



Acreage Reports

Acreage Reporting Deadline Has Passed

Please call for an appointment. A minimum of \$46 per farm late filed fees will be charged. Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. 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.

Committee Election Nominations

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 the 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>.

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

(NAP is catastrophic level (50% coverage) insurance for crops not insured by Federal Crop Insurance.)

Application Deadline Change

The Wyoming State FSA Committee has established December 1, 2010 as the application deadline for 2011 perennial and biennial forage crops. The deadline for all other crops will remain April 1, 2011.

Production History

NAP participants for 2010 must report their crop production by July 1, 2011 to get an approved production history (APH) established. If you have a NAP application filed and have harvested your crop, please provide FSA with your production evidence now.

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. ***The application period will end September 30, 2010.***

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.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) News

NRCS Accepting Applications for Farm Bill Programs

As of September 3, 2010 agricultural producers may submit applications for seven different Farm Bill conservation programs, administered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Applications received at the Cheyenne NRCS field office, through October 29, 2010, will be compiled and ranked for 2011 funding. Applications received after that date will be deferred for future funding.

Private landowners are encouraged to sign-up for:

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)
- Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA)
- Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)
- Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)
- Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Applications are available at your local NRCS Field Office in Cheyenne. For more information go to <http://www.wy.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/index.html>.

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

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Farm Loan Programs

USDA Announces Loan Program for Natural Resource Conservation

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the launch of a Conservation Loan (CL) program that will provide farm owners and farm-related business operator's access to credit to implement conservation techniques that will conserve natural resources.

"This will give farmers who want to implement conservation measures on their lands a chance to do so by providing assistance with their up-front costs," said Vilsack. "In return, these producers will help to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality and promote sustainable and organic agricultural practices."

CL funds can be used to implement conservation practices approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), such as the installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; implementation of manure management; and the adaptation of other emerging or existing conservation practices, techniques or technologies.

Direct CLs can be obtained through local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices with loan limits up to \$300,000. Guaranteed CLs up to \$1,112,000 are available from lenders working with FSA.

For more information on the Conservation Loan program, contact a local FSA office or visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

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

September 30

SURE Application Deadline

October 11

Columbus Day Holiday – Office Closed

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