



Acreage Reporting

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. Crop acreage reports must be filed by July 1. Crops not planted by July 1 must be reported within 15 days of the date the crop was planted. Partial crop reports must be completed by July 1. (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. **Please call for an appointment. A minimum of \$46 per farm late filed fees will be charged after July 1.** 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.

Committee Election Nominations

Nominations of candidates for the Farm Service Agency county committee election representing producers in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2 will be accepted through August 2, 2010. Producers who are eligible to vote in LAA 2 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.

LAA's are elective areas. Single counties are divided into three LAA's. Elections are held each year to replace a member whose three-year term will expire.

Laramie County will be holding an election for a person to represent LAA 2. That position is currently held by Dave Bowman who has hit his term limit, so he is not eligible to run for election. LAA 2 includes south east corner of Laramie County east of County Road 136 and south of County Road 221.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 5, and must be returned to the FSA county office or postmarked by Dec. 6, 2010.

More information on the elections, including nomination forms, is available at the county office or online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Conservation Reserve Program

Transition Incentives Program (TIP)

Amendments to the Food Security Act of 1985 authorized \$25 million for the transition of expiring CRP land from a retired or retiring owner or operator to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher to return land to production for sustainable grazing or crop production.

The Transition Incentive Program (TIP) provides annual rental payments for up to two additional years after the date of the expiration of the CRP contract to the retiring owner/operator, provided the transition is not to a family member.

Signup

Enrollment in TIP is on a continuous basis. Beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and CRP participants may enroll in TIP beginning one year before the expiration date of a CRP contract. For example, if a CRP contract is scheduled to expire on Sept. 30, 2012, the land may be enrolled in TIP from Oct. 1, 2011, through Sept. 30, 2012. For contracts that expired on Sept. 30, 2008, and 2009, or are scheduled to expire on Sept. 30, 2010, TIP enrollment may begin immediately.

Provisions

To be eligible for TIP, an owner or operator must be a retired or retiring farmer or rancher on land enrolled in an expiring CRP contract.

The retired or retiring owner or operator must agree to sell, or have a contract to sell, or agree to lease long-term (at least 5 years) the land enrolled in an expiring CRP contract to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher.

Except for contracts that expired or are scheduled to expire on Sept. 30, 2008, 2009, or 2010, TIP enrollment must occur during the final year before the scheduled date of CRP contract expiration or Sept. 30.

For contracts that expired on Sept. 30, 2008, or 2009, or are scheduled to expire on or after Sept. 30, 2010, TIP enrollment must occur by Sept. 30, 2010. The retired or retiring owner or operator must agree to permit the beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher to make conservation and land improvements according to an approved conservation plan.

Also, the beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher may be eligible for enrollment in the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Stewardship Program or the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), provided all eligibility requirements are met.

Definitions

Retired or retiring owner or operator means an owner or operator of land enrolled in a CRP contract who has ended active labor in farming operations as a producer of agricultural crops or expects to do so within 5 years of the CRP contract modification.

Beginning farmer or rancher means, as determined by CCC, a person or entity who has not been a farm or ranch operator for more than 10 years; materially and substantially participates in the operation of the farm or ranch involved in CRP contract modification; and if an entity, is an entity in which 50 percent of the members or stockholders of the entity meet the first two criteria.

Socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher means a farmer or rancher who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group whose members have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. Gender is not included.

Transition Payments

Retired or retiring owners or operators participating in TIP may receive up to two additional annual rental payments after their CRP contract expires provided the beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is not a family member.

For more information about FSA and its programs, visit: <http://www.fsda.usda.gov>.

General CRP Signup Not Announced

USDA has not yet announced a General CRP Signup as of the date of this Newsletter. We will notify all producers when a signup is announced.

Reminder for Contracts Expiring

CRP contracts that are expiring on September 30 cannot be hayed or grazed until October 1, 2010.

Maturing CRP Contracts

CRP participants with expiring contract acres in the final year of the CRP-1, who intend to destroy cover for preparation for spring or fall-seeded crops, need pre-authorization from FSA to avoid penalty. Authorization can only be granted after a completed CRP-1G (Modification to Allow Early Preparation) is reviewed and approved by a representative of the Commodity Credit Corporation and the producer completes a conservation plan with NRCS.

Continuous CRP Signup

Environmentally desirable land devoted to certain conservation practices may be enrolled in CRP at any time under continuous sign-up. Offers are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements. Offers for continuous sign-up are not subject to competitive bidding. Continuous sign-up contracts are 10 to 15 years in duration and are for small areas of cropland that are designed to develop conservation benefits to the farm.

Eligible Practices include riparian buffers, wildlife habitat buffers, wetland buffers, filter strips, wetland restoration, grass waterways, shelterbelts, living snow fences, and contour grass strips.

FSA provides CRP continuous sign-up participants with rental payments, signup incentive payments, practice incentive payments and cost-share assistance. If interested please call.

Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Reminders

Production History

NAP participants for 2009 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 first 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.

Disaster Programs

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program

Signup for the SURE Program for 2008 crop losses is ongoing. Please call for an appointment. A signup deadline has not been announced.

SURE is available to eligible producers on:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties that have incurred crop production losses and/or crop quality losses during the crop year. (Laramie County is eligible for the 2008 crop year as Weld County, CO received a Disaster Designation.)
- Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50 percent or less than the normal production of the farm.

At a minimum, to be eligible for the SURE Program, the producer must have purchased or be enrolled in the following for the 2008 crop year:

- A plan of crop insurance of at least catastrophic (CAT) level for all insurable crops on all farms.
- And/or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for all non-insurable crops on all farms.

Note: RMA crop Insurance or NAP coverage on grazing land does not have to be purchased in order to be eligible for SURE. SURE does not pay for losses on crops intended for grazing.

In order to receive payments, the farm must suffer at least a 10% eligible production loss on at least one crop of economic significance. Producers with qualifying losses are eligible to receive 60% of the difference between the SURE Disaster Program Guarantee and the actual farm revenue.

The Disaster Program Guarantee is determined by totaling the calculated guarantee for each crop. For insured crops, the guarantee is based on the level of coverage the producer has elected.

The Total Farm Revenue calculation includes estimated crop value, Crop Insurance Indemnities, NAP payments, Marketing Assistance Loans / LDP, other disaster payments, and DCP payments (15% of Direct Payments plus Counter-cyclical payments and ACRE payments).

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

Losses of livestock due to adverse weather must be reported to the FSA Office within 30 days of when the loss is apparent by filing a Notice of Loss application. A Notice of Loss filed must be finalized by completing an Application for Payment by January 30 of the next year.

Applications for livestock losses require documentation of beginning and ending inventory, records showing the date of death for normal death loss and show death losses due to the weather event, along with records showing the number of livestock in inventory on the date of the weather event. Beginning and ending inventory require a third party verification of losses, such as, vet records, loan documents, shipping records, brand inspections, etc.

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

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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.

County Committee: Mark Child, Mike Peterson, Dave Bowman **Advisor:** Louise Jacobsen

Office Staff: Doris Scheel, Denise Hunt, Krista Macy, Kendal Sedman

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

July 1	Deadline to report crops planted.
July 1	Deadline to submit production evidence for 2009 NAP.
July 5	Independence Day Holiday – Office Closed
August 3	Committee Nomination Deadline

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