



PARK COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY
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Hours: M-F, 8-4:30 Closed Holidays

April 28, 2010

COUNTY COMMITTEE

Teddy Jones, Chairperson
John Hogg, Vice-chairperson
Jerry Denney, 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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CROP REPORTING DEADLINE

The deadline to file your FSA acreage reports is July 1. If you are a sugar beet grower, participate in the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP), participate in the Conservation Reserve Program, purchase multi-peril or catastrophic crop insurance or if you participate in other USDA farm programs, you must file an acreage report to remain eligible for benefits. Crop reports are also used in calculating benefits if you suffer a crop loss on a noninsurable crop and apply for benefits under the Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP). You must also file an acreage report of fruits and vegetables for farms that are enrolled in DCP or ACRE. Dry beans are considered a vegetable under the DCP & ACRE rules. Appointment reminders are being mailed to known agriculture producers. However, you may begin filing your acreage reports as soon as you have completed planting, even if you have not yet received an appointment. If you believe you need to file an acreage report and have not received an appointment reminder, please feel free to call for an appointment or come in to the FSA office at any time and file your acreage report. Late fees will apply to acreage reports that are filed after the July 1 deadline. **FAILURE TO FILE AN ACREAGE REPORT WILL RESULT IN THE LOSS OF USDA BENEFITS.**

DCP SIGN-UP

June 1, 2010 is the deadline to enroll in the 2010 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) Program. Payments under DCP are based on the acreage base of the program crops on the farm and are paid whether or not you plant the respective crop. For 2010, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below the crop's target price. Producers who are eligible for the DCP Program are also eligible to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program or the Counter-cyclical Program.

THE ACRE PROGRAM

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a new program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill that began in crop year 2009. Through ACRE, Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers producers an alternative to counter-cyclical payments. ACRE payments are made when both state and farm revenues are below historic levels. ACRE participants elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments in lieu of ACRE payments. They also elect to receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates. The 2010 sign-up period for ACRE runs through June 1, 2010. A decision to enroll a farm in ACRE binds the farm to the ACRE program from the program year elected by the producer through the end of the farm bill which is 2012. Please contact this office for additional information.

REPORTING PRODUCTION for NAP

July 1 is the deadline for Farm Service Agency to complete proven yields for producers who are participating in the Non-insured Assistance Program. In order for us to complete the proven yield calculations and to obtain the necessary signatures by the July 1 deadline, we are asking NAP participants to submit their production evidence to this office by June 15, 2010. Failure to turn in your production evidence will result in a decreased yield guarantee and will decrease program benefits in the event of a crop loss.

OFFICE CLOSED

The Powell USDA Service Center will be closed May 31 in observance of Memorial Day.





REPORTING CROP LOSSES for NAP

Producers who purchased crop loss coverage under the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) are reminded that if you suffer a crop loss, you must complete a notice of loss form with this office no later than 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence or no later than 15 days from the date that damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent. Notice of loss must be provided for each weather-related event or adverse natural occurrence that causes damage to or loss of the specific crop or commodity. Failure to report crop damage or loss in a timely manner will result in ineligibility for NAP payment.

LIVESTOCK ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The 2008 Farm Bill makes available several Livestock Disaster Assistance Programs (LDAP). Under the umbrella of LDAP, monetary assistance may be provided as follows:

- **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** Assistance for above normal livestock losses due to adverse weather.
- **Livestock Feed Program (LFP)** Assistance for grazing loss due to drought or fire on native or improved pastureland.
- **Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)** Assistance for losses not covered under LIP, LFP or SURE because of disease, adverse weather or other conditions as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture, including but not limited to; losses to livestock, honey bees or farm raised fish, loss of purchased and harvested forage or feed, above normal costs associated with providing or transporting feed and for eligible grazing losses that are not eligible under LFP. Wolf depredation has been determined to be a qualifying loss condition under ELAP for livestock death losses that occur after January 1, 2008 and before October 1, 2011.

