



July 2010

Uinta County FSA News

USDA WY / Uinta County

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Office Hours

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

FSA County Committee

J. Wesley Lupher, Jr.
COC Chairman

Kirk L. Eyre
Vice-Chairman

E. Lyle Robinson
Regular Member

I. L'nette Iorg
Advisor

FSA County Office Staff

Karey M. Clark, CED
Andrea L. Rollins, PT

Brian Harrell, FLM

Martin G. Hoffland, DD



2010 County Committee Elections

The Uinta County Committee election process continues. The nomination period closes on August 2, 2010.

The 2010 election area is LAA#2, Mountain View, Ft, Bridger, Milburne, Robertson, Lonetree & McKinnon areas. Wes Lupher currently serves on the Committee from LAA#2.

Election Period

Aug. 2, 2010 - Last day to file nomination forms (FSA-669A) at the local USDA Service Center.

Nov. 5, 2010 - Ballots mailed to eligible voters.

Dec. 6, 2010 - Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center.

Jan. 1, 2011 - Newly elected county committee members take office.

Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers of legal voting age may be eligible to vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm may also be eligible to vote. Producers may contact their local USDA Service Center for more information.

Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) Reminders

It is critical that you report losses on NAP crops no later than 15 days after the disaster event or when the loss becomes apparent. Notices of Loss that are filed after 15 days may still be accepted IF verification of the specific crop, acreage and cause of loss can be made by the County Committee. If positive verification of these requirements cannot be made, the late filed notice of loss will be disapproved and the producer will not be eligible for payment.

Remember you must stand the first 50% of any loss under the NAP program. (Haying and/or Grazing)

If you suffer more than 50% loss contact the office promptly. Hay forage crops will require a field appraisal and may take some time to get an appraiser into the area. FSA must be able to verify the loss BEFORE livestock are turned out into forage hay fields.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) - (Flooding)

SIGN-UP Aug.02 – Aug. 31, 2010

USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) provides emergency funding and technical assistance to producers who have suffered severe damage to farm and ranch land as a result of a natural disaster, such as floods, water erosion, tornados, or, in some cases drought. ECP funding is appropriated by Congress.

ECP is administered by state and county FSA Committees. Subject to availability of funds, the local County Committee administers the program.

Land eligibility is based on on-site inspections of damage, taking into account the type and extent of damage. The damage must be severe enough to be too costly to repair without Federal assistance.

Due to the flooding which occurred on the Henry's Fork, Smith's Fork, Black's Fork and Bear River drainages the Uinta County FSA Office will be taking sign-ups for cost-share assistance. Applications must be filed before restoration/clean-up work begins.

Please be aware that filing an application does not guarantee cost-share assistance. Cost share assistance depends on approval and funding having been granted. The maximum cost-share that is allowed under ECP is 75%. Payment limitations are in place for this program.

Technical assistance may be provided by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. (NRCS).

Examples of eligible cost-share practices pertaining to flood damage are debris removal, grading and re-leveling, rebuilding permanent fences, structure restoration (including, but not limited to; dams, ponds, diversion ditches, water control structures, head gates, etc.)

Applicants will need to provide at least the following information:

1. What is needed to fix the damage?
 2. Quantities needed (for example):
 - a. Size of structure
 - b. How many feet of pipe
 - c. Number of head gates/size
 - d. Cubic feet/yards of concrete
 - e. Equipment use/rental and hours
 - f. Labor – hired or self labor
- *For more information refer to the program fact sheet on Page 2.

Fact Sheet**Emergency Conservation Program****Overview**

USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) provides emergency funding and technical assistance for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and for carrying out emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought. Funding for ECP is appropriated by Congress.

Program Administration

ECP is administered by state and county FSA committees. Subject to availability of funds, locally-elected county committees are authorized to implement ECP for all disasters except drought, which is authorized at the national office of FSA.

Land Eligibility

County FSA committees determine land eligibility based on on-site inspections of damage, taking into account the type and extent of damage. For land to be eligible, the natural disaster must create new conservation problems that, if untreated, would:

- impair or endanger the land;
- materially affect the land's productive capacity;
- represent unusual damage which, except for wind erosion, is not the type likely to recur frequently in the same area; and

- be so costly to repair that Federal assistance is or will be required to return the land to productive agricultural use.

Conservation problems existing prior to the applicable disaster are ineligible for ECP assistance.

Payments

ECP program participants receive cost-share assistance of up to 75 percent of the cost to implement approved emergency conservation practices, as determined by county FSA committees.

Individual or cumulative requests for cost-sharing of \$50,000 or less per person, per disaster are approved at the county committee level. Cost-sharing from \$50,001 to \$100,000 is approved at the state committee level. Cost-sharing over \$100,000 must be approved by FSA's national office. Further, there is a payment limitation of \$200,000 per "person" per disaster.

