



**United States Department of Agriculture
Niobrara County Service Center**

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November 2009

Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop.

December 1, 2009 is the application deadline for the Non-Insurable Assistance Program for forage crops, fall seeded grain crops and grazing land for the 2010 crop year. Coverage for spring-seeded small grain hay and non-irrigated oats, intended for grain is available through **April 1, 2010**. 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.

Producers must cover all crops of economic significance in all counties where they have an interest to qualify for certain new disaster programs. For the Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) program that was enacted by the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, producers must purchase insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act for all insurable crops planted on all farms they have an interest in. In addition, if insurance is not available on a crop, producers must have NAP coverage for all uninsured crops of economic significance planted on all farms they have an interest to be eligible for SURE.

Producers who already have coverage on 2009 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2010, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops. Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

All 2009 NAP participants must submit production evidence for all 2009 crops (except crops intended for grazing). Submitting production evidence for harvested crops, such as bale counts and weights is necessary to maintain accurate yields for coverage.

2009 County Committee Election

This year's County Committee Election is being held in Local Administrative Area 2, which covers the northern portion of Niobrara County. Monty Finley is currently serving as the representative to the county committee from this area and is the candidate on this year's ballot.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters on November 6th. Instructions for voting will be included. Completed ballots must be returned to the county office or postmarked by December 7th. Ballots will be counted on December 10th at 1:00 pm. Please take time to vote and select your representative on the County Committee. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office January 1, 2010.

Supplemental Disaster Assistance Programs

The 2008 Farm Bill amended the Trade Act of 1974 to create five new disaster programs, collectively referred to as Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Assistance programs. These programs include:

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)
Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program
Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

To be eligible for these programs, producers must purchase at least catastrophic risk protection (CAT) level of crop insurance for all insurable crops and/or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for non-insurable crops under SURE, TAP, and ELAP.

In the 2008 Farm Bill; in general, the term "farm" means the sum of all crop acreage in all counties that is planted or intended to be planted for harvest by the eligible producer. In the case of aquaculture, the term "farm" means all fish being produced in all counties that are intended to be harvested for sale by the eligible producer. In the case of honey, the term "farm" means all bees and beehives in all counties that are intended to be harvested for a honey crop by the eligible producer.

Producers who meet the definition of a Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource Producer, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher, do not have to meet this risk management purchase requirement.

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 to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment. USDA will issue advance direct payments beginning Dec. 1, 2009. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price. The effective price is the higher of the national average market price received during the 12-month marketing year for each covered commodity and the national average loan rate for a marketing assistance loan for the covered commodity.

The ACRE Option

The optional ACRE Program 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. For 2010, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2008 and 2009 crop years.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The payment is based on 83.3 percent (85 percent in 2012) of the farm's planted acres times the difference between the State ACRE guarantee and the state revenue times the ratio of the farm's yield divided by the state expected yield. 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 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.

The June 1, 2010 deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

Livestock Indemnity Program

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, certain diseases, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold. Producers are reminded that to be eligible for assistance under LIP you must file a notice of loss with the FSA office no later than 30 days after the date the loss is apparent.

An application for payment must be filed by January 30th of the year following the loss.

Niobrara Conservation District News

Tree Orders Being Accepted

We are now accepting tree orders for Spring 2010. We place orders from seven different nurseries to get the best selection and price for you. We have seedling and large trees, shrubs starting at \$1.00, perennials, landscaping supplies, fertilizer, polymer, weed barrier and more! Call and let me know what you are looking for.

Browder & Sturman Honored

Terry Browder and Heidi Sturman received longevity awards at the WACD Area Meeting in Torrington on September 10, 2009. Browder, who has served on the board since 2004, received his five year pin from Curtis Grandstaff and Harty Von Forrell, Area Directors. Sturman, who was hired on in 1999, received a coat for her ten years of service to the district as the water specialist.

Fred Provenza Workshop Planned

Dr. Fred Provenza will be in Lusk to provide a workshop on animal grazing and behavior. The workshop will be held on February 2, 2010 at the Niobrara County Fairgrounds. Registration for the workshop closes December 1st. The cost of the workshop is \$50, with a \$20 non-refundable deposit due by December 1. For more information contact the Niobrara Conservation District at 307.334.2953 or email Lisa Shaw at lshaw@wyoming.com.

Wildlife Escape Ramps

The District has wildlife escape ramps available for stock water tanks. Please stop in and pick up your fiberglass or expanded metal ramp today. The ramps are FREE and on a first come first served basis. Supplies are limited. The statewide ramp project will aid thousands of animals and birds from drowning in tanks. The Project was funded by the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust, Wyoming Private Lands Grazing Team and the Wyoming Game and Fish.

Living Snow Fences Funded

The District was successful in obtaining funding for two Living Snow Fences along Highway 270 north of Manville. The fencing and site prep have been completed this fall and the trees will be planted in the spring of 2010. The project is being done in conjunction with the Wyoming State Forestry, Wyoming DOT and Brad Reese. The 1200' and 890' windbreaks will help stop snow and wind and improve the driving conditions along Highway 270 as well provide habitat for wildlife and birds.

Celebrating 40 Years of Conservation on the land in Niobrara County

Natural Resources Conservation Service Announces EQIP Sign Up

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is now taking applications for their Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). This program has been a major program for NRCS in Niobrara County, and allows the flexibility to treat a variety of resource concerns through a payment incentive.

Resource concerns such as wildlife and livestock water, fencing, grazing management, Russian Olive, and Salt Cedar removal, irrigation improvements and installation or conversion to solar power can all be addressed under EQIP.

If you are interested in treating a resource concern on your property now is the time to look into program requirements. I encourage anyone considering applying for a program to visit with the Farm Service Agency to update eligibility records. A field visit can be completed to evaluate any water and/or wind erosion problems you may have and provide options for treatment. Recommendations for improvements to cropland and rangeland can be discussed after the field visit.

For further information on this program or to have a field visit completed for your land, please stop by or call the office at (307) 334-2953 x. 3.

Bank Account Changes

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

FSA Farm Loan Assistance

Farmers and ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Filing early will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible so that planting decisions can be made. Failure to apply early can result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications that must be processed in date order. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager or Officer for more details and assistance in applying.

Important Dates to Remember	
November 11	Veterans Day Holiday – Office closed
November 26	Thanksgiving Day Holiday – Office closed
December 1	Final day to Purchase 2010 NAP Coverage on Fall Seeded, Forage, and Grazing Crops
December 7	Final day to Hand Deliver or Postmark 2009 COC Election Ballots

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