For each of these programs, you must file a Notice of Loss no later than 30 days after the loss is apparent. Producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by obtaining a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act for insurable crops and by purchasing NAP coverage for uninsurable crops for all crops of economic significance, excluding grazing land. Producers who did not meet the risk management purchase requirement, but suffered livestock related losses in 2008 or 2009 may request relief of this provision. While the deadline to enroll in LIP and LFP for 2008 and 2009 has passed, the deadline to enroll in ELAP for 2008 and 2009 has been extended to May 5, 2010.



LOW INTEREST GRAIN BIN LOAN PROGRAM

Commodity Credit Corporation, acting through Farm Service Agency, has reauthorized the farm storage facility loan program. Basic provisions of this loan program are:

- Loans may be made for grain storage structures, grain handling equipment and drying equipment
- Loans will be for new storage or expansion or upgrades of existing storage
- The term of approved loans is 7 or 10 years.
- The interest rate is equivalent to the rate of interest charged on Treasury Securities of comparable maturity.
- Participants are required to carry Multi-peril crop insurance on crops of economic significance.

PLANTING OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES (Dry Beans) ON FARMS ENROLLED IN DCP

For farms that are enrolled in the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) and the ACRE program, don't forget the regulations concerning the number of acres of Fruits and Vegetables (FAV's), including **dry beans**, that may be grown without penalty or payment reduction. To avoid a payment reduction, liquidated damages penalty or contract termination, FAV acres may not exceed the non-contract acres for the farm. Depending on the farm or producer's FAV history, the penalty that is assessed can range from an acre for acre DCP payment reduction to severe cash penalties and possible termination of the DCP contract. A farm or producer will have a dry bean FAV history if dry beans were grown on the farm or were grown by the producer on any farm, at least once during the years of 1991 through 1995 or 1998 through 2001. An acreage report showing the dry bean acres grown must be on file in this office for the respective year(s). Following are some examples using a farm with the following information:

Cropland acres:	80
Barley DCP Contract Acres:	35
Corn DCP Contract Acres:	5
Non-contract Acres:	40

Example 1: Farm has an FAV history of dry beans

40 Acres of dry beans may be grown without payment reduction. If more than 40 acres are grown, an acre for acre payment reduction is applied.

Example 2: Neither the farm nor the grower has an FAV history of dry beans

40 acres of dry beans may be grown without payment reduction or penalty. If more than 40 acres of dry beans are grown, liquidated damages and possible contract termination will apply.

Example 3: Farm has no FAV history of dry beans, but grower has 10 acres of dry bean history

40 acres of dry beans may be grown without payment reduction or penalty. An additional 10 acres of dry beans may be grown with an acre for acre DCP payment reduction applied to those 10 acres. If more than 50 acres of dry beans are grown, liquidated damages and possible contract termination will apply.

We will be happy to review the cropping history of your farms and your personal FAV history and show you what your options are regarding the FAV provisions. **Don't forget the FAV provisions before finalizing your crop year 2010 planting plans.**

COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the 2010 Park County FSA committee election will be accepted through August 2. FSA county committees are elected by local agriculture producers to administer USDA farm programs at the county level. There are three Local Administrative Areas (LAA) in Park County with one LAA holding an election each year to elect a person to a three-year term. Park County's LAA's consist of Powell/Clarksfork, Cody/Heart Mountain and Meeteetse. The committee election for this year will be held for Local Administrative Area 3, the Meeteetse LAA, which currently is represented by John Hogg. A list of persons who are eligible to run for the county committee is available from this office. If you wish to run or want to nominate a fellow producer for the county committee, please contact this office for a nominating petition. If no nominations are received, the Secretary of Agriculture will complete the slate of nominees. You may access the following website for additional information: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.



Under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) continuous sign-up, eligible agriculture producers may apply to enroll small acreages of eligible cropland or marginal pastureland in CRP. Participants agree to establish approved conservation practices on eligible land and remove the land from agricultural production in return for annual rental payments for the term of the CRP contract, which can run from 10 to 15 years. A 50% cost-share payment is available to help with the cost of completing approved conservation practices. There is an additional 40% cost-share incentive payment for certain practices. Along with the cost-share and annual rental payments, there is a sign-up incentive payment and an annual maintenance payment. Some eligible practices that can be completed on land enrolled under continuous CRP are: Field Windbreaks, Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife, Shelterbelt Establishment, Filter Strips and Riparian Buffers.