Technical assistance may be provided by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Emergency Conservation Practices

To rehabilitate farmland, ECP program participants may implement emergency conservation practices, such as:

- remove debris;
- restore fences and conservation structures; and
- provide water for livestock in drought situations.

Other conservation measures may be authorized by county FSA committees, with approval from state FSA committees and FSA's national office.

Sign-up Periods

Producers should check with their local county FSA offices regarding ECP sign-up periods, which are set by county FSA committees.

For More Information

More information on ECP is available at FSA offices and on FSA's Web site at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (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, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Farm Loan Program (FLP)

The FSA offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans up to a maximum of \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum of \$1,112,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For details contact Brian Harrell, Farm Loan Manager, to schedule an appointment. (307) 856-7524.

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the Farm Service Agency has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Groups.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements.

Farm Loan Manager Regularly Visits Uinta County

For questions regarding obtaining credit to start or enlarge a ranching operation; financing agricultural operating expenses; livestock and machinery purchases contact:

Brian Harrell, Farm Loan Manager
(307) 856-7524 - Riverton, Wyoming

Loan Deficiency Program (LDP) & Nonrecourse Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL)

USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) makes available nonrecourse marketing assistance loans (MAL's) for certain commodities. CCC establishes loan rates for these commodities annually at the national level, and adjusts the rates locally. Marketing loans provide interim financing for eligible producers, allowing them to store their crops at harvest (when prices tend to be low), then market their crops when prices rise.

Under certain circumstances, when applicable loan rates are greater than the posted county or announced national market price for eligible loan commodities, producers can repay loans at the announced applicable market price amount, without interest.

Alternatively, a producer may be eligible for and choose to receive an LDP in lieu of securing a marketing loan. An LDP is the difference between the loan rate at a given location and the announced market price for the applicable commodity. FSA provides marketing assistance loans and LDPs on behalf of CCC.

Marketing loans and LDPs help ensure an orderly distribution of commodities to the market throughout the year and prevent delivery of commodities as loan collateral to USDA. More information on marketing loans and LDPs is available at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/>. Locate the section titled Price Support and look for information on Marketing Loans and/or Loan Deficiency Program benefits.

Contact the FSA office for additional information concerning the MAL and LDP programs.

Geographic Information System (GIS)

As part of a program to digitally map the nation's farms and fields, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has established the Common Land Unit (CLU) as a standardized GIS (Geographic Information Systems) data layer that has allowed mapping to be integrated easily on a nationwide basis. The Farm Service Agency manages this CLU data layer through a distributed database environment for all field service centers throughout the country.

Using GIS provides for more consistent and more accurate land measurements, such as field acreage and acreage boundaries of conservation practices, such as riparian buffers. With high quality digital imagery, new land use changes (farm transfers and land subdivisions) can be easily updated. Maps can be created in either paper or digital format for FSA customers or the public.

More information about the Common Land Unit and NAIP imagery can be found by visiting on-line, APFO (Aerial Photography Field Office) at: www.apfo.usda.gov



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FSA - IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- *August 02, 2010 Deadline to file COC election nomination forms with FSA county office
- *Aug. 02 – Aug. 31, 2010 **ECP Sign Up / Application period for cost-share assistance - June 2010 flood damage.
 Contact the office to schedule an appointment to make application for the ECP program**
- * September 06, 2010 Office Closed – Labor Day Holiday
- *Prior to Selling Wool Complete form CCC-633EZ, Page 1, if you wish to participate in the 2010 LDP Program
- *Wool is Sold or Delivered Complete form CCC-633EZ, Page 4, Wool LDP Application for Payment
- *Within 15 days Deadline to file 2010 NAP losses (hay forage and grazing) – 15 days after apparent loss
- *Within 30 days Deadline to file livestock losses (LIP and ELAP as applicable) – 30 days after apparent loss
- *Immediately Report changes that would affect your payment limitation documentation; farm record changes to your operation; land sales, purchases, new leases, leases you no longer have; operator changes and banking changes for direct deposit purposes.
 Help us keep your records up to date!
- Monthly Office Visit Farm Loan assistance – Call ahead to schedule an appointment.
 Brian Harrell, Farm Loan Manager, can be reached by calling (307) 856-7524, in Riverton, WY.
- Monthly FSA County Committee Meeting – Third Wednesday at 1:00 P.M. in the USDA Service Center
 Meetings are scheduled on an as-needed basis.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provided and employer.

Special accommodations will be made for the physically handicapped, vision-or hearing-impaired person upon request. If accommodations are required, please contact Karey M. Clark, CED at (307) 787-3859, Ext. 100.