



Laramie County FSA News

Office Hours: 8:00 – 4:30

Phone: (307) 772-2314

FAX: (307) 772-2120

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

April, 2009

Disaster Programs

Disaster Buy-In Waiver Extension

Producers who did not obtain crop insurance or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2008 can pay a buy-in fee **through May 18, 2009**, to become eligible for 2008 disaster assistance programs authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

Farmers have an additional opportunity to become eligible for several programs if they suffered 2008 agricultural losses due to natural disaster.

If you have not already taken the necessary steps to become eligible for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP), and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP), you are required to complete the following steps by May 18, 2009:

- Pay a \$100 "buy-in" fee per crop. The maximum fee is \$300 per county, per producer, not to exceed \$900 for multi-county producers.
- In the case of each insurable crop, excluding grazing land, agree to obtain a policy or plan of insurance for the next insurance year for which crop insurance is available; coverage level should equal 70 percent or more of the yield at 100 percent of the price.
- In the case of each non-insurable crop, agree to file the required paperwork and pay the applicable administrative NAP coverage fee by the applicable state application closing date for the next available year.

The SURE program provides assistance to producers who suffered crop losses in a specific year. Basic eligibility requires that all crops, excluding pasture and intended grazed crops, be either covered by crop insurance or NAP to be eligible. Those crops must also meet specific loss thresholds to be eligible.

Waivers to the "buy in" include:

- Producers who meet the definition of "Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource," or "Beginning Farmer or Rancher," are not required to pay the buy-in fee.
- Producers that have already paid the "buy in" fee.
- Producers may elect to waive the requirement on a crop that is not economically significant (A crop must contribute less than 5 percent of the total expected revenue) or for which the NAP fee exceeds 10 percent of the value of the NAP coverage.
- Producers are no longer required to have coverage on acreage that is planted to a subsequent crop.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The LIP covers livestock losses due to disaster events. FSA does not have all the details on this program at this time, but, if you had any livestock losses during the last few snow storms, please keep track of your losses. Records must be verifiable and reliable.

Farm Program Information

Farm Program Signup

The deadline to enroll in DCP and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) has been extended from June 1, 2009 to August 14, 2009.

You may first enroll in the DCP Program, receive advance direct payments and then later modify your enrollment to the ACRE program or you may wait and elect to enroll in DCP and ACRE at the same time.

ACRE Program

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a new program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill that begins in crop year 2009. Through ACRE, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers producers an alternative to Direct and Counter-cyclical (DCP) payments.

ACRE payments are made when both state and farm revenues are below historic levels. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments. Producers also elect to receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates. A decision to elect ACRE binds the producer to the program from the program year elected by the producer through the 2012 crop year. All producers on the farm must agree to the ACRE Program election. Producers must annually report acreage and production to FSA. Failure to do so may result in ineligibility.

ACRE payments are revenue-based payments and are tied to crop production and the National Average Market Price for planted, and considered planted, covered commodity crops on the farm. ACRE payment acreage is limited to the total amount of base acres on the farm, and can only be issued for a crop if two triggers are met for the covered commodity crop.

- State Trigger: The Actual State Revenue for the program year must be less than the State ACRE Guarantee.
- Farm Trigger: The participating farm's Actual Farm Revenue for the program year must be less than the Farm ACRE Guarantee.

An ACRE factsheet and ACRE background information detailing the State and farm revenue calculations are posted at www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp.

To provide as much information as possible for producers to make their ACRE election decision for crop year 2009, preliminary 2009 State ACRE guarantees, based on projected ACRE guarantee prices and preliminary benchmark State yields, are posted at www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp and will be updated no later than the 15th of each month and also on the first of every month beginning July 1, 2009.

The 2009 benchmark State yields, ACRE guarantee prices, and State ACRE guarantees will be finalized after NASS reports the final 2008/2009 average market prices and 2008 crop production data. Benchmark State yields for crops grown in Laramie County were posted by March 15, 2009. Guarantee prices and ACRE guarantees will be posted by July 1, 2009 for wheat, barley and oats and by October 1, 2009 for corn.

Acreage Reporting

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. Crop acreage reports must be filed by July 1 after planting is completed. (Remember to tell us the date the crop was planted in each field.) Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date. The final planting date is established by crop insurance or NAP, depending on the crop.

