



PARK COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY
 1017 Highway 14A
 POWELL, WY 82435
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 Hours: M-F, 8-12 12:30-4:30 Closed Holidays

November 19, 2008

COUNTY COMMITTEE

Teddy Jones, Chairperson
 Bill Cox, Vice-chairman
 John Hogg, Member

OFFICE STAFF

Lee Craig, County Executive Director
 Kathleen Palazzolo, Farm Loan Officer
 Marjorie Parker, Program Technician
 Marcia Shuler, Program Technician
 Lorrie Tate, Program Technician

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EXTENSION OF DCP SIGN-UP DEADLINE FOR FARMS WITH 10.0 OR LESS BASE ACRES

On October 13, 2008 H.R. 6849 was enacted and provides for an extension of the 2008 DCP enrollment deadline for farms with base acres for covered commodities that are 10 acres or less. Producers on farms with 10.0 base acres or less **have until November 26, 2008** to initiate and complete enrollment of a farm for 2008 DCP.

WE'VE MOVED

The Powell USDA Service Center has moved to 1017 Highway 14A. The location was previously occupied by Hooley's Restaurant and prior to that by the Timbers Restaurant. The USDA agencies that occupy the new location are Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Rural Development.



LUNCH AND OPEN HOUSE!!

The Powell USDA Service Center will hold an Open House on Monday, December 8 from 12 to 2 p.m. Chili and drinks will be served, so plan to have lunch with us, tour the new office building and meet the service center staff which includes Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resource Conservation Service field office and soils teams, the Powell Clarks Fork Conservation District and Rural Development Agency.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY LOAN PROGRAMS

FSA makes direct and guaranteed loans to qualified applicants for farm operating and farm ownership purposes. Whether it's a young or beginning farmer or a socially disadvantaged farmer, loan funds may be available for operating money or to help them buy their first farm. All loans must meet qualifying criteria to be eligible.

Maximum loan amounts are: \$300,000 for Direct Farm Ownership or Operating type loans; \$949,000 for Guarantee Farm Ownership or Operating.

FSA has a special loan program to assist socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers in purchasing a farm which is the Down Payment Program. The applicant must make a cash down payment of at least 5% of the purchase price with the remainder being financed by a commercial lender and FSA. The term of the loan is 20 years with the interest rate being 4% lower than the Direct FO rate, but not below 1.5%. Also available is Joint Financing for beginning farmers. With this arrangement, FSA lends up to 50% of the amount financed and another lender provides 50% or more.

Each fiscal year the Agency targets a portion of its direct and guaranteed loan funds to beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers. A beginning farmer is someone who has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years. A socially disadvantaged applicant is someone who is one of a group whose members have been subject to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice.

Youth Loans are available for up to \$5,000 to individual youths to establish and operate income producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H Clubs, FFA and similar organizations.



ATTENTION RANCHERS & SEED GROWERS

Disaster loss coverage for rangeland and other uninsurable crops

December 1, 2008 is the deadline to apply for Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2009 perennial crops such as perennial seed crops, rangeland and other non-insurable forage crops or fall seeded perennial crops that will produce a crop in 2009. NAP provides crop loss coverage for crops, pasture and rangeland for which Multi-peril or Catastrophic crop insurance (CAT) is not available. If you have an interest in any of these crops or grazing lands or will plant or have an interest in a perennial crop next year and that crop or grazing land will produce seed or forage in 2009, don't miss the Dec. 1 NAP deadline. Some NAP crops affected by this deadline are **grass seed crops, red clover, vetch, sainfoin, uninsurable hayland, rangeland and/or other grazing lands**. NAP coverage is available for most crops, hay and grazing lands that don't meet CAT insurability requirements and other non-insurable crops that are grown commercially. There is a \$250 per crop administrative fee not to exceed \$750 per producer per county and \$1875 per producer with multi-county interests. Coverage is based on 50% of yield and 55% of price.



OFFICE CLOSED



The Park County FSA Office will be closed November 27 for Thanksgiving, December 25 for Christmas and January 1 for New Years.



COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

Ballots for the 2008 Park County FSA committee election have been mailed. The final date to return your election ballot is Monday, December 1, 2008. The committee election this year is for Local Administrative Area (LAA) #2, the Cody/Heart Mountain community. Teddy Jones is the candidate for a 3 year term to serve as your representative for the LAA. If you farm, ranch or own agricultural land in this community and did not receive an election ballot, please contact this office.

SURE PROGRAM ON-LINE CALCULATOR

The 2008 Farm Bill includes a new disaster program known as the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. **To be eligible for the SURE program, you must have Multi-peril crop insurance for all insurable crops in the farming operation and you must have NAP coverage for all non-insurable crops!!** Failure to purchase NAP coverage or failure to insure your crops will make you ineligible for SURE payments. A SURE calculator is available on the Farm Service Agency website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/fbapp?area=home&subject=landing&topic=landing>. The calculator is a tool to help with calculations and to help you determine whether to purchase the necessary insurance for SURE eligibility. It is not the approved software to compute and provide actual payment information. By using the calculator, producers and others may begin familiarizing themselves with SURE calculations which allows them to run various scenarios based on basic levels of insurance coverage versus buy up levels of insurance coverage. It is important to note that this calculator only addresses yield based crops and does not address value loss crops or those plans of insurance that are revenue based. It does not include calculations for situations such as prevented planting, first crop-second crop, or other scenarios.

FARM CHANGES

In order for us to properly and accurately administer farm programs, it is very important that we have current records of the owners and operators of farms. Farm owners and operators are asked to report changes in farming or ranching operations to this office. This may include the purchase or sale of a farm or the rental of a farm which you did not have an interest in last year. Please report these changes so that we can process applications for program participation in a timely manner and so we can keep you informed regarding program eligibility.

ATTENTION BUYERS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

It is required that buyers of agriculture products check or register with the Secretary of State's Office to determine if there are liens against the seller of the product. If a lien is found, you are required to place the lien holders name on the check as well as that of the seller. Ag products include but are not limited to: livestock (including horses), crops used for feed (hay, silage, oats, etc.), machinery, equipment and all other crops. Failure to place the lien holder's name on the check may result in legal action being taken against the buyer of the product. Protect yourself as a buyer! You may contact the Secretary of State's Office at 1-307-777-7311 to determine if there is a lien on a product you are buying.

2009 CONSERVATION PROGRAMS SIGN-UP

Applications for the 2009 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) and the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) will be accepted through January 16, 2009 at Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offices throughout Wyoming. Program participation is voluntary and offers financial and technical assistance to install or implement structural and management conservation practices on eligible agricultural land. Practices eligible for cost-sharing under EQIP include installing water quality improvements such as livestock waste management systems, enhancing grazing lands management through fencing and permanent water developments and increasing water conservation by improving irrigation systems. A forestry initiative is also available under EQIP for privately owned forest land. Funding is available for projects such as thinning, fire mitigation through fuel reduction and aspen regeneration. Sign-ups are accepted on a continuous basis but applications received after January 16, 2009 will be deferred and held for consideration at a future date as funding becomes available. Landowners that are interested in wildlife or wetland projects are encouraged to apply now for the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) and Wetland Reserve Program (WRP). For more information, contact your local NRCS office.

SEEDLING TREES AVAILABLE

The Powell-Clarks Fork, Cody and Meeteetse Conservation Districts are again accepting orders for seedling trees. For more information and to obtain a tree order form, contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service office.

DON'T MISS OUT

IMPORTANT DATES

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- Nov 27** Office Closed, Thanksgiving Day
 - Dec 1** NAP deadline for Fall planted crops, Perennial crops and Grazing land coverage
 - Dec 8** County Committee Meeting, Open House and Lunch
 - Dec 25** Office Closed, Christmas Day
 - Jan. 1** Office Closed, New Years Day
 - Jan. 16** Conservation Program Application batching deadline
 - Prior to selling wool** – Sign-up for Wool LDP
 - Prior to selling unshorn lambs** – Sign-up for Lamb Pelt LDP
 - Anytime** Continuous CRP sign-up

Lee Craig, CED



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