



June 2009

# Goshen County News

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## *DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline*

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until August 14, 2009. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. Signup in the ACRE option is also available through August 14, 2009.

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. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when prices fall below a threshold level.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this on-line service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

## *2009 Compliance*

Compliance and spot checks will once again be utilized during the 2009 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers is used to achieve an adequate statistical sampling of participating producers. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc.

State and county offices shall view and print their producer spot check lists as posted on the designated web site. If an entity is selected from the national database that is no longer farming or participating in the 2009 crop year, a notation shall be made on the spot check list. For more information about the new spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local office.

## *Crop Reporting*

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 benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments. The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The producer certification deadline for all crops in Wyoming is July 1.

### **CRP & NAP Certification**

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.

### **Prevented Planting:**

Prevented planting is to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

### **Failed Acreage:**

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

## ***Sodbusting***

The term "sodbusting" is used to identify the plowing up of erosion-prone grasslands for use as cropland. Sodbuster violations are unauthorized tillage practices on highly erodible lands that converted native vegetation such as rangeland or woodland, to crop production after Dec. 23, 1985. Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs.

Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production.

If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates on a CPA-026 that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage, before bringing land into production.

In addition, producers and the producer's affiliates have to file an AD-1026 with the staff in the administrative or control county office before any farm program payments can be made. The AD-1026 is the producer's signed certification that HELC, as well as wetland conservation, provisions will not be violated.

## ***CRP Contract Extensions***

FSA has recently announced that certain CRP Contracts that are set to expire as of September 30, 2009 will be afforded the opportunity to extend the life of the contract by 3 or 5 years. Nationwide, there are approximately 3.9 million acres of CRP scheduled to expire as of 9/30/2009. A total of about 1.5 million of these acres will be eligible for contract extensions.

CRP participants will soon be notified by letter if they are eligible to extend their contract(s). If eligible, participants must file a request for extension with their local FSA Office. Signup for this action will run from May 18, 2009 through June 30, 2009. All participants on a contract must agree to extend the contract before the request is approved.

Again, this option only applies to contracts that are set to expire 9/30/2009. For more information, 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.

## ***Continuous CRP***

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) allows landowners to voluntarily enroll acreage into 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.

## ***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.

## ***County Committee Elections “FSA Counts on You”***

Since COC elections happen only once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into *local administrative areas*, or LAAs. Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee.

Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. In counties with three LAAs, one seat is up for election. In combined counties in some years, two seats may be up for election.

### ***Nominations***

Candidate nominations for the FSA county committee election will be accepted June 15 through Aug. 3, 2009.

Producers who are residents in the LAA holding the election and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates.

The nomination form, FSA-669A, is available at the county office or may be downloaded from <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected. The completed nomination form must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Aug. 3, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 3, 2009.

### ***Voting***

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 6, and must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Dec. 7, or postmarked by midnight Dec. 7, 2009.

Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote.

No one can be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

### ***Candidate Eligibility***

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate
- Not have been:
  - Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
  - Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
  - Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

For additional clarification about county committee elections, contact your local county office staff.

## ***DCP/ACRE Erosion and Cover Requirements***

If a farm has non-planted cropland that supports DCP base acres, those fields must be protected from wind and water erosion and weed control measures may have to be implemented to assure program compliance.

If erosion problems exist, the County Committee has the authorization to require treatments such as planting a cover crop or emergency tillage.

***Weed control on these acres is required to prevent the propagation of weeds. Control measures must be implemented timely to achieve the most effective control of weed growth.***

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

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
Continuous	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
Continuous	Farm Storage Facility Loans
July 1, 2009	Final date to timely file 2009 acreage report
July 1, 2009	Final date to timely submit 2008 production for NAP APH purposes
July 3, 2009	Office closed for July 4 Holiday
Aug. 14, 2009	Final date to apply for 2009 DCP/ACRE benefits
Jan. 31, 2010	Deadline to apply for 2009 Wool LDP or loan

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