



PARK COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY

1017 Highway 14A

POWELL, WY 82435

PHONE: (307) 754-9411, Ext. 2

FAX: (307) 754-2761

Hours: M-F, 8-4:30 - Closed Holidays

March 21, 2012

COUNTY COMMITTEE

Michael Hogg, Chairperson
Teddy Jones, Vice-chairperson
Jerry Denney, Regular Member

OFFICE STAFF

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

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, or marital or family status. (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 USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

DCP SIGN-UP

June 1, 2012 is the deadline to enroll in the 2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) Program. Payments under DCP are based on the acreage base of the program crop(s) on the farm and are paid whether or not you plant the respective crop. Advance direct payments are not authorized for 2012. 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.



A sign-up period for the general Conservation Reserve Program will be held March 12 through April 6, 2012. Applications are considered based on an Environmental Index, which is a measuring stick of the environmental benefits associated with each proposal. Under CRP, participants enter into a ten to fifteen year contract whereby the participant agrees to remove environmentally sensitive cropland from production and establish and maintain a permanent cover crop in return for an annual rental payment from USDA.

REPORTING PRODUCTION for NAP

July 15 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 15 deadline, we are asking NAP participants to submit their production evidence to this office by June 15, 2011. 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.

NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DEADLINE for SPRING PLANTED CROPS

April 1, 2012 is the deadline to apply for Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for non-insurable spring planted crops. NAP provides crop loss coverage for crops, pasture and rangeland for which multi-peril or catastrophic crop insurance is not available. Some spring planted crops that are eligible for NAP coverage in 2012 include sunflowers, spring planted small grains being grown for hay or silage and other spring planted annual crops for which multi-peril or catastrophic crop insurance is not available. **NAP coverage is required on uninsurable crops as an eligibility requirement of many FSA emergency programs.** 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.

CROP REPORTING DEADLINE

The deadline to file your FSA acreage reports is July 15. 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. You may begin filing your acreage reports as soon as you have completed planting. Late fees will apply to acreage reports that are filed after the deadline. **FAILURE TO FILE AN ACREAGE REPORT WILL RESULT IN THE LOSS OF USDA BENEFITS**

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 2012 planting plans.**

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.

SURE SIGNUP

Signup for the 2010 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE) continues through June 1, 2012. To be eligible for 2010 SURE, you must have suffered weather related crop production losses during crop year 2010. 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>.

THE ACRE PROGRAM

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a 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 commodity loan rates. The 2012 sign-up period for ACRE runs through June 1, 2012.



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, 10 or 12 years
- The interest rate is equivalent to the rate of interest charged on Treasury Securities of comparable maturity
- The March 2012 interest rate is 1.375 for 7 year loans, 2.0% for 10 year loans and 2.25% for 12 year loans

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

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 including beginning farmers and ranchers, Rural Youths, Socially Disadvantaged producers, established farmers suffering setbacks and producers with Limited Resources. FSA provides loans for Direct Farm Ownership and Operating loans and 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. If you have questions regarding the Farm Loan Program, please contact Kathy Palazzolo at 754-9411, Ext 2.

County Committee Meetings

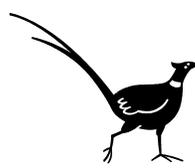
The Park County FSA committee meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. when there is business to be conducted.

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.

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.



CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM CONTINUOUS SIGN-UP

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 contract. 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.



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 6. 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.

DON'T MISS OUT

April 1 NAP deadline

March 12 – April 6 Conservation Reserve Program sign-up

June 1 DCP sign-up deadline

June 1 2010 SURE sign-up deadline

July 15 Acreage reporting deadline

July 15 NAP production evidence due

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

Continuous CRP sign-up - Anytime