



United States Department of Agriculture

Niobrara County Service Center

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Tommy Stephens, CED
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David Lengel, FLM

January 2009

County Committee Election Results

Ballots for the 2008 COC Election in Local Administrative Area 1 were counted on December 8th and Robert Freeman was elected to serve as committee member. Tom Bruegger was elected 1st alternate as a write-in. Thank you to everyone who participated in the election.

Annual Notice of Payment Eligibility Provisions

The 2008 Farm Bill implemented major changes to payment eligibility rules so **all** program participants will be required to complete the new eligibility forms for 2009. FSA program benefits may not be provided to any producer until the applicable payment eligibility determinations are made. A producer will remain ineligible until all required forms for the specific situation are provided.

Previous rules on permitted entity designation will no longer apply for the 2009 and future years. All payments including those made for the individual's pro-rata share in an entity; will now be attributed to a single payment limitation for the applicable individual, though they will be issued as usual to the payment-earning entity. In addition, payment entities with the exception of joint operations will be limited to a single payment limitation overall.

Payment Limitation/Eligibility determinations may be initiated by the FSA County Committee or requested by the producer. Statutory provisions require that entities earning program benefits provide FSA with the names, addresses, and tax ID numbers for the members of the entity.

All Payment Eligibility forms (CCC-902) submitted by a producer are subject to spot check through the End-of Year Review process. Farming operations selected for and End-of-Year Review will be required to submit additional documents to verify their contributions of capital, land, equipment, labor, and management.

Individuals, joint operations, entities, and members of entities which are determined to be "not actively engaged in farming," will be ineligible for Direct and Counter Cyclical (DCP) Payment, Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Payments, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's), Marketing Loan Gains and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) payments.

Direct & Counter-Cyclical Payment Program Sign-up

The DCP sign-up period for the 2009 crop began Dec. 22, 2008 and ends June 1, 2009. The CCC-509 sign-up form, "Direct and Counter-cyclical Program Contract," includes base acres, payment acres, payment yields, producer payment shares, advance direct and counter-cyclical payment selections, and signatures of the producer and county office representative. Unlike years past, producers may NOT enroll a farm in DCP after June 1 of the applicable contract period. There are no late filed provisions for contract years 2009-2012. All owners and operators who will share in the DCP payments on the farm must sign the CCC-509 by June 1 of the contract period.

The following documents are required and applicable determinations must be made before the county committee can approve a producer's share on the CCC-509 for payment:

- a farm operating plan (CCC-902 and related forms);
- an average adjusted gross income certification (CCC-926);
- a certification of compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions (AD-1026).

A certification of the acreage of all cropland on the farm (FSA-578) is needed before final payments can be issued.

The 2008 Farm Bill continues the direct payments that began under the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. Direct payment rates for the eligible DCP commodities are as follows:

- Wheat: \$0.52 per bushel
- Corn: \$0.28 per bushel
- Barley: \$0.24 per bushel
- Oats: \$0.024 per bushel

For each commodity, the total direct payment for the 2009 crop year for producers on a farm is determined by multiplying 83.3 percent of the farm's base acreage *times* the farm's direct payment yield *times* the direct payment rate.

Because new eligibility forms will be needed for **all** producers this year it will be much easier if you come into the office to enroll in DCP. Please call to make an appointment. If you cannot make it to the office we can complete all required forms by mail and telephone.

Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

April 1, 2009 is the application deadline for NAP for spring seeded grain crops, except wheat since wheat is considered one crop (winter and spring) the earliest application deadline (December 1st) thus applies. The application service fee for NAP for 2009 crops has been increased to \$250.00 per crop per county, not to exceed \$750.00 per county and \$1,875.00 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

The 2008 Farm Bill created several new disaster programs. To be eligible for most of these programs, producers must purchase at least the catastrophic level of crop insurance for all insurable crops and NAP coverage for all non-insurable crops. The new Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) will only be available on those grazing acres covered by crop insurance or NAP. The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program requires crop insurance or NAP coverage on all crops except grazing acres.

Reminder: NAP participants must report their 2008 crop production by July 1, 2009 to establish an actual production history (APH). If production is not reported, a zero yield will be assigned. Please bring your 2008 production evidence with you when you come to the office.

