



August 2010

# Goshen County News

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

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[www.usda.gov](http://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 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.

## CRP SIGNUP ANNOUNCED

### The Program:

CRP is the largest private-land voluntary conservation program that helps farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers use their environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. Producers enrolling in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers. In return, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides participants rental payments, cost-share and technical assistance and does so on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

*The 2010 signup will be held from August 2 through 27.*

### Eligibility:

Eligible acreage includes cropland that has been cropped or is considered to be cropped for four of the six years between 2002–2007. It is located within conservation priority areas, and it is land that has an average Erodibility Index (EI) of 8 or greater, which means it is highly erodible. Or, it is land that has been in CRP, but the contract is expiring.

The 25 percent cropland limit continues to apply. Generally, this limit means that no more than 25 percent of a county's cropland may be enrolled in the CRP and the Wetlands Reserve Program. The 2008 Farm Bill added authority to exclude cropland enrolled under CRP's continuous signup or under CRP's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) provided the county government agrees.

After signup ends on August 27, FSA will evaluate the offers. During September, FSA expects to notify producers about offers that are acceptable or rejected. FSA will accept enough acres in this general signup, as well as other CRP initiatives such as continuous signups, to bring CRP enrollment close to the 32 million acre statutory cap.

### Selection Criteria:

FSA will select the highest ranked offers that provide significant environmental benefits relative to cost by using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) based on six factors. All offers will be evaluated competitively. After the end of signup, offers will be ranked and an EBI cutoff score selected. The EBI factors are: (1) wildlife habitat cover benefits that encourage covers and habitats on contract acreage that will be most beneficial to wildlife; (2) water quality benefits from reduced erosion, runoff and leaching; (3) on-farm benefits of reduced erosion; (4) enduring benefits; (5) air quality benefits from reduced wind erosion; and (6) cost.

There were a few changes to the EBI since the last general sign up in 2006. For the wildlife factor, the subfactor for wildlife enhancement was changed to add 20 points for establishing pollinator habitat. Offers that are less than ten acres and provide at least one acre of pollinator habitat, or offers that are ten acres or greater and provide at least ten percent of the acreage offered in pollinator habitat, will receive 20 points. Also, the cost factor was changed to remove points awarded if producers elected not to receive a cost share payment. The cost factor was further changed when land was offered for less than the maximum payable rate.

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## ***CRP SIGNUP-CONTINUED***

Before, points were added based on the number of dollars offered below the maximum. However, this was changed so that offers that are less than the maximum payment rate will receive points based on the percentage offered below the maximum payment rate.

### **Additional Pre-enrollment Program Background:**

Producers should be aware of several ways that CRP may assist in creating new wildlife habitat and enhancing water, soil, and air quality through a number of varieties of grasses and/or forbs that can be established on the offered acreage to accomplish their conservation goals.

Producers should also be prepared to identify specific acreage they want to offer and if the acreage is owned through undivided interests of more than the operator of the land, then all owners must agree to enroll the land. An affidavit or similar document signed by all owners would be required.

Generally, CRP contracts are in effect for a term of 10 years. However, contracts for land devoted to certain practices such as wildlife corridors or rare and declining habitat may be in effect for up to 15 years, as selected by the participant.

Producers leasing the land they hope to enroll in CRP must provide a lease agreement for the full duration of the CRP contract at sign up, unless the landowner is party to the CRP agreement. In that case, both landowner and leaseholder must complete the enrollment.

CRP contracts are scheduled to become effective on October 1, 2010.

CRP participants may harvest this year's crops even when normal harvest occurs after the contract effective date of October 1, 2010. The first year's payment is not affected by the harvest date.

Producers with acceptable offers may begin establishing the cover immediately. However, those who establish the cover before the CRP contract is approved do so at their own risk.

Land that meets basic eligibility criteria may be offered during any CRP sign-up even if it was previously offered but not accepted.

CRP enrollment requires that producers protect and enhance the soil, water, and wildlife resources of their environmentally-sensitive acreage while receiving market-based rental rates.

Approximately 31 million acres are currently enrolled in CRP. However, CRP contracts amounting to about 4.5 million acres expire September 30, 2010. The statutory maximum number of acres that can be enrolled in the program at any one time is 32 million acres.

CRP annual payments are made in arrears, so participants with an effective contract date of October 1, 2010, are scheduled to receive their first annual rental payment after October 21, 2011.

***We will be conducting signup by appointment. If interested, contact this office to set up a time and date.***

## ***COC Nominations Open***

The County Office Committee (COC) plays a crucial role in helping the county office staff implement Farm Bill programs. Producers are encouraged to participate in the FSA COC election process by nominating an eligible candidate by Aug. 2.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. This form is available at your local FSA Office, or online at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov); select *News & Events* then *County Committee Elections*. Nomination forms for the 2010 COC elections must be postmarked or received in the county office by close of business on August 2, 2010.

In Goshen County this year, the election takes place in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1, which is the north part of the county.

FSA county committee members serve three-year terms and make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Committees consist of three to five members elected by eligible local producers.

### ***Farm Storage Facility Loans***

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including small grains, coarse grains, oilseeds, hay, renewable biomass, and fruits/vegetables.

The Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures. For information concerning eligible hay storage, contact your local FSA Office.

All Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85% of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$500,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required. For further details, contact your local FSA office.

### ***Commodity Loans Available***

With wheat harvest here, we remind you of the availability of the commodity loan program. 2010 loan rates for small grains in Goshen County are:

Wheat HRW	\$2.54/bu.	Wheat HRS	\$3.61/bu.
Barley	\$1.90/bu.	Oats	\$1.37/bu.

Interest rates are minimal (example: the July 2010 rate is 1.375%) and the term of the loan will be end of the 9<sup>th</sup> month following disbursement.

2010 loans can be requested through March 31, 2011. The grower must maintain title and control of the commodity (beneficial interest) while the grain is under loan.

For more information, contact this office.

### ***Emergency Conservation Program***

We have received reports of damaged/destroyed fences along the Laramie and North Platte Rivers due to flooding. We are trying to assess the extent of the damage and need land owners to let us know if they have sustained damages. Please contact this office if you have had any fences, or other structures damaged from the flooding.

Potentially, FSA can help with cost-sharing of replacing these fences through the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP).

For more information, contact this office.

### ***Timely Filing of Loss***

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required on ALL CROPS INCLUDING GRASSES. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (notice of loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 FARM SERVICE AGENCY  
 GOSHEN COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE  
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 TORRINGTON WY 82240

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
Continuous	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
Continuous	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Jan. 31, 2011	Final date to apply for 2010 wool/mohair LDP or loan
Mar. 31, 2011	Final date to apply for 2010 wheat/barley/oats loan or LDP
May 31, 2011	Final date to apply for 2010 corn/sunflower loan or LDP
Aug. 2-Aug. 27, 2010	General CRP Signup

*/s/ Darrell L. Jones*

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