



NEWSLETTER



October 2010

Natrona/Converse
County FSA
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or
Toll Free 1-866-596-4478

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

County Committee

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

Staff

Vacant – CED
Wanda McLean – PT
Deena McDaniels – PT
Dave Lengel – FLM

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

Dates to Remember:

Nov. 11, 2010 – Veterans Day Holiday –
Office Closed

Nov. 19, 2010 – Application Deadline for
NRCS Conservation Programs

Nov. 25, 2010 – Thanksgiving Day Holiday
– Office Closed

Dec. 1, 2010 – Application Deadline for NAP

Dec. 6, 2010 – Deadline to Return COC
Election Ballots

Dec. 25, 2010 – Christmas Day – Office
Closed

Deadline Revision for the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

December 1, 2010 is the application deadline for the Non-Insurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program. *Please Note: This is a date change from the previous April 1st deadline.* Beginning with the 2011 crop year Honey and biennial and perennial forage crops, regardless of intended use, will have an application closing date of December 1st. For all other crops the application closing date shall be April 1st of the applicable year.

NAP provides financial assistance to eligible producers affected by crop losses due to natural disasters. FSA's NAP coverage is for non insurable crops not covered by RMA. The application service fee for NAP is \$250.00 per crop per county, with a county maximum of \$750.00. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1,875.00 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

An important reminder: As part of the eligibility requirements to receive payments in disaster programs, producers are required to carry Crop Insurance coverage or NAP coverage on all crops, excluding grazing, in all counties where they have an interest. Listed below are the programs and the coverage needed to be eligible to participate in these disaster programs.

SURE (Crop Disaster Program): Producers must purchase at least a CAT level of crop insurance for **all** insurable crops and NAP coverage for **all** non-insurable crops, excluding crops intended for grazing (pasture).

LFP (Livestock Forage Program): Producers must purchase at least a CAT level of insurance on rangeland. There are two options available: you may either contact your insurance agent to purchase PRF insurance, or you may purchase NAP insurance from your local FSA office.

ELAP (Emergency Livestock Assistance Program): Producers must purchase at least CAT level of coverage on all insurable crops and NAP coverage on all non-insurable crops, excluding crops intended for grazing (pasture).



ATTENTION PRODUCERS!

IMPORTANT CHANGES to (RI-PRF) and VI-PRF Pilot Insurance Policies and NAP Coverage

Previously, producers who earned an indemnity under RI-PRF Policy were ineligible for a NAP payment on any acres covered by NAP for the same intended use. Producers whose crop was eligible for VI-PRF were required to select either VI-PRF policy or NAP coverage by intended use, but they could not choose both. This is no longer the case.

For 2011 and subsequent years, a producer can obtain either a Rainfall Index Pasture, Rangeland and Forage (RI-PRF) or a Vegetative Index Pasture, Rangeland and Forage (VI-PRF) policy *and* **NAP** coverage on the same acres for **the same intended use – – and still remain eligible to earn a PRF indemnity payment and NAP payment on the same acres for the same intended use.**

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

NATRONA - Be watching your mailbox for your official county committee election ballot starting early in November. This year's election will be held for LAA, Local Administrative Area, number 1. This LAA is located west of Casper, roughly identified by the Kendrick area, north of Township 32N, east of Range 84W, South of Township 36N and west of Range 79W. Completed and signed ballots must be returned to the county office or postmarked by the close of business on **December 6, 2010**. Newly elected members take office on January 1, 2011.

CONVERSE – A clerical error has occurred that has prevented the ballots from being printed timely for LAA 5. This LAA is located along the southern half of Converse County south of I-25. We apologize for the inconvenience and will keep you updated as to when ballots will be mailed in your area.

The election of agricultural producers to FSA county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers – whether an operation is large or small. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Paper Check Conversion (PCC)

Over the next year, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is moving toward an electronic method for processing producers' checks. This will allow FSA/CCC to process collections faster.

When producers present checks, either in person or through the mail, the checks will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt.

Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information:

<https://www.pccotc.gov/pccotc/pcc/usingpcc/Legal%20Notices/legalnotices.htm>

2010 DCP Final Payments

Final DCP payments for 2010 participants are being issued. Payments began October 9, 2010. Producers who received an advance payment will be paid the balance they are due. Those who did not take an advance will be receiving their full payment amount. These payments will be deposited directly into personal bank accounts. If there are any unearned payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the final Direct and Counter-cyclical Program payments you are about to receive.

NRCS Accepting Applications for Farm Bill Programs

Agricultural producers may submit applications for Farm Bill conservation programs administered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Applications received at Wyoming NRCS field offices through **November 19, 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 the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), and the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP). Applications on file that were not selected for contracts in 2010 may be carried over. However, applicants should contact the local office if they wish to maintain or change their application.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals. EQIP provides financial assistance to install or implement structural and management conservation practices on eligible agricultural land. Examples include installing water quality improvements, such as livestock waste management systems; enhancing grazing lands management through fencing and water developments; and increasing water conservation by improving irrigation systems. Approximately half of Wyoming's EQIP funds are allocated to the county level to support priority resource needs identified by Local Work Groups. In addition, several national and state initiatives are available through EQIP, including the following: Sage Grouse Initiative, Seasonal High Tunnel, Organic Agriculture and Energy Initiative.

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) offers financial assistance to create high quality wildlife habitat that supports state and local priorities. Examples include aspen regeneration, stream restoration, riparian area improvements, and restoring fish passage.

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) encourages land stewards to increase their conservation performance by installing or adopting new conservation activities on their operation and continuing their past efforts. The deadline for CSP is **January 2, 2011**.

For more information or to receive an application, please contact Mary Schrader in Natrona County (307-261-5436, ext. 3) or Tim Schroeder in Converse County (307-358-9825, ext 3).

FSA Conservation Loan Program

The Farm Service Agency makes and guarantees conservation loans on farms and ranches to help conserve our natural resources. The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the credit necessary to implement conservation measures on their land.

The direct CL limit is \$300,000 and the guaranteed CL limit is \$1,119,000. Guaranteed loans are available through lenders working with FSA.

Applicants will work with Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) staff to develop a conservation plan. Conservation practices must be approved by NRCS before FSA can provide financing. Examples of conservation practices include installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; transitioning to organic production; manure management, including manure digestion systems; and more.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Important Dates to Remember

Nov. 11, 2010	Veterans Day Holiday – Office Closed
Nov. 19, 2010	Application Deadline for NRCS Programs
Nov. 25, 2010	Thanksgiving Holiday – Office Closed
Dec. 1, 2010	NAP Application Deadline
Dec. 6, 2010	Deadline to Return COC Election Ballots
Dec. 13, 2010	December COC mtg. to count Election Ballots
Dec. 25, 2010	Christmas Holiday – Office Closed

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists 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 average size. Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov