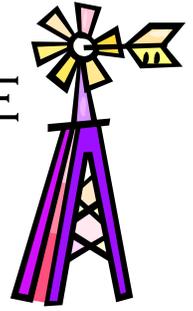




NATRONA/CONVERSE COUNTY WINDMILL



February 2010

Natrona/Converse
County FSA
5880 Enterprise Dr Ste 100
Casper, WY 82609
(307) 261-5436
or
Toll Free 1-866-596-4478

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm
www.fsa.usda.gov

County Committee

Jared Vollman – Chair
Leslie Hendry – Member
Jim Price – Member
Neil Forgey – V. Chair
John Bentley - Member

Staff

Jim Neill – CED
Wanda McLean – PT
Deena McDaniels – PT
Dave Lengle – FLM

Douglas USDA Service
Center
911 S. Windriver Dr.
Douglas, WY 82633
(307) 358-3050

Lately, I have been asking everyone “What are you doing this year for insurance on your pasture?” This has never been a normal question that I would ask, but this has become very important since the passage of the 2008 Farm Bill. The reason I have been asking everyone is because of the insurance purchase requirement set forth in the Farm Bill. In order to be eligible for certain disaster programs, you are required to have at least a catastrophic coverage on your crops (that means your pasture as well). If you have not purchased insurance this year, you are in luck. Starting this year we have moved the sales closing date for the Noninsurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) to April 1st. This means that you can stop by the office and purchase a catastrophic level of coverage for your pasture or any other noninsurable crops. The cost is \$250 and will cover all acres of your crop (yes, I mean pasture too).

By purchasing NAP, you will be eligible for drought assistance through the Livestock Forage Disaster Assistance Program (LFP). LFP provides a monthly feed payment during periods of drought. The drought monitor is the trigger. You can view the drought monitor by going online at http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/DM_state.htm?WY Depending on the severity of the drought; you may be eligible to receive up to 3 months worth of feed costs. The feed costs vary depending on type of livestock, but for example, the monthly feed cost for an Adult Cow is \$40.04 per head in 2009. This is a considerable amount of money that could be available during a period of drought; however, you must insure your pasture in order to be eligible. Purchasing a NAP policy on your pasture will help you meet your eligibility requirement.

//Signed// James R. Neill, County Executive Director

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

Currently SURE Program sign ups are being taken for the 2008 Crop Year. The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster that incurred starting in the crop year 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops of economic significance in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for acres intended for grazing.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

The following are the conditions that trigger SURE payments:

- at least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition
- the crop of economic significance must be a crop that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5% or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm

- the farm experiencing the loss must be in a county declared a disaster county by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties. Those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are also eligible to receive SURE payments for production losses or crop quality losses.

Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

A SURE calculator is available at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/sure_calculator_2008.xls. The calculator is not official, but is intended for educational use. A fact sheet and Q & A are also available online at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Adjusted Gross Income

USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the IRS review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to USDA.

The agreement ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service by June 15 to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainervlet>.

1099-G: Note Changes

Producers who have received payments in 2009 from FSA should have received a CCC-1099-G. A CCC-1099-G is a report to the Internal Revenue Service about FSA payments made to producers during the previous calendar year. The CCC-1099-G is to help participating producers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the program participant's responsibility to report income to the IRS.

When the CCC-1099-G is received, it should be checked with your records to see that the amounts are correct. Refunds will no longer be reported on the 1099-G, but will be available online from the FSA Financial Inquiries (FSA-FI) web-based database. Program participants with an eAuthentication user ID and password may access their refund information at FSA-FI and select "Inquiry Type 1099/Refund Reports". Refund amounts are displayed on the Producer's Year-to-Date Activity web page.

If you have questions concerning the 1099-G refund information, contact your local FSA office for assistance locating the correct payment data.

NAP Coverage Deadlines

The deadline to purchase the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is April 1st, 2010. Producers should apply for NAP coverage using form CCC-471 (Application for Coverage). The application and service fee MUST be filed by the crop sales closing date.

The current service fee is \$250 per crop per county with a maximum of \$750 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1875 per producer for individuals with farming interests in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver for service fees.

To qualify, a producer must share in the risk of producing an eligible crop.

2010 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2010. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2010 DCP contract.

USDA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2010, eligible producers may request advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment.

ACRE

The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net based on revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. The June 1, 2010, signup deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

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. For 2010, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2008 and 2009 crop years. Payments are based on planted or prevented planted acres of commodity crops. In order to receive a payment for the crop, there must be both a state and farm revenue loss. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. In exchange for participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20%, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30%.

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.

Legume Seeding Cost-Share Available

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department has funds available for landowners interested in seeding legumes during the spring of 2010. The program aims to improve mule deer nutrition as legumes can be an important part of their high-protein diet, especially during lactation and early development. They can also benefit many other species of wildlife. The program will reimburse landowners up to \$20/acre for the cost of the seed while the landowner is responsible for all labor and machinery required to prepare and plant the field. In addition, the landowner is not allowed to file depredation claims on the cost-shared field and must allow some hunting access on the property. Any site appropriate for legumes may be planted under the program. If you would like more information on the program, or to apply, please contact Brian Jensen, Habitat Extension Biologist, at 307-261-5436 extension 108.

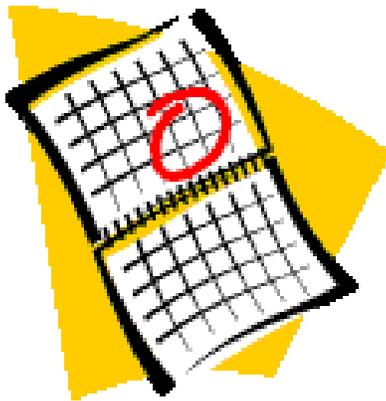
Prairie Dog/Invasive Weed Control

The Natrona County Conservation District will be holding a meeting in order to determine the need for assistance for controlling prairie dogs and/or invasive weed species in Natrona County. The meeting will be held on March 4th, 2010 at the Cooperative Extension Building in the Mills Room. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM. If you have any questions please contact Kelly Burch at 307-259-2134

Grasshopper Workshop

The Natrona County Weed and Pest will be conducting a workshop on grasshopper control and management. The meeting will be held at Ag Learning and Resource Center at 2011 Fairgrounds Rd in Casper at 10:00 AM. If you have any questions please contact Brian Connely at 307-472-5559.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 Natrona/Converse CO FSA
 5880 Enterprise Dr. Ste 100
 Casper, WY 82609



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

February 15, 2010	George Washington's Birthday – Office Closed
February 16, 2010	Weed and Pest Workshop on Grasshopper Control
March 4, 2010	Prarie Dog/Invasive Weed Meeting
March 15, 2010	Federal Crop Insurance deadline for Spring crops.
April 1, 2010	Deadline to purchase NAP coverage
May 31, 2010	Memorial Day – Office Closed
June 1, 2010	Deadline to complete DCP Contract
July 1, 2010	Deadline to file Crop Report

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Special Accommodations will be made for the physically handicapped, vision- or hearing-impaired person upon request. If accommodations are required, please call James Neill, CED at (307)261-5436.