seeded crops. The application service fee for NAP for 2009 crops has been increased to \$250.00 per crop per county, not to exceed \$750.00 per county and \$1,875.00 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

The 2008 Farm Bill created several new disaster programs. To be eligible for most of these programs, producers must purchase at least the catastrophic level of crop insurance for all insurable crops and NAP coverage for all non-insurable crops. The new Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) will only be available on those grazing acres covered by crop insurance or NAP. The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program requires crop insurance or NAP coverage on all crops except grazing acres.

Reminder: NAP participants must report their 2008 crop production by July 1, 2009 to establish an actual production history (APH). If production is not reported, a zero yield will be assigned. Please bring your 2008 production evidence with you when you come to the office.

Crop Disaster Program Sign-Up Ends February 27

The sign-up period for the 2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program (CDP) will end February 27, 2009. The ending date of February 27 applies to the receipt of a signed and completed application form 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 February 27 deadline. All application determinations will be made by March 27, 2009. For further information about CDP and the sign-up deadline, contact this office.

USDA Sets Date for Lamb Referendum

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced that it will offer lamb producers, feeders, and first handlers the opportunity 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. The referendum will be held Feb. 2-27, 2009.

The referendum will be conducted at USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices. 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 Feb. 2, 2009, and continuing through Feb. 27, 2009, persons eligible to vote 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 those persons not participating in FSA programs, the opportunity to vote 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. The form and documentation returned by mail must be postmarked no later than midnight on Feb. 27, 2009, and received in the county FSA office by March 6, 2009.

USDA monitors activities of the American Lamb Board. The mandatory program is financed by producers, seedstock producers (breeders), feeders, and exporters who are assessed one-half cent (\$.005) per pound when live ovine animals are sold. The first handler, primarily packers, pays an additional 30 cents per head on ovine animals purchased for slaughter.

Notice of the referendum will be published in the Dec. 16, 2008, Federal Register. Copies of the Final Rule and Notice are available from the Marketing Programs Branch; Livestock and Seed Program, AMS, USDA; STOP 0251 - Room 2628-S; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, D.C. 20250-0251; tel. (202) 720-1115; or via the Internet at www.ams.usda.gov/lsmarketingprograms.

New Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Rules

Beginning with 2009 benefits, AGI limitations are as follows:

IF average adjusted gross...

THEN the person or legal entity is INELIGIBLE for...

nonfarm income exceeds \$500,000

all commodity, price support, and disaster assistance program benefits.
Note: A person or legal entity with average adjusted gross nonfarm income that exceeds \$500,000 is **not** eligible for marketing loan gains and LDP payments. However, the person or entity is eligible for marketing assistance loans, but the loans **must** be repaid at principal plus interest, or commodity certificates may be exchanged for the loan collateral.

farm income exceeds \$750,000

direct payments under DCP.

nonfarm income exceeds \$1 million

all conservation program benefits, **unless** 66.66 percent or more of the average AGI was derived from activities related to farming, ranching, and forestry operations.

Note: AGI provisions in effect before October 1, 2008, continue to apply to existing CRP contracts, ECP agreements, and GRP contracts and easements that were in effect on October 1, 2008.

All applicants of FSA/NRCS benefits will be required to complete AGI forms each year benefits are applied for. This includes individual members of entities (corporations, LLC's, limited partnerships, trusts, estates, etc.).

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 FARM SERVICE AGENCY
 GOSHEN COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE
 1441 EAST M.ST. SUITE C
 TORRINGTON WY 82240

Dates to Remember	
Continuous	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
Continuous	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Feb. 16, 2009	President's Day holiday, office closed
Mar. 31, 2009	Final date to apply for a loan on 2008 wheat/barley/oats
May 31, 2009	Final date to apply for a loan on 2008 corn/sunflowers
June 1, 2009	Final date to apply for 2009 DCP benefits
Feb. 2 – Feb. 27, 2009	Lamb Referendum

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of Discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.