

October, 2010

Platte County News



Platte County FSA
1502 Progress Court
Wheatland, WY 82201
307-322-4050 (phone)
307-322-4109 (FAX)

Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
David Hinman
Darrel Vaughn
Britt Wilson
Ruth Cundall

Staff
Mike Hoffland DD
Rick Carroll CED
Dixie Mount FLO
Celia Herman PT
Mitzi Mudgett PT
Joni Reyes PT



County Committee Elections

Starting early next month, watch your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot. Mailing of ballots to all eligible voters starts on November 5, 2010. If, for some reason, you don't receive a ballot, contact the Platte County FSA office to get one. Completed and signed ballots will be due back in the county office by the close of business on December 6, 2010. Platte County will be counting Ballots on December 9th, at the County Committee meeting at 11:00 A. M.

Farm or Bank Account Changes

Producers you need to contact the County Office when you make either a farm change such as new renter or sale of farm so that the County Office may update the farm records. If you have changed Banks or account numbers you will need to update a form 1199A Direct Deposit form to insure that your payments will go to the correct Bank account.

2010 DCP Final Payments

Final DCP payments for 2010 participants will be issued sometime after October 8, 2010. Producers who received an advance payment will be paid the balance they are due. Those who did not take an advance will be receiving their full payment amount. These payments will be deposited directly into personal bank accounts. If there are any unearned payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the final Direct and Counter-cyclical Program payments you are about to receive

2011 DCP Signup

Are you planning to participate in the 2011 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program? If so, contact the nearest FSA county office to sign a 2011 DCP contract (CCC-509). Sign-up begins Oct 1, 2010, and must be completed before June 1, 2011. When you sign the CCC-509, you agree to:

- comply with highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions on all your land;
- devote acreage equal to the base acreage to an agricultural or conserving use;
- effectively control noxious weeds and otherwise maintain base acres according to sound agricultural practices;

- not plant perennial fruits and vegetables or harvest annual FAVs (other than lentils, mung beans, and dry peas) or wild rice on base acres (Exceptions: file an acreage report with respect to all cropland on the farm; and
- notify the county office staff when there is a transfer of or change of interest of a producer.

Final payments for DCP will be issued in the month of October, 2011.

Crop Insurance Requirements for Disaster Programs and FSA NAP Policy

Currently FSA Policy requires coverage (known as Linkage) to receive disaster payments.

SURE: (Crop Loss Disaster Program) Provides benefits triggered on an individual basis when a producer suffers a 10% loss, on any crop, in a disaster declared county, when a 50% loss is suffered in a non-declared county.

LFP: (Grazing Loss) Implemented when the Drought Monitor indicates at least a D2 drought designation- (8 consecutive weeks at the (server level) during the normal grazing period.

ELAP: (Feed/Grazing losses) Implemented when disaster conditions are severe enough that the county committee requests assistance for losses not covered under other disaster programs.

Linkage Requirements: (Coverage Needed)

Program:	Insurable Crops (Crop Insurance)	Non-Insurable Crops (NAP)	Exceptions
SURE:	At least CAT level for all Insurable crops planted. Planted. All interests, all counties	NAP on all non-insurable crops All interests, all counties	Crops intended for grazing (pasture)
LFP:	At least CAT level on Grazing crops incurring loss. (Can buy for specific acreages)	NAP on grazing crops (Policy covers all acres of crop)	None
ELAP:	At least CAT level on all Insurable crops planted/intended All interest, all counties	NAP on all non-insurable crops planted/intended. All interest, all counties	Crops intended for grazing.

NAP Coverage-New Purchase Deadline for 2011 Perennial Forage Crops

The NON-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance (from an crop insurance agent). Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agriculture commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

The **application deadline date for 2011 NAP** coverage for biennial and perennial forage crops, regardless of intended use, is **December 1, 2010**. Note: this is a date change from **April 1st**. Crops included in this date change are biennial forage (hay) crops such as sweet clover; perennial forage crops such as grass varieties, grass/alfalfa mix that are not insurable by crop insurance; and pasture grass for grazing. For all other crops (those not biennial or perennial) the application closing date remains the same-**April 1st, 2011** with the following exceptions: Producers who want (winterkill) coverage on HRW Wheat Forage must purchase NAP by **December 1st**. Honey is **December 1st**. Call us for details of what crops to cover under the NAP program.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example,

bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.

- File a (Notice of Loss) with 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments, please contact your local FSA office.

USDA Issuing Annual CRP Program Payments

CPR producers the USDA is sending out the annual Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) rental payments during the month of October. Payments are no longer in the form of paper checks but are issued through Direct Deposit directly into your Bank Account. If you check your monthly statement from your bank and have not received your payment you may contact the FSA County Office to check the status of your payments.

USDA will distribute approximately \$1.6 Billion in annual Conservation Reserve Program annual rental payments to America's farmers and ranchers.

Wyoming producers will receive \$5,780,866.00 in conservation payments for 210,271 acres. The average contracts receive \$27.49 per acre.

National CRP enrollment stands at 31.3 million acres, making this FSA program the largest public-private partnership for conservation and wildlife habitat in the United States.

Disaster Program: Livestock, Bees, Fish (ELAP)

Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) provides compensation to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other loss conditions, including losses due to blizzards and wildfires. ELAP is for losses that are not covered by Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), or Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE). ELAP originated from the 2008 Farm bill to assist producers with losses that occurred on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011. Eligible losses include feed losses, physical losses and additional costs incurred in providing feed to eligible livestock.

There are two parts to the ELAP application process:

1. A notice of loss (file within 30 days of loss)
2. Application for payment (sign up before 1/30/11)

An application for payment cannot be filed without a notice of loss.

Eligible physical losses of honey bees and honey bee hives, lost due to adverse weather or loss conditions are eligible under ELAP. Producers will be required to provide documentation of beginning and ending inventory of honey bee colonies when claiming a physical loss of honey bees or honey bee hives.

Additional ELAP information is available at FSA county offices or on line at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Farm Loan Programs

USDA Announces Loan Program for Natural Resources Conservation

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the launch of a Conservation Loan (CL) program that will provide farm owners and farm-related business operator's access to credit to implement conservation techniques that will conserve natural resources.

This will give farmers who want to implement conservation measures on their lands a chance to do so by providing assistance with their up-front costs, "said Vilsack". "In return, these producers will help to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality and promote sustainable and organic agricultural practices."

CL funds can be used to implement conservation practices approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), such as the installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of

water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; implementation of manure management; and the adaptation of other emerging or existing conservation practices, techniques or technologies.

Direct CLs can be obtained through local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices with loan limits up to \$300,000. Guaranteed CLs up to \$1,112,000 are available from lenders working with FSA.

For more information on the Conservation Loan program, contact a local FSA office or visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PLATTE COUNTY FSA OFFICE
1502 PROGRESS COURT
WHEATLAND, WY 82201**

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

October 11 th	Columbus Day Office Closed
November 5 th	Ballots Mailed to Eligible Voters
November 11 th	Veterans Day Holiday Office Closed
November 25 th	Thanksgiving Day Office Closed
December 1 st	The Application Deadline Date For 2011 NAP Coverage for Biennial and Perennial Crops
December 6 th	Ballots to be returned to County Office
December 9 th	COC Meeting; Ballots for COC Election to be counted at 11:00 A.M.
Continues	Continuous CRP sign up
Continues	Farm Stored Facility Loan Program

Visit our Web site

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

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