Adjusted Gross Income Certification

New Adjusted Gross Income limitations will be in place for 2009 and future years. There are three limitations to consider now, one that affects all commodity programs, one that affects DCP only, and one that applies to Conservation Programs only. These certifications will be based on the average income in the three years preceding the most recent complete tax year (so, for the 2009 program year, the years in consideration will be 2005, 2006, and 2007). The table below summarizes these limits:

\$500,000 Average Adjusted Gross Non-farm Income	Exceed this – ineligible for any commodity, price support or disaster program benefits
\$750,000 Average Adjusted Gross Farm Income	Exceed this – ineligible for DCP Direct Payments
\$1,000,000 Average Adjusted Gross Non-farm Income	Exceed this – ineligible for conservation programs, unless 66.66% or more of AGI is average adjusted gross farm income

Direct and indirect program participants will be required to certify to the new income limitations for the 2009 crop year on form CCC-926 or through an accountant's or attorney's certification.

Reasonable Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairments, or hearing impairment. Please call this office if assistance is needed.

Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA)

Foreign persons or entities who acquire, transfer, or hold a 5 percent or greater interest in agriculture land or who gross \$1000 or more from any agriculture land must report this information to the Secretary of Agriculture. The information must be reported to the local FSA office within 90 days of a change in interest.

2009 Conservation Program Application Program Deadline

Agricultural producers are encouraged to submit applications for fiscal year 2009 conservation programs at their local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office. The NRCS will be accepting program applications until February 6, 2009. This is the date that all forms and plans need to be completed, so do not wait until this date to start the process. Eligible applications may be considered for funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), and the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). Applications received after February 6 will be deferred for consideration at a future date as funding becomes available.

Niobrara Conservation District Tree Order Form - 2009			
SHRUBS	EVERGREENS	MEDIUM AND TALL TREES	
Caragana	Austrian Pine	Aspen	
Cotoneaster	Colorado Blue Spruce	Ash - Green	
Chokecherry	Douglas Fir	Ash - Mountain	
Honeysuckle	Engelmann Spruce	Cottonwood	
Lilac	Eastern Red Cedar	Elm	
Native Plum	Lodgepole Pine	Hackberry	
Sumac	Pinion Pine	Honeylocust	
Sand Cherry	Ponderosa Pine	Oak	
Woods Rose	Rocky Mountain Juniper	Red Canadian Cherry	
Buffaloberry	Scotch Pine	Crabapple	
Red-osier dogwood	Bristlecone Pine	Willow	
Nanking Cherry	Old Gold Juniper	Linden	
Serviceberry	Creeping Juniper	Poplar	
Currants	Variety of low growing juniper shrubs	<i>Other Special Landscaping Stock is available</i>	
Prices			
Seedling Bareroot Stock	\$1.25	Weed Barrier - 6' x ft.	\$ 0.40
Seedling Small Potted Stock	\$2.55	Wire Staples - each	\$ 0.07
Larger trees for sale by special order only - 1 gal container or larger		Polymer @ lb.	\$ 5.00
Call for price quotes from several nurseries.		Fertilizer - each	\$ 0.15
*Planting service has a 200 tree minimum or \$500 pull in fee if less than 200 trees.		Planting Service per tree - 200 tree minimum *	\$ 2.55
		Planting Service - Mileage Fee	\$ 3.75/mile
Estimated costs		Plans	FREE
1 Gal.	\$ 8.00	Perennials -Flats or 1 gallon pot	CALL FOR PRICE
2 Gal.	\$ 16.00	Weed Barrier Squares 4x4	\$ 2.25
5 Gal.	\$ 30.00		
B&B 1- 11/2"	\$ 60.00		
B&B 2" +	\$100.00		
Name			
Address		FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL LISA SHAW	
Phone		334-2953 ext. 101	
Email		email lshaw@wyoming.com	

Important Dates to Remember	
January 19	Martin Luther King Day Holiday – Office Closed
January 31	Final Day to request Loans/LDPs on 2008 Wool and Unshorn Pelts
February 16	Presidents Day Holiday – Office Closed
March 31	Final Day to request Loans/LDPs on 2008 Barley, Oats, & Wheat
April 1	Final Day to Purchase NAP on Spring Seeded Grain Crops
June 1	Final Day to Sign up for 2009 DCP Program
Continues	Continuous CRP Signup
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans

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