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 their farming or ranching operations to us. 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 of programs.

ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME COMPLIANCE

Compliance with the average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limitations is an eligibility requirement to receive payments and benefits under many programs administered by FSA and NRCS. The review of AGI certifications that are submitted by program participants is required to ensure the accuracy of payments and the integrity of USDA farm programs. FSA and IRS have finalized a data-sharing process for AGI compliance. The verification and data comparison process begins with participants providing consent to IRS for the use and disclosure of information to FSA for AGI compliance.

Safeguarding Your Privacy

IRS will **NOT** report dollar amounts that are filed on your tax return. They will only report to FSA whether the records indicate that the participant's 3 year AGI exceeds the AGI limits. To safeguard the privacy and confidentiality of the information, program participants are required to:

- complete form CCC-927 and/or CCC-928
- mail the completed form directly to IRS

FSA will not complete nor mail the forms for you. You must submit them yourself in order to protect your privacy. Failure to submit the form to IRS may result in ineligibility for program benefits and may also result in your being required to repay previously earned benefits. Blank CCC-927's and CCC-928's are available at this office or on online at <http://intra3.fsa.usda.gov/dam/ffasforms/forms.html>. For each participant that submits CCC-927 or CCC-928, IRS will compare tax data to the average AGI limitation amounts for the applicable 3-year periods and report the results to FSA. FSA will use the information to determine whether a program participant complies with the average AGI limitations, or if further review may be necessary.

REPORTING BANK ACCOUNT CHANGES

Farm program payments earned through this office are required to be paid by direct deposit into a bank account selected by the program participant. If you have completed a direct deposit agreement and have had a bank account change, you must notify us of these changes for your payment to be properly deposited.

DON'T MISS OUT

IMPORTANT DATES

- May 31** - Office Closed, Memorial Day
- June 1** - DCP sign-up deadline
- June 1** - ACRE sign-up deadline
- June 15** - Submit production evidence for NAP proven yields
- July 1** - Deadline to complete proven yields for NAP
- July 1** - Deadline for Acreage Reporting
- July 4** - Office Closed, Independence Day
- Prior to selling wool - Sign up for Wool LDP
- Prior to selling unshorn lambs - Sign up for Lamb Pelt LDP
- Anytime** - Continuous Conservation Reserve Program



READ ALL ABOUT IT!!

Crop reporting deadline nears
2010 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) and the ACRE Option
Non-insured Assistance Program production reports are due July 1

Fruit and Vegetable planting limitations

Reporting crop losses

Livestock Assistance Programs

Office closed for Memorial Day

FSA County Committee Election

Grain bin loan program

Adjusted Gross Income Compliance

Conservation Reserve Program

And much, much more. . .



PELT LOAN DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS

The Farm Bill allows eligible producers of unshorn lamb pelts to apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP). An unshorn pelt is defined as the removed skin and attached wool from a slaughtered lamb that has never been shorn. To be eligible for an LDP for unshorn pelts, producers must have owned the unshorn lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter or slaughter the unshorn lamb for personal use. Immediate slaughter is considered slaughter of the lamb within a 7 to 10 day period after the loss of beneficial interest. Eligible producers are considered to have lost beneficial interest on the date of delivery or the date of the receipt of payment, whichever comes earliest. **Producers must sign an application for the unshorn lamb pelt Loan Deficiency Payment prior to losing beneficial interest in the lamb.** Applicants are now required to submit production evidence that clearly indicates that the lambs were unshorn and the number of head sold.

WOOL AND MOHAIR LOANS AND LDP'S

Wool and Mohair producers who shear wool and/or mohair can either request a 9 month marketing assistance loan or agree to forego the loan for a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP). Producers are reminded that they must sign up for their LDP prior to losing beneficial interest in the commodity. If you sell your wool or mohair at shearing, you must sign the application for LDP prior to shearing and prior to losing beneficial interest in the wool. If you store your wool or mohair, you must sign up for the LDP before you lose beneficial interest in the commodity.