



# NEWSLETTER



Goshen County FSA Office  
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Torrington WY 82240-3521

## JANUARY 2011 EDITION

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Office Hours:  
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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

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## **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.

## ***DCP and ACRE Signup, Advance Payments***

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and also the 2011 ACRE Program has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011. (Please note: We recently received information that permits DCP/ACRE contract enrollment through August 1, 2011.)

Advance payments of 22% on the 2011 DCP program will be available starting December 1, 2010. The remaining 78% of your DCP payment will be issued after October 1, 2011. ACRE is a revenue based payment alternative to the price-based counter-cyclical (CC) payments.

In DCP, eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. DCP or ACRE contract signatures for enrollment are due by the signup deadline of June 1, 2011. For more information producers can contact their local FSA office.

## ***Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)***

LIP provides financial assistance to producers that have sustained livestock deaths due to the result of a natural disaster. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for death losses in excess of normal mortality. This program runs through calendar year 2011. Losses must be from the direct result of an adverse weather event, such as a hurricane, flood, blizzard, wildfire, extreme heat or cold, tornado, lightning, or earthquake. (Drought is not an eligible event.)

Payment rates are per head by livestock kind/type and weight range. Owners are paid at 75% of fair market value as determined by FSA.

Livestock losses must be reported to FSA within 30 days of when the loss becomes apparent. Applicants have until January 30 of the year following the loss(es) to provide herd/flock numbers to FSA. For more information, contact your local FSA 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.

## ***IRS Form 1099-G***

Producers annually receive CCC-1099-Gs detailing payments producers have received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on CCC-1099-Gs is a service intended to help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producers' responsibilities to report income to IRS. FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy.

### ***LDP Deadline on Unshorn Lamb Pelts***

Eligible producers have until Feb. 1, 2011, to apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for unshorn pelts produced during the 2010 crop year.

To be eligible, producers must a) have beneficial interest in the pelts, b) own the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and c) sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. Producers must also comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in.

To qualify for payment, pelts must have been produced by an eligible producer from live unshorn lambs of domestic origin in the United States.

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

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) 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.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and 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 (FSA-153) 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.

### ***Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance***

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

### ***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.

### ***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.

### ***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.

### ***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.

## ***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.

## ***Customer Statement***

January signals the beginning of a new year, and a time to starting thinking about filing taxes. Producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement.

The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's at your fingertips and available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

It allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs; information on farm loans; and conservation plan and land unit information.

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

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE) began on January 10, 2011. SURE 2009 covers producers who suffered crop production losses during crop year 2009.

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.

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.

The deadline for 2009 SURE applications has been set as July 29, 2011.

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

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. 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
Jan. 17, 2011	Martin Luther King Day Holiday, Office closed
Oct. 1, 2010 – June 1, 2011	Signup period for 2011 DCP/ACRE
Jan. 10, 2011 – July 29, 2011	Signup period for 2009 SURE

*/s/ Darrell L. Jones*

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.