



## PLATTE COUNTY NEWSLETTER



**Platte County FSA**  
1502 Progress Court  
Wheatland, WY 82201  
307-322-4050 phone  
307-322-4109 fax  
www.fsa.usda.gov/WY

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

**County Committee**  
David Hinman  
E. John Watson  
Britt Wilson  
Ruth Cundall, advisor

**Staff**  
Mike Hoffland, DD  
Rick Carroll CED  
Dixie Mount FLO  
Mitzi Mudgett PT  
Joni Reyes PT  
Pammie Rapp PT

### March 2011

#### SURE Signup

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) began **Jan. 10, 2011 and runs through July 29, 2011. Please call for an appointment.** SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. For SURE, all crops must be covered by crop insurance, NAP or be eligible for waivers.

A farm enrolled in SURE is eligible when either:

- a portion of the farm is located in a county covered by a qualifying natural disaster declaration (USDA Secretarial Declarations only) or a contiguous county; or,
- the actual production is less than 50% of the normal production.

Sure is available to eligible producers on:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties that have incurred crop production losses and/or crop quality losses during the crop year. (Platte County is eligible for the 2009 crop year as Laramie County, WY received a Disaster Designation).
- Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50% or less than the normal production of the farm.

At a minimum, to be eligible for the Sure Program, the producer must have purchased or be enrolled in the following for the 2009 crop year:

- A plan of crop insurance of at least catastrophic (CAT) level for all insurable crops on all farms.
- And/or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for all non-insurable crops on the farms.

Note: RMA crop Insurance or NAP coverage on grazing land does not have to be purchased in order to be eligible for SURE. Sure does not pay for losses on crops intended for grazing.

In order to receive payments, the farm must suffer at least a 10% eligible production loss on at least one crop of economic significance. Producers with qualifying losses are eligible to receive 60% of the difference between the Sure Disaster Program Guarantee and the actual farm income.

The Disaster Program Guarantee is determined by totaling the calculated guarantee for each crop. For insured crops, the guarantee is based on the level of coverage the producer has elected.

The Total Farm Revenue calculation includes estimated crop value, Crop Insurance Indemnities, NAP payments, Marketing Assistance Loans/LDP, other disaster payments, and DCP payments (15% of Direct Payments plus Counter-cyclical payments and ACRE payments).

Most 2008 Farm Bill disaster assistance programs require a Risk Management Purchase Requirement (RMPR) to be eligible for participation. In most cases, RMPR applies to the whole “farm”. *Under 2008 Farm Bill rules, the “farm” is all farming/ranching interest in all counties in all states.*

RMPR means that eligible producers **must** carry crop insurance on insurable crops (In Wyoming, this includes alfalfa) and NAP insurance on non-insurable crops (native grass hay etc.) Insurable crops must have at least CAT level of coverage.

If you missed the sales closing date for crop insurance or NAP and otherwise qualify for disaster assistance programs, FSA procedure allows you, the producer, to request equitable relief. For equitable relief to be considered by the State Committee, the producer must have made a good faith effort to comply with RMPR requirements.

Producers who failed to meet RMPR requirements for any of the following reasons will not be granted equitable relief

- Intentionally chose not to insure a covered crop under crop insurance or NAP
- Lack of good faith in reporting acreage and/or production
- Ineligibility determinations under RMA or NAP regulations
- Inability to insure acreage because of not paying premiums with crop insurance in a prior year
- Highly erodible and/or wetland, controlled substance violations

Authorized waivers for RMPR are:

- *De Minimis Waiver*  
*The crop that did not have crop insurance is not economically significant. Economically Significant means any crop that contributed, or is expected to contribute, 5 percent or more of the total expected value of all crops grown by the producer. Crops that add less than 5 percent of the total revenue will meet the waiver requirement.*
- *Equitable Relief Waiver*  
The program provides for special consideration to provide equitable relief in 2009 to eligible producers who failed to meet 2009 RMPR for SURE. The Wyoming State Committee with a recommendation from the County Committee may grant relief of the RMPR where the:
  - producer who met all other SURE requirements, including filing a timely application, inadvertently did not obtain NAP or insurance coverage for a crop (*Producers will be required to submit evidence supporting a conclusion that failure to obtain coverage was inadvertent or accidental.*), and
  - State Committee finds that the producer acted in good faith and did not intentionally fail to obtain NAP coverage or insurance, as may be applicable.

If equitable relief is granted the producer will be required to pay the “buy-in” fee in an amount of \$250 per crop to cover an administrative fee and will be determined eligible for SURE payments.

- *SDA / LR / BF*  
Producers who are determined Socially Disadvantaged (SDA), Limited Resource (LR), or a Beginning Farmer (BF) are not required to meet the RMPR.

