



PARK COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY
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POWELL, WY 82435
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Hours: M-F, 8-4:30 Closed Holidays

November 1, 2010

COUNTY COMMITTEE

Teddy Jones, Chairperson
John Hogg, Vice-chairperson
Jerry Denney, Member
Sandra Frost, Extension Service, Ex-officio 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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LIVESTOCK ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Because of the dry weather in some parts of the county during the winter of 2009 through 2010 and during the early spring of 2010, Park County reached the threshold to qualify for the Livestock Feed Program (LFP) for 2010. If you are a Park County livestock producer whose livestock grazes on non-irrigated grazing lands, you may qualify for LFP. To be eligible, you must have met the Risk Management Purchase Requirement by obtaining a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act during 2010 for non-irrigated grazing land in Park County or by purchasing Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on non-irrigated grazing land for the 2010 grazing period. The deadline to apply for LFP for 2010 is January 30, 2011. If your livestock graze on native non-irrigated pastures in Park County and you believe that you may qualify for the program, please contact this office.



OFFICE CLOSED



This office will be closed November 11 in observance of Veteran's Day and November 25 in observance of Thanksgiving Day.

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS
"Lender of First Opportunity"

Farm Service Agency has farm loan programs that are designed to help farmers and ranchers get started and keep going! FSA farm loan programs provide assistance for eligible producers which include: Beginning farmers and ranchers, Rural Youths, Socially Disadvantaged producers, established farmers suffering setbacks and producers with Limited Resources. All loans must meet qualifying criteria to be eligible. Maximum loan amounts are \$300,000 for Direct Farm Ownership and Operating loans; \$1,119,000 for Guaranteed Farm Ownership and Operating loans. 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. 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. If you have questions regarding the Farm Loan Program or wish to make an appointment, please contact Kathy Palazzolo at 754-9411, Ext 2.

NEW FSA LOAN PROGRAM

Conservation Loan Program – FSA makes direct and guarantee loans on farms and ranches to help conserve our natural resources. The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the credit necessary to implement conservation measures on their land. The direct CL limit is \$300,000 and the guaranteed CL limit is \$1,119,000. Guaranteed loans are available through lenders working with FSA. Applicants will work with Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) staff to develop a conservation plan. Conservation practices must be approved by NRCS before FSA can provide financing. Examples of conservation practices include installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; transitioning to organic production; manure management, including manure digestion systems and more.

REPORTING PRODUCTION for NAP

Participants in the Non-insured Assistance Program need to submit crop production evidence in order for us to complete proven yield calculations. As you complete harvest and cleaning of NAP seed crops or sale of NAP crops, submit production evidence to this office so we can complete the proven yield calculations.

BUYERS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

It is required that buyers of agricultural 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, the buyer is required to place both the lien holder's and seller's names on the check. 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 civil 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 (307)777-7311.



Non-INSURED ASSISTANCE (NAP) DEADLINE

December 1, 2010 is the deadline to apply for Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2011 perennial crops such as perennial seed crops, rangeland and other non-insurable forage crops. 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 2011, don't miss the Dec. 1 NAP deadline. Some NAP crops affected by this deadline are **grass seed crops, non-insurable alfalfa seed, 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.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The 2008 Farm Bill includes a disaster program known as the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE). **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 carry NAP coverage or failure to insure your crops will make you ineligible for SURE payments. A SURE calculator is available on the FSA 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, you may begin familiarizing yourself with the SURE calculations which allows you 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.

2011 DCP SIGN-UP

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011. DCP Program payments are calculated 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 2011, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment. 2011 Advance direct payments will be issued beginning Dec. 1, 2010. 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 2011, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2009 and 2010 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 and 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. June 1, 2011 is the deadline to elect the ACRE option for a farm.



COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

Ballots for the 2010 Park County FSA committee election will be mailed to eligible voters no later than November 5, 2010. The final date to return your election ballot is Monday, December 6, 2010. The committee election this year is for Local Administrative Area (LAA) #3, the Meeteetse community. Michael Hogg 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 do not receive an election ballot, please contact this office.

DIRECT DEPOSIT OF PROGRAM PAYMENTS

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.



WOOL, MOHAIR & PELT LOANS or 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. Eligible producers of unshorn lamb pelts may also 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 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.



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 and forage 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 – 12 years.
- ❖ The interest rate is equivalent to the rate of interest charged on Treasury Securities of comparable maturity.
- ❖ The October 2010 interest rate for a 7 year loan is 2.125%.

Producers with approved loans will be required to have crop insurance, either multi-peril crop insurance or federal crop insurance until the loan is paid in full.

EXTENSION SERVICE NEWS

The University of Wyoming, Cooperative Extension Service is sponsoring a program for new and beginning agriculture producers known as Challenge Group 2010. The eight session program is designed to help build a set of financial, legal, risk management and strategic skills. The program challenges farm families to think comprehensively about their operations, interact closely with peers and build management skills. Sessions begin on November 15, 2010. For additional information, contact Sandra Frost, UW-CES Extension Educator at 754-8836 or sfrost1@uwyo.edu.

REPORTING CROP LOSSES FOR NAP

Producers are reminded that they must report losses on NAP crops no later than 15 days after the date of a disaster occurrence or date that damage to the crops is apparent. Notices of loss that are filed after 15 days (late-filed) can still be approved by the county committee if verification of the specific crop and acreage can be made and if it can be determined that the cause of loss is due to an eligible disaster condition. If a positive verification of both of the above requirements cannot be made, the late filed Notice of Loss will be disapproved and the producer will not be eligible for a loss payment.

PAPER CHECK CONVERSION

Within the next year, Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) will begin electronically depositing checks that are written to FSA or CCC. When producers present a check for payment, it will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account within 24 hours of receipt. For additional information, please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit: <https://www.pccotc.gov/pccotc/pcc/usingpcc/Legal%20Notices/legalnotices.htm>

CONTINUOUS CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) continuous sign-up allows eligible producers to apply to enroll small acreages of 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. Some eligible practices under continuous CRP are: Riparian Buffers, Field Windbreaks, Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife, Shelterbelt Establishment and Establishment of Permanent Salt Tolerant Vegetative Cover.

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| <u>Nov 11</u> | Office Closed, Veteran's Day Holiday |
| <u>Nov. 25</u> | Office Closed, Thanksgiving Day Holiday |
| <u>Dec. 1</u> | Deadline to purchase NAP for perennial crops |
| <u>Dec. 6</u> | County Committee Election deadline |
| <u>Dec. 24</u> | Office Closed, Christmas Day Holiday |
| <u>Dec. 31</u> | Office Closed, New Years Day Holiday |
| <u>As Soon As Possible</u> | Provide production evidence for NAP crops |
| <u>Prior to selling wool</u> | Sign up for Wool LDP |
| <u>Prior to selling unshorn lambs</u> | Sign up for Lamb Pelt LDP |
| <u>Anytime</u> | Continuous CRP |

**DON'T MISS OUT
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READ ALL ABOUT IT!!



Farm Loan Program Opportunities
Non-insured Assistance Program deadline nears
Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) requirements
Loan Deficiency Payment Availability
Protect yourself as a buyer of Agriculture Products
2010 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) sign-up
The ACRE Option
FSA County Committee Election
Livestock Feed Program
And much, much more. . .

