



# Sheridan - Johnson

## APRIL 2009

Sheridan – Johnson County FSA  
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### Dates to Remember:

**May 18, 2009** – Deadline to purchase “buy-in” fee

**May 25, 2009** – Memorial Day - Office Closed

**July 1, 2009** — Crop Acreage Report Deadline

**July 1, 2009** – Last day to file Acreage Production

**July 4, 2009** – Independence Day – Office Closed

**August 14, 2009** – DCP Signup Deadline

**August 14, 2009** — ACRE Signup Deadline

### **Attention Producers! It's Crop Reporting Time Again!**

Crop reporting season is fast approaching. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. Crop reports are required for LDP commodity payments, DCP contract payments, CRP payments, NAP crop loss payments, and Disaster Program payments

Crop reports, form FSA-578 Report of Acreage, must account for all rangeland and cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The deadline to timely file 2009 FSA acreage reports is **July 1, 2009**. Crop reports filed after July 1<sup>st</sup> will be charged a late-filed fee.

To accommodate producers who must travel a greater distance, our office will mail crop reports when possible. For producers who receive appointment cards in the mail, if you are unable to make the scheduled appointment please contact our office staff to reschedule a time that is convenient. An office day is scheduled in Johnson County on the first Wednesday of each month, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm.

### **2009 Non-Insurable Assistance Program**

To remain eligible for NAP, a producer must annually report the crop, including: type, variety, location, producer shares, date planted, and the intended use (haying, grazing etc.). Once the crop is harvested, the production must also be reported. 2008 hay crop production needs to be filed by **July 1, 2009** in order to be used for payment yield purposed for 2009.

In the event of a crop failure caused by natural disaster, the producer needs to notify the local FSA office by completing a “Notice of Loss” (form CCC-576). The notice of loss must be executed within 15 days of the date the damage became apparent.

- Crop Reporting Date and Production Evidence Date is **July 1, 2009**.
- Notice of Loss must be reported 15 days after disaster occurred
- Application for payment should be completed promptly.
- Changes in ownership, operator or shares should be reported to our Sheridan-Johnson county FSA office.

For additional information, the NAP Basic Provisions Document is available for producers through the FSA web site located at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

**Note:** After accessing the web site, CLICK “Disaster Assistance Programs”. On the Disaster Assistance Programs Home Page CLICK “View NAP Basic Provisions”.

## **LIVESTOCK DEATH LOSS DUE TO RECENT SNOW STORMS**

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) was established by the 2008 Farm Bill and provides compensation to eligible producers who have incurred livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality, on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011. Eligible losses include: blizzards, disease, extreme cold, extreme heat, floods, hurricanes, and wildfires.

Although the forms and procedures to apply for the LIP program are not available at this time, the USDA Farm Service Agency is encouraging producers to accumulate records of their losses as they occur. Adequate documentation must be provided that proves the death of eligible livestock occurred as a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event in the calendar year for which benefits are being requested. Acceptable documentation includes, but is not limited to:

- Bank or other loan documents
- Federal Emergency Management Records
- Tax records
- National Guard records
- Private insurance documents
- Property tax records
- Purchase records
- Rendering truck receipts
- Veterinarian records
- Written contracts

Documentation must provide sufficient data that identifies the kind/type/weight range of the livestock and the number of livestock. **Note: Please do not bring your documentation to the county office at this time; keep it in your files.**

If adequate verifiable proof of death records documentation is not available, producers may provide reliable records, along with verifiable beginning and ending inventory, as proof of death. Reliable records may include, but are not limited to:

- Brand inspection records
- Contemporaneous producer records existing at the time of the event
- Dairy herd improvement records
- Pictures
- Vaccination records

Certifications of livestock deaths by third parties may be accepted only if verifiable proof or reliable proof of death records is **not** available. The livestock owner will be required to certify in writing the following:

- That there is no other verifiable or reliable documentation of death available.
- The number and physical location of livestock, by category, that were in inventory when the deaths occurred
- Other details required for FSA to determine the certification acceptable

The third party must be an independent source who is **not** a family member and who is **not** affiliated with the farming operation. A third party certification must include the person's name, telephone number and address, details specific to the livestock deaths, his/her affiliation with the livestock owner, and certify to the accuracy of the deaths claimed by the livestock owner.

