



January 2010

# 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](mailto:darrell.jones@wy.usda.gov)

Farm Loan Manager:  
Duane Wisroth  
[duane.wisroth@wy.usda.gov](mailto:duane.wisroth@wy.usda.gov)

Office Staff  
Doris Hyatt  
Brian McKenna  
Todd Smith  
Susan Thomas  
Erin Sturdivant  
Marty Yorges  
Kyle Kilty

FSA Home Page  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

USDA Home Page  
[www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)

## *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/ACRE Signup*

Signup for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program continues until June 1, 2009. The June 1, 2010 deadline is mandatory for all participants. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.

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 2010, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments in the month designated by the applicant, assuming all required documentation is filed. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

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.

Producers eligible for the DCP Program are also able to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program or the Counter-cyclical Program. The enrollment period for the ACRE Program corresponds with the DCP deadlines. For more information on ACRE, contact your local FSA Office.

## *NAP Application Deadline*

The deadline to signup for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program on all crops in Wyoming is now **April 1, 2010**. This includes perennials and fall-seeded crops. Producers are reminded about the need for insurance coverage on crops in order to remain eligible for the agency's Disaster Assistance Programs such as SURE, LFP, TAP, and ELAP. Producers must purchase at least catastrophic (CAT) level of insurance for all insurable crops.

NAP is a federally funded program that provides coverage to producers for non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters. Crops eligible for NAP coverage are those for which crop insurance is not available, including fruits and vegetables, aquaculture, pecans, turf grass and forage crops just to name a few.

NAP applications for coverage must be filed using Form CCC-471 and pay the applicable service fees by the closing date. Application closing dates vary by crop. Goshen County producers can contact the FSA Office for specific crop application sales closing dates at (307) 532-4880.

More information about NAP may be found on the FSA web site located at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

## *FSA Signature Policy*

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse. There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact your local FSA office.

### ***Farm Reconstitutions***

In program terminology, farms are *constituted* to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

**Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

**Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

**DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

**Default Method** — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

If DCP direct payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded.

### ***Foreign Buyers Notification***

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act 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.

Foreign persons who 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 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.

### ***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.

### ***Sodbuster, Swampbuster***

Most FSA programs require compliance with sodbuster and swampbuster provisions. These provisions require producers to follow an approved conservation system on all highly erodible land planted to an annual crop as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Be sure to have determinations made on any new land you plan to plant to annual crops. If you plan to plant a different crop on your current cropland, check with NRCS to assure the new crop will qualify under your conservation system.

Swampbuster provisions state that converting a wetland to make possible the planting of a crop will result in the loss of all USDA benefits. To avoid this possibility it is strongly recommended that producers check with NRCS before starting to work in the fields.

### ***2010 Wool***

Wool, mohair, and unshorn pelt producers are reminded that the 2010 crop year began as of January 1, 2010. Producers should complete and submit Page 1 of Form 633 EZ to cover themselves for LDP purposes on these commodities. If you have any questions regarding this subject, please contact this office.

### ***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.

## ***County Committee Election Results***

Congratulations to Larry Mullock, who was re-elected to represent farmers from Area 3 on the county committee. The election results and votes received by eligible voters for Local Administrative Area 3 are:

	<u>Votes</u>
Larry Mullock	100
Lon Carl Eisenbarth (write-in)	1

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.

The committee members will hold their organizational meeting in January to determine who will serve as the county committee chair and vice-chair.

## ***County Committee Meeting Announcement***

The next regular scheduled meeting of the Goshen County FSA Committee is:

January 21, 2010

9:00 AM

Location: Goshen County FSA Office

Meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of the month, 9:00 AM during Mountain Standard Time and 8:30 AM during Daylight Savings Time. If interested in attending, please confirm the date and time with this office.

## ***Signup for SURE Program***

Signup for the 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE) began on January 4, 2010. SURE 2008 is for those who suffered crop production losses during crop year 2008.

SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm. Total farm revenue takes into account the actual value of production on the farm as well as insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments.

Producers with a farming interest physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Agriculture Secretary must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. Producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or NAP coverage, for all economically significant crops. For 2008 crops, producers had the opportunity to obtain a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through a buy-in provision. Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage.

If there is no Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may also be eligible for SURE if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster. For SURE, a farm is defined as all crops in which a producer had an interest nationwide.

For more information on the new SURE program, please visit the county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

## ***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.

## ***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 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.

## ***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.

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
Jan. 18, 2010	Martin Luther King Birthday, Office closed
Feb. 15, 2010	Washington Birthday, Office closed
Jan. 30, 2010	Deadline to submit 2009 LIP Application for Payment
Jan. 31, 2010	Deadline to apply for 2009 Wool LDP or Loan
Mar. 31, 2010	Deadline to apply for 2009 crop loan for small grains
June 1, 2009	Final date to apply for 2009 DCP benefits

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