



Sheridan – Johnson County FSA Office
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Celia Bolinger, Chairperson
William White, Vice Chairperson
Robert Belus, Regular Member
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Juaquin Michelena, Regular Member



Dates to Remember:

Feb. 27, 2009 – Lamb
Referendum deadline

Feb. 27, 2009 – CDP signup
Deadline.

March 15, 2009 – Crop
Insurance deadline for spring
insurable crops

April 1, 2009 – Last Day to enroll
Spring Seeded *Non-insurable*
NAP Crops.

June 1, 2009 – DCP Signup
Deadline

July 1, 2009 – Crop Report
Deadline

July 1, 2009 – APH Crop
Production Deadline

Sheridan - Johnson

MARCH 2009

CONTINUING DCP SIGN-UP

Sign-up has begun for the 2009 Direct and counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program and will continue through **June 1, 2009**.

USDA computes Direct DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by State-set averages, regardless of market prices. For 2009, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments equal to 22% of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. 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.

Producers who are eligible for the DCP Program will also be eligible to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. The enrollment period for the ACRE Program will begin in the spring. 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.

For sign-up or additional information on DCP and/or the ACRE Program please contact our Sheridan-Johnson County FSA Office.

NON-INSURED CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

April 1 2009 is the signup deadline for producers to apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, or NAP coverage. The application and service fee must be filed by the applicable closing date for each of the 2009 spring seeded NAP crops. Eligible crops include annual spring seeded crops for forage or grazing that are not insurable under traditional crop insurance and, also, uninsurable spring seeded crops for grain or seed.

With the new farm bill, NAP fees increased to \$250 per crop, but not more than \$750 per producer per county, or not more than a total of \$1,875 per producer in all counties.

- **Production History**

NAP participants for 2009 must report their 2008 crop production by **July 1, 2009** to get an approved production history (APH) established.

- **Notice of Loss**

A Notice of Loss, CCC-576, must be filed for crop losses within 15 days of loss event or whenever the loss became apparent. Losses not reported timely could result in a loss of eligibility for payment.

- **Acreage Planted**

NAP participants for 2009 must report the crop that was insured and all other cropland planted by **July 1, 2009**.

IMPORTANT: NEW FARM BILL REGULATIONS**Change in Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Limits**

Under the new farm bill there are changes in the rules for Adjusted Gross Income, and the new rules are now separate for different farm programs. AGI is determined by the average AGI of the three previous years proceeding the most recent tax year. For 2009, the years used to determine the AGI are 2005, 2006, and 2007. There are three qualifying levels of AGI:

- Producers who have an adjusted gross **farm income** over \$750,000 per year are **not** eligible to receive direct payments under DCP.
- If the **non-farm** AGI is over \$500,000 the producer is **not** eligible for commodity, price support or disaster programs benefits.
- If the **non-farm** AGI is over \$1 million per year, then they would **not** be eligible for Conservation program benefits unless 66.66% or more of the AGI was derived from activities related to farming, ranching & forestry operations.

Change in Payment Limitation

New procedure has been implemented for determining payment limitation for all programs. Program payments are now 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. Also, 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 payments and benefits. Each individual or entity must make significant contributions to the farming operation of: 1) capital, equipment, land, or a combination; and 2) personal labor or active personal management, or a combination.

The rule requires each partner, stockholder, or member with an ownership interest to make a contribution of active personal labor or management. This contribution must be regular, substantial, and documented as separate and distinct from any other member's contribution.

* * *

Attribution means crediting payments made to entities, such as corporations, estates, trusts and limited partnerships, to "real persons" based on the share of the entity held by the individual stockholder, heir, beneficiary, etc.

Attention Producers:

All producers will be required to fill out new payment eligibility forms for 2009 programs and provide current information for FSA to verify ownership and signature authority for all entities requesting program benefits. Appointments have never been required at our Sheridan-Johnson County Office, but with the onset of these new program requirements we would highly recommend them. We will still accept walk-in traffic, but producers with an appointment will be given priority.

Producers may also obtain information and electronically submit forms to their local Service Center by registering for a Customer ID and password. A secure website is offered at:

<http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov>

ANNUAL NOTICE TO PRODUCERS

FSA is required to annually notify producers of many program requirements, policies, and reminders. The following are some of those notifications:

FSA Appeal Process: After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree.

Overall, we encourage participants to have these decisions and information with the original decision maker.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
Sheridan-Johnson County FSA Office
1949 Sugarland Drive, Suite 126
Sheridan, WY 82801-5720

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BANKING CHANGES?

FSA payments are electronically transferred into your bank account. If we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, your payment could be delayed. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in a producer's account such as type of account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM SIGNUP DEADLINE

The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Crop Disaster Program (CDP) signup period for years 2005-2007 will end February 27, 2009.

The ending date of February 27 applies to the receipt of a signed and completed FSA-840, along with all supporting documentation and required forms at the applicable county FSA office. No late filed applications will be approved after the Feb. 27 deadline.

All application determinations will be made by March 27, 2009. For further questions about CDP and the signup deadline, please call our Sheridan-Johnson County FSA Office or visit FSA's website at:

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

CROP REPORTS

Acreage reporting time will soon be here. Acreage reports are a requirement for most Farm Service Agency programs. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits. Please call our office to schedule an appointment for your 2009 Crop Report. The acreage reporting deadline is **July 1, 2009.**

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