If you don't know if you met RMPR requirements for a particular program, please contact the County Office for more information about your situation.

Equitable relief requests should be submitted to the County Committee in a written format. They should explain which parts of RMPR the producer failed to meet, why RMPR requirements were not met and that you would like to be considered for relief.

Should equitable relief be granted, the producer will be responsible for paying the applicable fees associated with coverage, for program participation purposes only.

## **CRP Signup Opens**

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general signup is set to begin on March 14, 2011, and continue through April 15, 2011. During the signup period, farmers and ranchers may offer eligible land for CRP's competitive general signup at their nearest FSA office.

Land currently not enrolled in CRP may be offered in this signup provided all eligibility requirements are met. Additionally, current CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall may make new contract offers. Contracts awarded under this signup are scheduled to become effective Oct. 1, 2011.

FSA will evaluate and rank eligible CRP offers using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) and cost factors. The EBI consists of the five specific environmental factors of 1) wildlife, 2) water, 3) soil, 4) air and 5) enduring benefits. Decisions on the EBI cutoff will be made after the sign-up ends and after analyzing the EBI data of all the offers

In addition to the general sign-up, CRP's continuous sign-up program will be ongoing. Continuous acres represent the most environmentally desirable and sensitive land. More information can be found online at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/crp](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp)

**Producers will need to call the FSA Office to set up an appointment to make their offers for sign up #41.**

## **Adjusted Gross Income**

USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent for the IRS to verify AGI compliance will be required from each producer or payment recipient. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to USDA.

***The agreement ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.***

***Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service by June 15. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainervlet>***

## **2011 DCP/ACRE Signup**

Are you planning to participate in the 2011 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program/ACRE? If so, contact the nearest FSA county office to sign a 2011 DCP/ACRE contract (CCC-509). Sign-up begins Oct 1, 2010, and must be completed before June 1, 2011. ***Final payments for DCP will be issued in the month of October, 2011.***

## **Payment Eligibility**

Before producers can receive payments, each person must satisfy all other program or payment eligibility requirements including, but not limited to, filing a new farm operation plan or certify to no changes on form CCC-902 E for an entity or form CCC-902 I for an individual, adjusted gross income certification form CCC-926 and an AD-1026 certifying the farm is following an approved conservation system.

## **Livestock Indemnity Program**

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from a natural disaster. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality.

Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011. The losses must be a direct result of an adverse weather condition, including but not limited to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold, & lightning. Note that drought is not a qualifying event. Eligible livestock are adult/non-adult cattle, buffalo and beefalo, equine, sheep, alpacas, emus, swine, goats, llamas, poultry and domestic elk, deer and reindeer. Ineligible livestock include animals that dies as a result of disease not related to adverse weather, malnutrition or poor handling practices. Payment rates are per head by livestock kind/type and weight range. This program **requires records to show Beginning Dates of livestock on hand at the beginning of the adverse weather condition. In the case of losses depending on type of livestock inventory shall be documented with reliable and verifiable documentation. Producers need to start documentation on the dates of the storms. Calving record books are good use of documentation. They have the dates and days that a producer can document in their inventories. Producers need to contact the county office within 30 days of their losses.** The losses must be documented also with reliable and verifiable documentation to include but not limited to: Veterinary records, calving book, third party verification. Dates and numbers must be documented for beginning inventory and losses during the storms. **Contact the Platte County FSA office for further information at: 307-322-4050.**

### Crop Reporting for 2011 Crop Year

Crop reporting season is fast approaching. Filing an accurate & timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed and prevented planting acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of FSA programs. Crop reports are required for LDP and Loan, DCP and ACRE, CRP, NAP, and Disaster program payments. Crop reports, FSA-578, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. **The deadline to timely file 2011 FSA acreage reports is July 1, 2011.** Crops reports filed after July 1<sup>st</sup> will be charged a late-filed fee.

### ***IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER***

January 10, 2011	Supplemental Revenue (SURE) Program SURE Sign up begins 01/10/2011/Ends July 29, 2011
March 14 <sup>th</sup> ,	CRP Sign-up Starts March 14, 2011 through April 15, 2011
April 1 <sup>st</sup> 2011	Last Day to sign all other crops for NAP, Not Biennial or Perennial
March Through July 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2011	Platte County Office Taking 2011 Crop Reports
May 30, 2011	May 30, 2011 Labor Day, Office Closed
June 1 <sup>st</sup> 2011	June 1 <sup>st</sup> . 2011 Last Day for DCP/ACRE Signup
July 1 <sup>st</sup> 2011	Last Day to Report NAP Production For 2010 crop year.
July 1 <sup>st</sup> 2011	Last Day to Report Crop Acreage
Continues	Continuous CRP sign up
Continues	Farm Stored Facility Loan Program

**Visit our Web site <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>**

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