



NEWSLETTER



Laramie County FSA Office

February 2011

Gary Gompert, CED
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Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Laramie County Staff
Doris Scheel
Denise Hunt
Krista Macy
Kendal Sedman-Temporary

Farm Loan Officer
Dixie Mount- In the office on
Tuesday. Located out of
the Wheatland FSA Office.
(307) 322-4050 phone

County Committee
Mike Peterson
Mark Child
Dale Martin

Advisor
Louise Jacobsen

Farm Program Information

2011 Direct & Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and Agriculture Conservation Revenue Enhancement (ACRE) Signup

Signup for the 2011 DCP/ACRE will be held now through June 1, 2011. You can request an advance payment of 22 percent. Please call for an appointment.

June 1, 2011, is the deadline for all ACRE and DCP participants. Deputy Administrator Farm Programs has authorized a late file DCP Contract enrollment period through August 1.

Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. FSA will issue advance direct payments beginning Dec. 1, 2010.

The ACRE Option

The Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. In exchange for participating in ACRE, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent.

The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

Acreage Reports

The FSA Office will take wheat crop reports. Please bring in your planting dates when reporting your crops. While applying for the 2011 DCP, we will collect information from your crops planted.

Reconstitution of Farms

Producers have until August 1st to request a combination or division of farms. Farms with the same owner / operator are a required combination. Land that is sold can be split from the parent farm using the "landowner designation" method. This method allows the landowner to designate the amount of DCP contract acres to go with the land sold. A written agreement between the buyer and seller must be made before the land sale is final. FSA requires a Warranty Deed or Land Sales Agreement for proof of ownership before a reconstitution of farms can be completed.

NAP Deadline

Noninsured Crop Disaster applications are due at different times according to the crop being insured. Producers should apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage using form CCC-471 (Application for Coverage). Related service fees are due when the application is filed. The application and service fee **MUST** be filed by the crop sales closing date. FSA now has two closing dates for 2011. December 1 for biennial and perennial forage crops, regardless of the intended use and April 1, 2011 for all other crops.

Disaster Programs

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program

Signup for the SURE Program for 2009 crop losses will start on January 10. Please call for an appointment. The signup goes through July 29, 2011.

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 2009 crop year as Platte County, WY 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 2009 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 third party verification, such as, vet records, loan documents, shipping records, brand inspections, etc.

Administrative Information

County Committee Information

The County Committee has set the third Thursday of each month at 8:30 a.m. for the regular meeting schedule. Elections were held for Committee positions. Mark Peterson was elected Chair, Mark Child was elected Vice Chair, and Dale Bowman will be Member. Louise Jacobsen was appointed Advisor.



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT



AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture ♦ 1400 Independence Ave., SW ♦ Room 2632-S
Washington, DC 20250 ♦ (202) 720-8998 ♦ World Wide Web: <http://www.ams.usda.gov>

AMS No. 264-10

Sam Jones-Ellard (202) 720-8998
Samuel.Jones@ams.usda.gov

USDA Announces Dates of Sorghum Checkoff Referendum

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4 2011 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture has finalized procedures for the upcoming referendum on the continuation of the Sorghum Checkoff Program and is announcing the dates it will conduct the referendum.

For the program to continue, the Sorghum Promotion, Research, and Information Order requires that a referendum be conducted no later than 3 years after the start of assessments, which began on July 1, 2008. The order requires a simple majority vote in the referendum for the program to continue.

USDA will conduct the referendum Feb. 1-28, 2011, at local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices for producers and the Agricultural Marketing Service office, referenced below, for importers. Ballots may be obtained in person, by mail or facsimile at county FSA offices, or via the Internet at www.ams.usda.gov/sorghumpage.

Any eligible person engaged in the production or importation of sorghum from July 1, 2008, to Dec. 31, 2010, is eligible to participate. Individuals are required to provide documentation such as a sales receipt or remittance form that shows they engaged in the production or importation of sorghum.

The Sorghum Checkoff Program, and its 13-member board, is authorized by the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996. The mandatory program is funded at the rate of 0.6 percent of the net market value on grain sorghum and 0.35 percent of the net market value of sorghum forage.

Sorghum Checkoff is a national, coordinated, self-help marketing program designed to strengthen the position of sorghum in the marketplace, maintain and expand existing domestic and foreign markets and uses for sorghum, and develop new markets and uses for sorghum.

The final procedures were published in the Nov. 18, 2010, *Federal Register*. The notice announcing the dates of the referendum were published in the Jan. 4, 2011, *Federal Register*.

For more information, contact Kenneth R. Payne, Chief, Marketing Programs, Livestock and Seed Program, AMS, USDA, Room 2628-S, STOP 0251, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0251; by calling (202) 720-1115; or faxing (202) 720-1125.

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Laramie County FSA Office
11221 US Hwy 30
Cheyenne, WY 82009



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Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

General Signup 41 Announced

USDA announced that the next general CRP signup will be held from March 14, 2011, through April 15, 2011. Contracts accepted will be effective October 1, 2011. The number of acres accepted will be determined after the signup concludes based on the environmental benefits and the cost of the acres offered. The CRP offer process for signup 41 is expected to be highly competitive. The nation environmental benefits index (EBI) score will be determined after signup concludes. Signup will be taken by appointment only.

Dates to Remember

February 21	Presidents Day Holiday – Office Closed
March 14 – April 15	CRP Signup Period
March 15	Federal Crop Insurance Deadline for Spring Crops
March 31	Loan / LDP Deadline for Small Grains
April 1	Application Deadline for NAP Spring Crops
May 30	Memorial Day Holiday – Office Closed
May 31	Loan / LDP Deadline for Feed Grains
June 1	DCP Signup Deadline
July 1	Crop Reporting Deadline

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