



Committee Election Nominations

Nominations of candidates for the Farm Service Agency county committee election representing producers in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1 will be accepted from June 15 through August 3, 2009. Producers who are eligible to vote in LAA 1 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 may also nominate candidates.

Laramie County will be holding an election for a person to represent LAA 1. That position is currently held by Mike Peterson. LAA 1 includes north east corner of Laramie County east of County Road 136 and north of County Road 221.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 6, and must be returned to the FSA county office or postmarked by Dec. 7, 2009.

Conservation Reserve Program

Reminder For Contracts Expiring

CRP contracts that are expiring on September 30 cannot be hayed or grazed until October 1, 2009.

Weed Control

Please check your CRP acreage for noxious weeds. CRP contract holders are required to control noxious weeds on their CRP.

Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Reminders

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

Farm Program Signup

The deadline to enroll in Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program (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.

Calculating 2008 Final Counter-Cyclical (CC) Payments for Wheat, Barley, and Oats

Final 2008 CC payment rates for wheat, barley, and oats are zero because their effective prices exceed their respective target prices. The effective price equals the direct payment rate, plus the higher of the national average loan rate or the national average farm price.

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, ACRE background information detailing the State and farm revenue calculations, ACRE spreadsheet along with instructions in Power Point format 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.

Acres Reporting Deadline Extended

Acres reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. Crop acres reporting deadline has been extended until August 14th. (Remember to tell us the date the crop was planted in each field.) Filing an accurate acres report for all crops and land uses, including failed acres and prevented planting acres, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. **Please call for an appointment. A minimum of \$46 per farm late filed fees will be charged after August 14.** Failed acres 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.

Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) / Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) Information

Crop Loans are available for program crops and oilseed crops. Nine-month commodity loans can be made to eligible producers. The current interest rate for loans disbursed in July is 1.50 percent for farm-stored or warehouse stored commodities. Laramie County 2009 loan rates are: winter wheat - \$2.63/bu, barley - \$1.90/bu, corn - \$2.05/bu, oats - \$1.31/bu, sunflowers - \$9.23/cwt, and spring wheat - \$2.84/bu. The office is required to do a lien search on all loans in excess of \$50,000 and when the loan is determined to be at risk.

Producers in an ACRE-enrolled farm will have a 30 percent reduction in MAL / LDP rates. Wool, mohair and honey are not subject to ACRE provisions.

Producers with average adjusted gross nonfarm income that exceeds \$500,000 are not eligible for a marketing loan gain or an LDP.

Marketing loan gains or LDP's will no longer be limited. (There is no limit on the total dollar amount of LDP's.)

Actively engaged determinations are not required for producers requesting MAL or LDP.

CCC will no longer require the execution of UGRSA in storage facilities that are either of the following: federally licensed or state licensed with an operating warehouse licensing program.

It is the producer's responsibility to maintain the quality of the grain in storage.

Both husband and wife must sign the loan document. A notarized or FSA witnessed FSA Power of Attorney Form, FSA-211, may be filed giving the husband and/or wife authority to sign for each other.

Measurement services are available to measure the grain in your storage facility. The cost is \$30 per farm plus \$16 per hour / \$8 for every 30 minutes after the first hour with a minimum charge of 1 hour. Fees must be paid for the measurement before the loan check can be disbursed. **We strongly recommend that producers get a measurement service to avoid penalties for overstating grain in storage.**

Please call the office for more information if you are interested. The loan process does take some time and will be done by appointment only.

Loan Repayment Change

Section 1204 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Act) permits the producers on a farm to repay MAL's on wheat, feed grains (except rice), soybeans, other oilseeds, pulse crops, wool, mohair, and honey at a rate that is the lesser of the following:

- the loan rate established for the commodity, plus interest
- a rate (as determined by the Secretary) that:
 - is calculated based on average market prices for the loan commodity during the preceding 30-calendar-day period
 - will minimize discrepancies in marketing loan benefits across State and county boundaries
- a rate that the Secretary may develop using alternative methods for calculating a repayment rate for a loan commodity that the Secretary determines will:
 - minimize potential loan forfeitures
 - minimize the accumulation of stocks of the commodity by the Federal Government
 - minimize the cost incurred by the Federal Government in storing the commodity

More information on the repayment rate and how it is calculated will be in the next Newsletter.

CCC-633EZ Signed Before Harvest for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP)

The EZ form is a two-part loan deficiency payment request that allows producers to (1) indicate their intentions to receive LDP benefits *before* losing beneficial interest (title and control) in the eligible commodity, and (2) submit a request for an LDP at any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest. An LDP is available if the posted county price is lower than the loan rate.

Once the first page of the form has been signed and submitted, the producer can submit an LDP request by completing page 2 for all harvested commodities, except cotton; page 3 for cotton; or page 4 for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts. The LDP request can be submitted at any time during the loan availability period, before or after losing beneficial interest. To date there is only wool LDP's.

Wool, Mohair, & Unshorn Pelts LDP

Producers who file for a Loan Deficiency Payment on wool or unshorn pelts must indicate their intentions to receive LDP benefits on CCC-633EZ (page 1) before the sale or loss of beneficial interest. Then submit an LDP request (CCC-633EZ page 4) for benefits at any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest.

January 1 is the beginning of the crop year for the wool, mohair, and unshorn pelts. The ending of the crop year is December 31. Applications for 2009 LDP's must be filed by January 31, 2010.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) & Risk Management Agency (RMA)

The RMA (Risk Management Agency) and FSA work together to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse of the Crop Insurance Program. FSA will again be assisting RMA and insurance providers in monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse of Crop Insurance Program to RMA. Producers may report suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse to their local FSA County Office, RMA office, or Office of Investigative General (OIG). FSA will also assist with auditing claims with RMA.

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Farm Loan Program

Youth Loans

FSA makes loans to individual rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, Future Farmers of America, and similar organizations.

Each project must be part of an organized and supervised program of work. The project must be planned and operated with the help of the organization adviser, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

Each year, many young entrepreneurs take advantage of these loans and gain valuable business experience in the process. For more information contact Dixie Mount, Farm Loan Officer, at 307-322-4050.

County Committee: Dave Bowman, Mark Child, and Mike Peterson

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

Dates to Remember

August 3	Committee Nomination Deadline
August 14	DCP/ACRE Signup Deadline
August 14	Crop Reporting Deadline
September 7	Labor Day Holiday Office Closed

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