



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

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**September 2010**

**Risk Management Purchase Requirement**

To be eligible for benefits under certain disaster programs a producer must meet the Risk Management Purchase Requirement. This means that producers are required to obtain a policy or plan of insurance equal to at least the catastrophic (CAT) level of coverage or have Noninsured Assistance Program coverage for crops on every farm in the nation in which the producer has an interest for the relevant program year. Below is a list of programs and the Risk Management Purchase Requirement:

Emergency Loss Assistance Program – Must cover each crop planted or intended to be planted for harvest, excluding grazing.

Livestock Forage Disaster Program – Must cover the grazing land or pastureland acres for which benefits are being requested under LFP.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program - Must cover each crop planted or intended to be planted for harvest, excluding grazing.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of "Socially Disadvantaged", "Limited Resource", or "Beginning Farmer or Rancher" do not have to meet this requirement.

The deadline to purchase crop insurance or NAP coverage on certain crops is fast approaching, so do not delay. Contact your crop insurance agent or the FSA office to maintain your eligibility in these programs.

**Disaster Reporting Requirements**

Emergency Loss Assistance Program - Producers that suffer eligible livestock, honey bee, or farm-raised fish losses shall file a notice of loss either 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent or 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss occurred – whichever is earlier.

Livestock Indemnity Program - Producers who suffer livestock death losses must file a notice of loss within 30 days of the date loss is apparent and an application for payment within 30 days of the end of the calendar year.

Noninsured Assistance Program – Producers who suffer crop losses must file a notice of loss in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

### **NAP Coverage**

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

**The application deadline date for the 2011 NAP coverage for perennial and biennial forage crops is December 1, 2010.**

Producers who already have coverage on 2010 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2011, 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.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods.

File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

For more information on NAP coverage please contact your nearest Farm Service Agency office.

### **COC Election**

COC Election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters in November and must be returned to the county office by the close of business on December 6, or postmarked by midnight December 6, 2010.

Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote. No one can be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status. For additional clarification about county committee elections, contact the county office.

### **Foreign Investor Reporting**

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of United States agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. FSA administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties up to 25% of the fair market value of the property.

### **Transition Incentives Program**

The Transition Incentives Program (TIP) encourages retired or retiring owners or operators to transition their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers. TIP sign-up opened May 17, 2010. If all program requirements are met, TIP provides annual rental payments to the retiring farmer for up to two additional years after the expiration of the CRP contract, provided the transition is not to a family member. For eligibility requirements producers should visit the FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

### **Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) / Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) Information**

Crop Loans are available for program crops and oilseed crops. Nine-month commodity loans can be made to eligible producers. Niobrara County September, 2010 loan rates are: winter wheat - \$2.47/bu, barley - \$1.91/bu, corn - \$1.99/bu, oats - \$1.32/bu, and spring wheat - \$3.64/bu. The office is required to do a lien search on all loans in excess of \$50,000 and when the loan is determined to be at risk. CCC will no longer require the execution of UGRSA in storage facilities that are either federally licensed or state licensed with an operating warehouse licensing program. At this time LDPs are only available on wool.

## **Niobrara Conservation District Household Hazardous Waste Collection Slated**

Household hazardous waste (HHW) is the term for common household chemicals and substances for which the owner no longer has a use. These substances exhibit many of the same dangerous characteristics as fully regulated [hazardous waste](#) due to their potential for [reactivity](#), ignitability, [corrosivity](#), [toxicity](#), and [persistence](#). Examples include [drain cleaners](#), [oil based paint](#), [motor oil](#), [antifreeze](#), [fuel](#), [poisons](#), [pesticides](#), [herbicides](#) and [rodenticides](#), [fluorescent lamps](#), lamp ballasts, smoke detectors, medical waste, some types of cleaning chemicals, and [consumer electronics](#) (such as [computers](#), and [cell phones](#)). Electronic waste or e-waste describes loosely discarded, surplus, obsolete, or broken electrical or electronic devices. Some electronic scrap components contain contaminants such as [lead](#), [cadmium](#), [beryllium](#), mercury, and [brominated flame retardants](#).

With the closure of the landfill in the near future, the community is increasing efforts to promote recycling, decrease waste and protect the environment. On September 25<sup>th</sup> only, the community will be collecting materials for proper disposal. The Niobrara Conservation District has been awarded several grants from the Southeast Wyoming RC&D and Wyoming Department of Ag with in-kind donations from the Town of Lusk, Niobrara County Road and Bridge, Niobrara County Weed and Pest, UP Railroad and numerous volunteers, we hope to rid the community of some of these items. With the slogan Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Recover, we are promoting all of the following options for the collection day:

### **Free Recycled Paint**

The paint will be processed and available for pick up shortly after the collection. The paint is FREE to anyone who can use it, on a first come basis. Many ranchers use it to paint wooden fences and outbuildings to protect from the elements.

### **Pesticide Container Recycling**

The Niobrara Weed and Pest will be accepting pesticide containers for chipping. The containers need to be clean with the labels removed. They will be triple rinsed and hauled to Torrington for chipping by the Niobrara Weed and Pest.

### **E-Waste**

Electronic waste collection is new this year to this community. In the past, it has been a very cost prohibitive practice but new efforts have allowed us to take all computer and electronic devices for a greatly reduced rate. Computers, monitors, printers, cell phones and electronic games will all be accepted.

### **Used Motor Oil**

The used oil has been recycled in and outside the community as a heat source in the winter for shops and garages.

### **Household Hazardous Materials**

Aerosols, acids, bases, caulk and tar, liquid and solid pesticides, solvents, chemicals, lab-paks, unknown substances and batteries will be collected and packaged for shipment. When loading your materials do not combine different items, label known items and make sure the lids are tight. Place the items in a plastic lined box in your trunk or well ventilated area.

### **Collection Day**

The collection will be held at the county shop on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Oil Avenue from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on September 25<sup>th</sup> only. If you are unable to attend, please make arrangements for friends or neighbors to drop it off. You are asked to please stay in your vehicle; volunteers will unload the items and sort them for the chemist.

For more information please call 334-2953.

## NRCS Announces Sign Up Deadline

The Natural Resource Conservation Service is now taking applications for its programs. These include EQIP, CSP, & WHIP. There are also special initiatives targeting Organics, Hoop Houses and Sage Grouse. WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program) targets practices improving wildlife habitat, while CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program) is a five year contract with payments based on acreage and conservation being applied. EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program) offers cost share for wells, pipelines, stock and storage tanks, solar pumps, fences, seeding crop land back to permanent cover, trees, noxious weed control, and a variety of other practices. A new program CAP (Conservation Activity Plan) is an opportunity to have an extensive conservation plan made for your entire ranch, and receiving a payment for that plan.

The last day to sign up for all of these programs is October 29, 2010. Please do not wait until the last minute to sign up. It would be helpful if you bring maps or have a good idea of projects needed and amounts when you apply. Call the NRCS office at 334-2953 x 3 for more details.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of 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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

<b>Important Dates to Remember</b>	
September 25	Household Hazardous Waste Collection
October 11	Columbus Day Holiday - Office Closed
October 29	Final Day to Apply for NRCS Conservation Programs
December 1	Final day to purchase NAP on Perennial and Fall Seeded Crops
Continues	Continuous CRP Signup

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