Crop Loan / LDP Information

2008 Loan / LDP Application Deadline

Farmers planning to use the commodity loan program for their 2008 crops are reminded that May 31, 2009 is the deadline for filing applications for the following 2008 crops: corn and sunflowers. Due to current market prices none of these commodities are currently earning an LDP.

2009 Wool Loan / LDP Application Deadline

Wool loans and LDP's may be requested for 2009 crop wool through January 31, 2010.

Conservation Reserve Program

In the final year of CRP, participants may destroy CRP cover on certain acreage after May 1 with a payment reduction; and after July 1 without a payment reduction, if maintaining CRP cover could inhibit normal planting of a fall-seeded crop.

This provision requires that participants:

- Submit requests on form CRP-1G Addendum (available at local FSA office) prior to May 1 / July 1 during the final year of the CRP contract.
- Meet with NRCS to obtain an approved conservation plan for:
 - The destruction of the CRP cover
 - Conservation compliance with USDA programs(if applicable)
- Shall not receive an annual rental payment for the period indicated on CRP-1G Addendum, Item 3 (applicable only on applications between May 1 and June 30)
- Shall be in violation of CRP-1 if the participants fail to plant a fall-seeded crop in a normal manner and may result in a refund of all CRP annual rental payments, plus interest and liquidated damages.
- All signatories to CRP-1 will be required to sign the CRP-1G Addendum before approval
- Participants may hay CRP acreage when needed to adequately prepare a seedbed for fall-seeded crops; however, no commercial use can be made of the forage and the participant must pay for a field visit by COC to verify destruction of the hay.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Do you have a Conservation Reserve Program contract that will be expiring on 09/30/2009? Please be aware that the expiring acres were most likely eligible for CRP because they are considered Highly Erodible Land (HEL). If you intend to put your CRP acres back into crop production, understand that in order for you to maintain eligibility for most USDA benefits, you will be required to have an approved conservation plan on your HEL acres, or be maintaining a fully applied conservation system, such as the maintenance of the permanent vegetation established under CRP. Also, early land preparations for fall seeding opportunities are permitted as early as May 1 with a rental payment reduction; and as early as July 1 without a payment reduction. Conservation plans can be written to include this option if needed. If interested, please discuss this as soon as possible with NRCS to incorporate early land preparation into your new plan.

Conservation systems on annually cropped lands in most of Wyoming typically require the installation of practices to address wind erosion in the eastern part of the state, and water erosion in western part of the state. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will provide the technical assistance to help you assess possible alternatives, and the implementation of your selected plan.

In addition to helping you in the development of a compliance plan on your HEL acres, the NRCS is also prepared to discuss other alternatives for your expiring CRP acres. These could include, but are not limited to:

- Converting your CRP acres to a grazing system
- Potential income diversification including inter-seeding certain acres with wildlife-friendly species for possible fee-hunting opportunities
- Carbon sequestration opportunities

There may be financial assistance funds available through NRCS programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) or the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) to help in the installation of such practices as fence, livestock watering facilities and inter-seeding. Please contact the NRCS for more details.

USDA / FSA
Laramie County FSA Committee
11221A U.S. Highway 30
Cheyenne WY 82009 8730

PRSRT STD
Postage Fees Paid
Farm Service Agency
Permit No. G-96

NAP Information

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Production Reporting

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. If 2009 is the first year you are participating in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit 2009 production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date of July 1.** If 2008 production records are not submitted by July, 2009, a yield will be assigned and there will be a lot more paperwork to provide and sign.

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 for 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.

Dates to Remember

May 18	Last day for "Buy-in" fee for Disaster Programs for 2008
May 25	Memorial Day Holiday – Office Closed
May 31	Deadline to request corn / sunflower loan / LDP.
July 1	Last day to report crop acres.
August 14	Last day to sign up for DCP / ACRE

County Committee: Mike Peterson, Mark Child, Dave Bowman, **Advisor:** Louise Jacobsen
Office Staff: Doris Scheel, Denise Hunt, Mark Lanning, Krista Macy
Dixie Mount – Farm Loan Officer – Laramie County office day is Tuesday of each week. Dixie may be reached by calling the Wheatland FSA Office at (307)322-4050.
/S/ Gary Gompert, CED – Email gary.gompert@wy.usda.gov

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (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 USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.