



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

January 12, 2011

COUNTY COMMITTEE

Jerry Denney
Michael Hogg
Teddy Jones

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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COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to Michael Hogg, who has been elected to serve on the Park County FSA committee for community #3, the Meeteetse community. Michael will serve with Jerry Denney who represents you for the Powell/Clarksfork Community and Teddy Jones who represents you for the Heart Mountain community.

DCP SIGN-UP

June 1, 2010 is the deadline to enroll in the 2011 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 2011, 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.

WOOL AND MOHAIR LOANS AND LDP'S



The deadline to sign-up for loan or LDP for wool or mohair that was shorn in calendar year 2010 is January 31, 2011.

SURE SIGNUP

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE) began January 10, 2011. To be eligible for SURE 2009, you must have suffered weather related crop production losses during crop year 2009. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. Producers with a farming interest that is physically located in a county that was designated a primary disaster county or contiguous county must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. If there is no Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may also be eligible for SURE if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster. Producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or NAP coverage, for all economically significant crops. For more information on the SURE program, please visit this office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.



PAYMENT LIMITATION REQUIREMENTS

Under the 2008 farm bill, a person or entity shall not be eligible for commodity or disaster programs if the three-year average non-farm Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) exceeds \$500,000. In addition, an individual or entity must have a 3-year average farm income AGI of less than \$750,000 per year in order to qualify for direct payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program. For conservation programs, the average nonfarm AGI limitation is \$1 million or less for eligibility. There are some exceptions to the \$1 million nonfarm AGI provision for conservation programs for producers who earn more than 66.66% of their income from farming, ranching or forestry operations and for conservation practices being installed on environmentally sensitive land. Program payments are limited by direct attribution to individuals or entities. Through direct attribution, payment limitation is based on the total payments received by the individual, both directly and indirectly through the individuals' interest in any entity that earns program payments. Qualifying spouses are eligible to be considered separate persons for payment limitation purposes, rather than being automatically combined under one limitation. Individuals and entities must be "actively engaged in farming" with respect to a farming operation in order to be eligible for specified payments and benefits. For an entity to be "actively engaged in farming", at least 50 percent of the interest must be held by members that make significant contributions to the farming operation of active personal labor or active personal management and the members total collective payments must be less than or equal to one payment limitation.

NAP APPLICATION DEADLINE

The deadline to sign-up for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, or NAP coverage for spring planted, annual crops is **April 1, 2011**. Producers are reminded about the need for insurance coverage on crops of economic significance in order to remain eligible for Disaster Assistance Programs such as SURE, LFP, TAP, and ELAP. To be eligible for these programs, producers must purchase at least catastrophic (CAT) level of insurance for all insurable crops or NAP for non-insurable crops. NAP is a federally funded program that provides coverage to producers for non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters. Crops eligible for NAP coverage are those for which crop insurance is not available, including fruits and vegetables, aquaculture, pecans, turf grass and forage crops, to name a few.

NAP PRODUCTION REPORTING

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable and verifiable and need to show crop disposition. All production records must be submitted by July 1, 2011.

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.

CROP INSURANCE DEADLINE NEARS

Don't forget that the deadline to sign-up for Multi-peril or Federal Crop Insurance is March 15.

SIGNATURE AUTHORITY FOR SPOUSES



For FSA and CCC programs, husbands and wives can sign documents on behalf of each other for programs in which either has an interest unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to this office. Spouses may not grant Power of Attorney for each other and may not sign claim settlements for each other.

REASONABLE ACCOMODATIONS

Special accomodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accomodations are required, please call Lee Craig at 754-9411.

DIRECT DEPOSIT OF PROGRAM PAYMENTS & 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 had a bank account change, you must notify us of account changes for your payment to be properly deposited.

FOREIGN INVESTORS

The Agriculture Foreign Investment Disclosure Act requires foreign persons or entities who acquire, transfer or hold interest in agricultural land to report these holdings and transactions to the Secretary of Agriculture. Such holdings and changes must be reported within 90 days of any purchase, sale, or change in status or ownership of land. Foreign agriculture investors must report investments to the local FSA office on form FSA-153. Contact this office for more information.



SEEDLING TREES AVAILABLE

The Powell/Clarks Fork, and Cody Conservation Districts are accepting orders for seedling trees and tree protectors. The conservation districts are asking those who are interested in ordering seedling trees to place their order by April 12. The more popular species sell out early, so if you wish to order trees, you should do so as soon as possible. Order forms can be obtained from your local conservation district office at 1017 Highway 14A in Powell or at 1145 Sheridan Ave, Suite 6 in Cody.

FARM DIVISIONS and DIVISION OF ACREAGE BASES

When a portion of a farm is sold or otherwise becomes owned by 2 or more persons, we are required to divide the crop contract acres among the resulting farms using one of several options. The designation by landowner method is the method of dividing the parent farm's crop acreage bases in a manner agreed to by the resulting owners. This method may be used when any of the following apply:

- Part of a farm is sold or ownership transferred
- An entire farm is sold to 2 or more persons
- Farm ownership is transferred to 2 or more persons
- Part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred
- A tract is sold to 2 or more persons
- Tract ownership is transferred to 2 or more persons

If you have sold or bought a part of a farm, please notify this office so we can begin the process of dividing the farm and crop acreage bases. You may use the designation by landowner method of distributing the crop acreage bases among the resulting farms if all owners agree in writing.

OFFICE CLOSED



The Park County FSA Office will be closed January 17 to celebrate the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. and February 21 to celebrate the birthday of George Washington.

COMMODITY STORAGE LOAN PROGRAM

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

- Loans may be made for grain storage structures, grain handling equipment, drying equipment, forage storage structures or cold storage for fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Loans will be for new storage or expansion or upgrades of existing storage
- The term of approved loans is 7, 10 or 12 years.
- The interest rates for Jan. 2011 are 2.5% for a 7 year loan, 3.125% for a 10 year loan and 3.375% for a 12 year loan
- Participants are required to carry crop insurance on crops of economic significance for the term of the loan.



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.

ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME COMPLIANCE

Compliance with the average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limitations is an eligibility requirement to receive payments and benefits under many of the programs administered by Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (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 average AGI compliance and verification. The average AGI verification and data comparison processes begin with participants providing consent to IRS for the use and disclosure of information to FSA for AGI compliance purposes.

Safeguarding Your Privacy

IRS will NOT report AGI dollar amounts that are filed on your tax return. They will only report to FSA whether the records indicate that the program participant's 3-year Adjusted Gross Income 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 forms directly to IRS at the address specified on the forms

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 actual tax data on record 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 is required.

DON'T MISS OUT

IMPORTANT DATES

Second Wednesdays at 10 am County Committee meets

Jan 17 Office closed, Martin Luther King, Jr Birthday

Jan 31 Deadline for 2009 Wool and Pelt LDP

Feb 21 Office Closed, George Washington's Birthday

Mar 15 Crop Insurance Deadline

Mar 31 Stored small grain LDP deadline

April 1 NAP deadline

May 31 Stored corn LDP deadline

June 1 DCP sign-up deadline

Prior to selling wool – Sign-up for Wool LDP

Prior to selling unshorn lambs – Sign-up for Lamb Pelt LDP

Prior to selling or feeding crop–Sign-up for farm stored LDP

Anytime Continuous CRP



INSIDE

- COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS
- SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE)
- ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS
- FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS AVAILABLE
- NAP DEADLINE IS APRIL 1
- CROP INSURANCE DEADLINE IS MARCH 15
- CONSERVATION DISTRICTS ACCEPT TREE ORDERS
- AND A WHOLE LOT MORE

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