



Laramie County News

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June – 2008

Committee Election

Committee Nominations Open for LAA #3

Nominations of candidates for the Farm Service Agency county committee election representing producers in Local Administrative Area (LAA) number 3 will be accepted through August 1, 2008. Producers who are eligible to vote in LAA 3 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. Organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers and beginning farmers may also nominate candidates.

Laramie County FSA will be holding an election for a person to represent LAA 3. LAA 3 includes all of the Laramie County west of County Road 136.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 3, and must be returned to the FSA county office or postmarked by Dec. 3, 2007.

Conservation Reserve Program

Haying or Grazing of CRP

On May 27, 2008, USDA announced that certain acreage enrolled in CRP would be available for hay and forage after the ending of the primary nesting season. The primary nesting season ends July 15th. Beginning June 2, 2008, CRP participants may request to voluntarily modify CRP contracts for critical feed use, such as haying and grazing. Haying or grazing will be allowed even if it was hayed / grazed in previous years. The one in five year and one in ten year limits have been removed for 2008 only to allow more feed for livestock producers. Please call for an appointment.

CRP participants may request a voluntary modification to the CRP contract, using CRP-1M Addendum to allow critical feed use, such as haying or grazing, of the CRP acreage. CRP participants may use their CRP acreage for a critical feed use or may lease the privilege to any other individual.

Administrative Fee

Participants requesting to modify the CRP contract for critical feed use will be required to pay an administrative fee of \$75 before COC approval of CRP-1M Addendum. No CRP payment reduction will be assessed for any producer requesting to modify the CRP contract for critical feed use.

Acreage eligible for critical feed use includes acreage devoted to practices:

- CP1, Establishment of Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes
- CP2, Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses
- CP4B, Permanent Wildlife Habitat – Corridors
- CP4D, Permanent Wildlife Habitat
- CP10, Vegetative Cover – Grass - Already Established
- CP18B, Establishment of Permanent Vegetation to Reduce Salinity
- CP18C, Establishment of Permanent Salt Tolerant Vegetative Cover.

Haying Provisions

CRP participants that modify the CRP contract to include haying as a critical feed use must:

- remove all hay from CRP acreage before November 10, 2008
- limit haying of CRP acreage to 1 cutting
- not hay and graze the same acreage
- leave at least 50 percent of each field unhayed
- not conduct the haying activity during the primary nesting season
- re-establish, at the participant's expense, any cover destroyed or damaged as a result of critical feed use.

Grazing Provisions

CRP participants that modify the CRP contract to include grazing as a critical feed use must:

- remove the livestock from the CRP acreage before November 10, 2008
- not hay and graze the same acreage
- leave at least 25 percent of each field ungrazed for wildlife or graze all of the CRP acreage at no more than 75 percent of the stocking rate, as determined by NRCS
- not conduct the grazing activity during the primary nesting season
- re-establish, at the participant's expense, any cover destroyed or damaged as a result of critical feed use.

Modified Conservation Plan

CRP participants that request to hay or graze as a critical feed use must obtain a modified conservation plan from NRCS to provide for haying or grazing in a manner that is consistent with the conservation goals of CRP. This will be completed when the application to hay/graze is done.

Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Reminders

Production History

NAP participants for 2007 must report their crop production by July 1 to get an approved production history (APH) established. Production not reported gets a 65% T-yield the 1st year and a zero yield the second consecutive year.

Notice of Loss

A Notice of Loss, CCC-576, must be filed for crop losses within 15 days of the loss event or whenever the loss becomes apparent. Losses not reported timely could result in a loss of eligibility for payment.

Farm Program Information

Preliminary Information About Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP 2008 - 2012)

No sign-up announced as of the date of this Newsletter. The program for 2008 is the same with minor changes which are not known at this time. Most of the new changes will come with the 2009 DCP. Advance direct payments for 2008 can be requested at sign-up at 22 percent of the direct payment total. Planting flexibility is allowed similar to what it was in the 2002 Act.

Direct Payment rates are as follows:

<u>Crop</u>	<u>2008 Payment Rate</u>	<u>2009 Through 2012 Payment Rate</u>
Barley	\$0.24/bu	\$0.24/bu
Corn	\$0.28/bu	\$0.28/bu
Grain Sorghum	\$0.35/bu	\$0.35/bu
Oats	\$0.024/bu	\$0.024/bu
Other Oilseeds	\$0.80/cwt	\$0.80/cwt
Soybeans	\$0.44/bu	\$0.44/bu
Wheat	\$0.52/bu	\$0.52/bu

Target Prices are as follows:

<u>Crop</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010 - 2012</u>
Barley	\$2.24/bu	\$2.24/bu	\$2.63/bu
Chickpeas, Large	N/A	\$12.81/cwt	\$12.81/cwt
Chickpeas, Small	N/A	\$10.36/cwt	\$10.36/cwt
Corn	\$2.63/bu	\$2.63/bu	\$2.63/bu
Dry Peas	N/A	\$8.32/cwt	\$8.32/cwt
Grain Sorghum	\$2.57/bu	\$2.57/bu	\$2.63/bu
Lentils	N/A	\$12.81/cwt	\$12.81/cwt
Oats	\$1.44/bu	\$1.44/bu	\$1.79/bu
Other Oilseeds	\$10.10/cwt	\$10.10/cwt	\$12.68/cwt
Soybeans	\$5.80/bu	\$5.80/bu	\$6.00/bu
Wheat	\$3.92/bu	\$3.92/bu	\$4.17/bu

Payment Acres

Under the 2002 Act, payment acres were 85 percent of the base acres. The 2008 Act provides for the following percentages to compute payment acres:

Year	<u>Percentage of Base Acres Used to Calculate Direct Payments</u>	<u>Percentage of Base Acres Used to Calculate Counter-Cyclical Payments</u>
2008	85%	85%
2009	83.3%	85%
2010	83.3%	85%
2011	83.3%	85%
2012	85%	85%

Counter-Cyclical Payments

Counter-cyclical payments will be issued for each of the 2008 through 2012 crop years of each covered commodities if the effective price for the covered commodity is less than the target price for the covered commodity and will be made after October 1 or as soon as practical after the end of the marketing year for the covered commodity.

Prohibition on Payments

The Act prohibits direct payments, counter-cyclical payments, or average crop revenue election payments to a producer on a farm, if the sum of the base acres on the farm is 10 acres or less.

Exceptions: The following are 2 exceptions to the prohibition on payments:

- a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher
- a limited resource farmer or rancher.

Reduction in Bases

The Act directed that crop acreage bases for covered commodities and peanuts be reduced for land that has been subdivided and developed for multiple residential units or other non-farming uses if the size of the tracts and the density of the subdivision is such that the land is unlikely to return to the previous agricultural use. Policy is being developed to carry out this provision.

Payment Yields

Payment yields are required to be established for making direct and counter-cyclical payments for each farm for any designated oilseed or eligible pulse crop for which a payment yield was **not** established under the 2002 Act.

Compliance

To be eligible to receive payments, producers who enroll in DCP must:

- comply with applicable conservation requirements under the Food Security Act of 1985, Title XII, subtitle B (16 U.S.C. 3811 et seq.)
- comply with applicable wetland protection requirements under the Food Security Act of 1985, Title XII, subtitle C (16 U.S.C. 3821 et seq.)
- comply with the planting flexibility requirements
- use the land on the farm, in a quantity equal to the attributable base acres for the farm and any base acres for peanuts, for an agriculture or conserving use and not for a nonagricultural commercial, industrial, or residential use
- effectively control noxious weeds and otherwise maintain the land according to sound agricultural practices if the land is not cultivated
- file an annual acreage report
- file a production report if participating in the ACRE Program. (Average Crop Revenue Election- More information will be released in the future for ACRE)

Reporting Acreage Planted

Acreage reporting is a requirement of the farm program. **July 1, 2008 is the deadline. Please call for an appointment. A minimum of \$46 per farm late filed fees will be charged after July 1.**

Prevented Planted or Failed Acreage

If you were prevented from planting or your acreage has failed from a natural disaster, you should report the acreage to the FSA office for proper documentation of the loss and for planting history.

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Laramie County FSA Committee
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Disaster Programs Signup

Livestock Compensation Program

Signup deadline for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) has been announced. **Applications for LCP must be filed by close of business July 18, 2008.** There are no late filed provisions.

Crop Disaster Program

Signup deadline for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) has not been announced but do not delay in filing an application. Deadlines will be announced soon and there are no late filed provisions.

Farm Loan Program

Loans for Social Disadvantaged Persons

A socially disadvantaged (SDA) farmer, rancher, or agricultural producer is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a member of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. SDA groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA reserves direct and guaranteed loan funds for SDA persons. Non-reserved funds also can be used by SDA persons. Direct farm ownership loans (FO) and farm operating loans (OL) are made by FSA to approved applicants.

County Committee: Mike Peterson, Mark Child, Dave Bowman **Advisor:** Louise Jacobsen
Office Staff: Doris Scheel, Denise Hunt, Mark Lanning
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Dates to Remember

July 1	Deadline to report crops planted.
July 1	Deadline to submit production evidence for 2007 NAP.
July 4	Independence Day Holiday – Office Closed
July 18	Signup Deadline for Livestock Compensation Program
August 1	Committee Nomination Deadline

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