



# NEWSLETTER



## Laramie County FSA

April 2011

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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  
Louise Jacobsen, Advisor

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## Conservation Reserve Program

### Grasshoppers on CRP

CRP participants are reminded that undesirable vegetation, weeds (including noxious weeds), insects, and rodents, etc. that pose a threat to existing cover or adversely impact other landowners in the area must be controlled.

The State Weed and Pest together with several Weed and Pest Districts will be providing cost-share and discounts for block spraying again in 2011. Weed and Pest has agreed to include CRP land as eligible for spraying using available grant funds. Producers may sign up for inclusion in these block spraying programs that will assist them with grasshopper control.

If grasshopper counts are high and are determined by Weed and Pest to be impacting surrounding land, FSA will be notified that these conditions exist in areas where CRP is present. Producers will be notified and reminded that they will be required to maintain control. If producers fail to acknowledge the grasshopper infestation in CRP and the infestation is affecting neighboring cropland, this could be considered a contract violation. Violations may result in fines or contract termination by FSA.

Only spot spraying may be used during the primary nesting season. Spot spraying using a Reduced Area and Agent Treatments (RAATS) approach is permissible.

Producers are encouraged to inquire about block spray programs available to help them control grasshoppers if needed.

### Expiring CRP Acreage – Early Release

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.

### CRP Acreage Reports

CRP acreage is required to be reported annually by filing a crop acreage report by July 1.

### Haying / Grazing of CRP for Laramie County

Haying or Grazing of CRP will be allowed for eligible CRP contracts. Due to a court action by wildlife organizations a couple of years ago, the frequency of haying and grazing of CRP contracts for Laramie County were limited. New rules allow changes to the frequency for haying or grazing of CRP. Listed below are the new rules.

Contracts approved before September 26, 2006 – Request to Hay CRP – “*Managed Haying*”

- Primary Nesting period of May 15 through July 1 (No Haying)
- Haying allowed July 2 – September 30 by prior request and approval from FSA (Hay removed by 9/30)
- Hay no more than 25 percent each year
- Hay the same area once every four years

Contracts approved before September 26, 2006 – Request to Graze CRP – “*Managed Grazing*”

- Primary Nesting period of May 15 through July 1 (No Grazing)
- Grazing allowed July 2- September 30 by prior request and approval from FSA (Livestock removed by 9/30)
- All or a portion of the field may be grazed
- Graze once every three years

Contracts approved on or after September 26, 2006 and prior to July 28, 2010 – Request to Hay CRP – “*Managed Haying*”

- Primary Nesting period of May 15 through July 15 (No Haying).
- Haying allowed July 16 – September 30 by prior request and approval from FSA (Hay removed by 9/30)
- Hay 50 percent of the field
- Wait five years between halves
- Hay once every ten years.

Contracts approved on or after September 26, 2006 and prior to July 28, 2010 – Request to Graze CRP – “*Managed Grazing*”

- Primary Nesting period of May 15 through July 15 (No Grazing)
- Grazing allowed July 16–September 30 by prior request and approval from FSA (Livestock removed by 9/30)
- All or a portion of the field may be grazed
- Graze once every five years

Contracts approved after July 28, 2010 – Request to Hay CRP – “*Managed Harvesting*”

- Must have grass established for 12 months prior to grazing
- Primary Nesting period of May – July 15 (No Haying)
- Haying allowed July 16 – September 30 by prior request and approval from FSA (Hay removed by 9/30)
- Hay 50 percent of the field
- Wait three years between halves
- Hay once in 5 years

Contracts approved after July 28, 2010 – Request to Graze CRP – “*Routine Grazing*”

- Must have grass established for 12 months prior to grazing
- Primary Nesting period of May 1 – July 15 (No Grazing)
- Grazing allowed July 16 – September 30 by prior request and approval from FSA (Livestock removed by 9/30)
- All or a portion of the field may be grazed
- Graze once every 3 years

All contracts will have the payments reduced by the number of acres harvested or grazed times the CRP annual rental rate times 25 percent.

Modifications to Conservation Plans are authorized to incorporate Routine Grazing Provisions and Managed Harvesting Provisions into conservation plans that were previously approved under old CRP contracts with Managed Haying and Grazing Provisions. Once changed, plans cannot revert back to old managed haying and grazing provisions.

## **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.

### 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. All acreage reports are due by July 1. Please call for appointment as soon as your spring crops are planted. Don't wait!

### Farm Record Changes

June 1, 2011 is the deadline to provide changes to your farm records at the local FSA office for the 2011 crop year. If you are changing your operation entity type, adding or dropping cropland or farms, or adding entities to your operation, contact the FSA county office by June 1.

### DCP Counter-cyclical (CC) Payments

The 2010 crop year partial CC payments will not be issued for barley, canola, chickpeas, corn, dry peas, grain sorghum, lentils, oats, rice, sunflowers, safflower, sesame, soybeans, and wheat because their effective price exceed their respective target price.

## **Disaster Programs**

### 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 FSA-914. For 2011 a Notice of Loss filed must be finalized by September 30, 2011 as this is the last year of this program in the current Farm Bill.

### Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program

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

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 (This is called the Risk Management Purchase Requirement or RMPR):

- 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.

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



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### **Beginning and Limited Resource Loans**

FSA has a program to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more that 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Additional program information is available at the local USDA Service Center or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) and [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov) .

### **Hispanic and Women Farmers**

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established. If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible for compensation. To register for a claims package or for additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process:  
[www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov) or call 1-888-508-4429

Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation:  
[www.blackfarmercase.com](http://www.blackfarmercase.com) or call 1-866-950-5547

Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement: [www.IndianFarmClass.com](http://www.IndianFarmClass.com) or call 1-888-233-5506.

### **Dates to Remember**

March 14 – April 15	CRP Signup Period by Appointment
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
July 4	Independence Day Holiday – Office Closed
July 29	Last Day for SURE Signup