Eligible livestock include 1) adult/non-adult beef cattle; 2) adult/non-adult dairy cattle; 3) adult/non-adult buffalo and beefalo; 4) Equine maintained for commercial use as part of the farming operation; 5) Elk; 6) Reindeer; 7) Deer; 8) Sheep; 9) Alpacas; 10) Emus; 11) Swine; 12) Goats; 13) Llamas; and 14) Poultry. All eligible livestock must be maintained for commercial use as part of the farming operation. Eligible livestock must be owned by an eligible livestock owner on the day the livestock dies.

The signup period for the LIP program is to be "late summer". Please contact the Sheridan-Johnson FSA Office if you were affected by the recent storms and/or have further questions.

## **SIGNUP DATE EXTENDED FOR DCP AND ACRE PROGRAMS**

The USDA has extended the sign-up deadline from June 1, to Aug. 14, 2009, for both the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and the forthcoming Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. This action gives producers additional time to make an educated decision about staying with DCP for 2009 or participating in ACRE for crop year 2009 and beyond to 2012.

The ACRE program provides eligible producers with a safety net if both farm and state revenue drops. The program targets planted and considered-planted covered commodity crops. For ACRE, the revenue calculations utilize national price figures as well as state and farm yields.

By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments, receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates. The decision to elect ACRE binds the farm to the program through the 2012 crop year.

## **Buy-in Waiver Extension for Disaster Assistance Programs**

If you did not obtain crop insurance or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2008 for three of the five disaster assistance programs authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill you can pay a buy-in fee to become eligible. This extension allows producers who suffered agricultural losses in 2008 to become eligible for the Supplemental revenue Assistance Program (SURE), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP), and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP).

Producers wishing to participate in the extension are required to pay a \$100 "buy-in" fee per crop. The maximum fee is \$300 per county, per producer, not to exceed \$900 for multi-county producers. In the case of each insurable crop, excluding grazing land, it is required that you agree to obtain a policy plan of insurance for the next insurance year for which crop insurance is available. In the case of each noninsurable crop you agree to purchase a NAP policy for the next available year. The deadline to purchase the buy-in fee is **May 18, 2009**.

The SURE program provides assistance to producers who suffered crop losses in a specific year. Basic eligibility requires that all crops, excluding pasture and intended grazed crops, be either covered by crop insurance or NAP to be eligible.

Producers who choose to "buy in" under this provision will be considered, for insured crops, to have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for the 2008 crop year at a level of coverage not to exceed 70 percent of the yield at 100 percent of the price. For noninsurable crops, producers will be considered to have a level of coverage equal to 70 percent of the yield. These levels of coverage will be used to calculate the 2008 SURE guarantee.

Waivers to the "buy in" fee:

- Producers who meet the definition of "Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource", or "Beginning Farmer or Rancher", are not required to pay the buy-in fee.
- Producers who have already paid the "buy-in" fee.
- Producers may elect to waive the requirement on a crop that is not economically significant ( a crop less than 5 percent of the total expected revenue) or for which the NAP fee exceeds 10 percent of the value of the NAP coverage.
- Producers are no longer required to have coverage on acreage that is planted to a subsequent crop.

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

### ***Important Dates to Remember***

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#### **Wool/Unshorn Lamb Pelt LDP Requirements:**

Loan Deficiency payments will be available to eligible producers that produce non-graded wool in the form of unshorn pelts for crop years 2008 through 2012.

The LDP rate is based on the rate in effect on the date:

- Of request, if beneficial interest is maintained on date of request.
- Beneficial interest is lost according to acceptable production evidence
- Slaughtered, is slaughtered for personal use for unshorn pelts only.

To be eligible for an LDP for unshorn pelts, producers must:

- Have beneficial interest in the commodity
- Own the unshorn lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter
- Sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter or slaughter the unshorn lamb for personal use.

**Wool, Mohair, Unshorn Pelts Producers:** You are reminded to call our office prior to shearing and/or selling your wool to ensure your “page 1” of form CCC-633EZ is filed. This form has to be signed, dated and filed in our office prior to the loss of beneficial interest (delivery or sale) of the wool.