



August 2011

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

August 2011 Edition

Office Hours:
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee:

Stan Speckner
Larry Mullock
Linda Nichol

County Executive Director:

Darrell Jones Ext. 114
darrell.jones@wy.usda.gov

Farm Loan Manager:

Duane Wisroth Ext. 107
duane.wisroth@wy.usda.gov

Office Staff

Doris Hyatt Ext. 116
Brian McKenna Ext. 111
Todd Smith Ext. 110
Susan Thomas Ext. 115
Jennifer Baumgartner Ext. 130
Marty Yorges Ext. 100

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 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.

USDA Announces Last Call for Producers to File AGI Forms with the IRS- *Failure to do so will Result in Interruption of Program Payments*

Goshen County USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director CED Darrell Jones reminds producers that they must submit an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) verification consent form (CCC-927 or CCC-928) to the IRS as soon as possible in order to maintain eligibility for 2009 and 2010 program benefits.

The consent form authorizes IRS to verify for FSA whether a payment recipient's AGI meets the eligibility requirements for FSA programs. The form became a requirement for payment eligibility beginning with the 2009 crop year, however many program participants have not yet submitted this form for 2009 and 2010 program benefits.

"Producers who fail to file these forms before Sept. 2011 will receive a notice from the National Office stating that the producer is ineligible for 2009 and/or 2010 payments," said CED Jones. **"The producer will be responsible for fully refunding all payments received under programs subject to AGI limitations,"** he said.

IRS requires written consent from all individuals or legal entities before verification of the average AGI can be provided to USDA. Individuals must submit form CCC-927 and legal entities must submit form CCC-928. Without these forms on file, eligible producers will not receive USDA program payments.

CED Jones further clarifies that these consent forms are required for payments received from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as well as those received through FSA. Completed forms must be returned to the IRS.

This is a serious matter. If you receive the written notification from the National Office, you need to follow through and submit the applicable form to IRS to avoid having to refund payments. Remember, the applicable form is to be sent to IRS (instructions and address included on the form), not to FSA.

For more information on AGI eligibility requirements or the AGI verification process, contact your local County FSA office.

2011 County Committee Election

This year's election in Goshen County covers LAA 2, which covers all of Townships 24-25. Currently, Stan Speckner represents the County Committee in this area. Stan will not be running again for this position as his term limit has been reached. Candidates will be announced in the next edition. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters around November 4. Instructions for voting will be included. December 5 is the last day to return voted ballots to the county office, or postmarked. Please take some time to vote and select your representative on the County Committee.

Newly elected committee members and alternates take office January 1, 2012.

CRP SIGNUP RESULTS

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that USDA will accept 2.8 million acres offered by landowners under the recently conducted Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general sign-up. The selections preserve and enhance environmentally sensitive lands, including wetlands, while providing payments to property owners.

For this 41st general sign-up more than 38,000 offers were received on more than 3.8 million acres, nationwide. Enrollment of the 2.8 million acres will bring the total enrollment in the program to 29.9 million acres, leaving sufficient room under the 32-million-acre cap to continue enrollment in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, continuous sign-up and other CRP initiatives.

In Wyoming, about 35,000 were accepted. Goshen County had approximately 14,000 acres accepted.

What is next for those applicants that had acres accepted into the CRP? First off, everyone that submitted offers has been personally notified of their results. If accepted, the next step will be for the applicant, the local NRCS Office, and the local FSA Office to complete a Conservation Plan of Operations (CPO) for the CRP. Even if the new CRP contract has existing grass cover, a new CPO must be completed. This process has a completion deadline of September 2, 2011. The local NRCS will be contacting applicable participants to set up appointments.

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.

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 1.
- 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.

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.

Commodity Loans Available

With wheat harvest here, we remind you of the availability of the commodity loan program. 2011 loan rates for small grains in Goshen County are:

Wheat HRW	\$2.85/bu.	Wheat HRS	\$2.99/bu.
Barley	\$1.89/bu.	Oats	\$1.37/bu.

Interest rates are minimal (example: the July 2011 rate is 1.125%) and the term of the loan will be end of the 9th month following disbursement.

2011 loans can be requested through March 31, 2012. The grower must maintain title and control of the commodity (beneficial interest) while the grain is under loan.

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.

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.

Hispanic and Women Farmers

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established. If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible for compensation. To register for a claims package or for additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process:

www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429

Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation:

www.blackfarmercase.com or call 1-866-950-5547

Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement: www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506.

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
Sept. 5, 2011	Holiday, Office closed
Sept. 2, 2011	Deadline for completing new CPO for accepted CRP offers

/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.