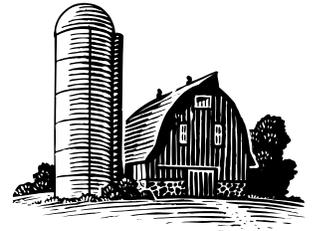


Lincoln County Newsletter

June 2010



Crop Reporting

Crop reporting is here and the deadline to file is July 1st. We will be using the appointment system again this year. We will be sending postcards with a date and time scheduled for your appointment, if the date and time isn't suitable for your schedule, please call the office to reschedule. In addition we will have staff at the Cokeville Town Hall for crop reporting this year on June 14th through June 16th and June the 22nd from 8am to 3pm. During these appointments we will be completing crop reporting, 2010 Eligibility forms, and NAP crop production report.

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. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

CRP Reminder

Producers with Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts are reminded that it is **YOUR** responsibility to establish cover and control the weeds (including Thistles) on your CRP acreage. These measures must be accomplished according to NRCS standards and specifications.

Grazing by livestock is strictly forbidden. **It is your responsibility to keep all livestock off your contract acreage.**

Conservation Compliance

Highly erodible land conservation (HELC) compliance is still required to earn program benefits. This includes payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Conservation Reserve Program, loan deficiency payments, farm loan program, crop insurance and many other USDA program. Producers with highly erodible soils need to be aware of tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements spelled out in conservation plans.

If you have any questions about the specifics of your conservation plan, stop by the Natural Resources Conservation Service office. Take the time now to make sure your farm is in compliance! Don't wait until after the plow hits the ground!

Livestock Indemnity Program

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from an adverse weather event. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011. The losses must be a direct result of an adverse weather condition, including but not limited to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold, & lightning. Note that drought is not a qualifying event. Eligible livestock are adult/non-adult cattle, buffalo and beefalo, equine, sheep, alpacas, emus, swine, goats, llamas, poultry and domestic elk, deer and reindeer. Ineligible livestock include animals that died as a result of disease not related to adverse weather, malnutrition or poor handling practices. Payment rates are per head by livestock kind/type and weight range.

Final Date to File a Notice of Loss: 30 Days after death is apparent.

Final Date to File Application: 30 Days after the end of the calendar year that the loss occurred, January 30, 2011 is the deadline for 2010 losses.

Lincoln County
FSA Office
625 S Washington
PO Box 369
Afton, WY 83110

Phone: (307) 886-9001
FAX: (307) 886-3744

www.fsa.usda.gov

Office Hours:
7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee:
Jason Thornock
Chad Dana
Blair Hillstead
Trudi Julian
– Minority Advisor

COC Meeting:
2nd Tuesday of the month

Office Staff
Dee Harbach
Suellen Bagley
Kresta Hedges

Farm Loan Manager
Brian Harrell
307-856-7524

Farm Storage Facility Loans Available

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including barley, oats, wheat, hay, and renewable biomass .

Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying and handling equipment or the remodeling of existing facilities. Eligible facilities include but are not limited to: new conventional-type cribs or bins and new or remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.

The terms for loan amounts are as follows:

- \$100,000 or less the term is 7 years only
- \$100,000.01 to \$250,000, the borrower can specify 7 or 10 years
- \$250,000.01 to \$500,000, the borrower can specify 7, 10, or 12 years

To be eligible for a Farm Storage Facility Loan, the borrower must:

- be a producer of a facility loan commodity
- demonstrate a need for increased storage capacity
- show the ability to repay FSFL through the financial analysis process
- meet all other eligibility requirements.

All Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$500,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required and multi-peril crop insurance coverage for all crops. The interest rate changes monthly so please contact our office.

Average Crop Revenue Election Program

Under the Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE), producers may receive revenue-based payments as an alternative to receiving price-based counter-cyclical (CC) payments. Farms that currently have base acres established are eligible for ACRE. Farms with 10 or less base acres are not eligible for DCP or ACRE payments, except for farms, whose owners are socially disadvantaged or are limited resource farmers or ranchers.

Producers participating in ACRE must annually report acreage and production to FSA. Failure to do so may result in ineligibility.

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. 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.

Direct payments are limited to \$40,000 per person or entity minus the 20% direct payment reduction, and CC or ACRE payments are limited to \$65,000 plus the 20% direct payment reduction amount. The limitation is attributed to entities and individuals, including indirect amounts received through entities.

Producers must comply with average adjusted gross income, conservation, and actively engaged provisions to be eligible for payment.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) – Transition Incentives Program

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, provided the CRP land is transitioned from a retired or retiring owner or operator to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher that returns the land to production for sustainable grazing or crop production.

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 CRP contracts expiring Sept. 30, 2010, TIP enrollment must occur by Sept. 30, 2010.

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. 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.

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.

Weed, Wind and Water Protection

All producers participating in the 2010 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) or (ACRE) are reminded of the requirement that all base acres must be protected from wind and water erosion and the propagation of weeds. Approved vegetative covers include annual, biennial or perennial grasses and legumes. The cover must be sufficient to keep soil losses within acceptable limits. Additional measures including plant residue and volunteer stands are approved under specific circumstances. Weed growth on base acres must be controlled to prevent the spread of weeds. Control practices may include mechanical and/or chemical measures. Control measures must be implemented timely to achieve the most effective control of weed growth.

Farm Loan Programs “Lender of First Opportunity”

Farm Service Agency has programs that can help farmers and ranchers get started and keep going! Loan assistance for eligible: Beginning farmers and ranchers • Rural Youths • Socially disadvantaged producers • Established farmers suffering setbacks • Farmers with limited resources. All loans must meet qualifying criteria to be eligible.

Maximum loan amounts are \$300,000 for Direct Farm Ownership and Operating loans; \$1,049,000 for Guaranteed Farm Ownership and Operating loans. Youth loans are available for up to \$5,000 to individual youths to establish and operate income producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H Clubs, FFA and similar organizations.

Each fiscal year the Agency targets a portion of its direct and guaranteed loan funds to beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers. A beginning farmer is someone who has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years. A socially disadvantaged applicant is someone who is one of a group whose members have been subject to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice.

If you have questions regarding the Farm Loan Program or wish to make an appointment, please contact Brian Harrell at 307-856-7524 Ext. 106.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY
LINCOLN COUNTY FSA
625 WASHINGTON, Suite A
PO BOX 369
AFTON, WY 83110

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Within 15 days of noticing a loss file CCC - 576 NAP Notice of Loss

Within 30 days of noticing a livestock loss file FSA-914 LIP Notice of Loss

June 1 ----- Deadline for 2010 DCP signup

July 1 ----- Deadline for 2010 Acreage Reporting

July 1 ----- Deadline for submitting 2009 NAP production

Any Time ----- Continuous CRP

Any Time ----- Farm storage facility loan program

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited based apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication or program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (Voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.