



NEWSLETTER



January 2011 Edition

USDA – Farm Service Agency Uinta County, WY

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FSA Website:
www.fsa.usda.gov/

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

**Closed on Federal
Holidays**

County Office Staff:

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

Brian S. Harrell,
Farm Loan Manager
(307) 856-7524
for appointments

Martin G. Hoffland,
District Director

FSA County Committee:

J. Wes Lupher, Jr.
E. Lyle Robinson
Kirk L. Eyre

Advisor to FSA Committee:

L'nette Iorg



2010 LDP Deadline Near

Wool producers are reminded that the **2010** LDP application period closes on January 31, 2010. Please contact the office promptly to apply.

If you have not sold your wool you may apply for certified wool LDP based on the estimated pounds of wool you plan to sell. Otherwise, you need to submit your sales receipt for the 2010 clip of wool to make application for an LDP.

LDP's for the **2011** crop began on January 01, 2011 and will continue through January 31, 2012.

All Wool producers are reminded that you must sign Page 1 of the application form (CCC-633EZ) **before** losing beneficial interest in the wool.

ELAP Assistance Available

Did you purchase extra feed because of the recent winter storms???

The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) provides assistance to producers of livestock, farm-raised fish and honey bees. The program is implemented when the county, or area of the county, suffers livestock, fish or honey bee losses, livestock feed losses or grazing losses from a natural disaster event not covered under the LIP, LFP or SURE programs. Producers are required to file a NOTICE of LOSS the earlier of: 30 days from when the loss is apparent, or the end of the calendar year.

Then, the application for payment must be submitted; along with all loss documentation

no later than 30 days after the end of the calendar year (**2010 losses must be filed by January 31, 2011**).

Note: Payments for any 2011 applications will not be issued until a year from now.

All crops must be covered by either crop insurance or NAP in all counties that the applicant has an interest in. Crops intended for grazing are exempt from this rule for ELAP. There are provisions to apply for equitable relief when the participant made a good faith effort to comply with the risk management purchase requirement. Equitable relief requests must be in writing.

If you purchased additional feed due to storm activity in late December contact the office promptly!!!

Please contact the County Office for more details.

SURE Signup

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) began Jan. 10, 2011. SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. For SURE, all crops must be covered by crop insurance, NAP or 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.

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Wes Lupher! Wes was re-elected to represent farmers from LAA #2: Mountain View, Fort Bridger, Robertson and Mckinnon areas. L'nette Iorg was elected as the 1st Alternate to the committee and continues to serve as advisor to the County Committee.

FSA committee members will serve in the following positions for the 2011 Calendar Year:

J. Wes Luper – Chairman
E. Lyle Johnson – Vice Chair.
Kirk L. Eyre – Member
L'nette Iorg - Advisor

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date.

Production records for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the acreage reporting date (July 01) for the crop for the following year. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to agency specifications.

NAP Losses must be reported within 15 days of loss.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a

prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.



Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. FSA administers this program for USDA.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Farming Operation Changes

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan.

Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any FSA office near you for more information.

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

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.

Generally, program participants have three choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

Customer Statement

January signals the beginning of a new year, and a time to start thinking about filing taxes. Producers who have signed up for a Level 2 account will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement.

The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's at your fingertips and available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

It allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs; information on farm loans; and conservation plan and land unit information.

FSA Signature Policy

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you

are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

For additional information contact Mr. Brian S. Harrell, Farm Loan Manager in Riverton, WY. (307) 856-7424

IRS Form 1099-G

Producers annually receive CCC-1099-Gs detailing payments producers have received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on CCC-1099-Gs is a service intended to help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producers' responsibilities to report income to IRS.

FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy.

New Crop Acreage Reporting System (CARS)

The County Office is now preparing the 2011 Crop Acreage Reports. Most producers will be receiving the report by mail to review, sign and date. Please look over your farm documents carefully. Contact the office if you need changes or corrections made. Be sure to sign and date the report and return to the County Office promptly. Most FSA programs require a signed and certified report be on file to participate in the program(s). The 2011 Crop Acreage Reporting (CAR) deadline is July 01, 2011.

Winter Conditions Good

At this writing, the snow water equivalent and total precipitation percentages are above normal.

The U.S. Drought Monitor map currently shows Uinta County to be normal with the exception of a very small portion in the very northeast corner of the county. This area is labeled as abnormally dry.

Uinta County must have a D2 or higher rating to be considered for disaster assistance (in some FSA programs).

2011 - Dates to Remember

Monthly	Uinta County Committee Meeting Third Wednesday – 1:00 P.M.
Jan. 30	Deadline to file for LFP assistance in Lincoln County. Contact Lincoln County for details (307) 886-9001
Jan. 30	Deadline to file for 2010 ELAP assistance
Jan. 31	Deadline to file 2010 Wool LDP Applications.
Feb. 16	Uinta County COC Meeting 1:00 P.M.
Feb. 21	Holiday - George Washington's Birthday – USDA Service Center Closed
April 1	NAP application closing date for spring seeded crops. Oats, Barley, Oat Hay, Barley Hay.
June 1	DCP Signup Deadline
July 1	2011 Crop Acreage Report Deadline
July 1	NAP Actual Production History Yields certified for 2010
15 Days	Deadline to file NAP Notice of Loss (hay and grazing)
30 Days	Deadline to file a Notice of Loss for livestock losses (LIP and ELAP)



USDA United States
Department of
Agriculture
Farm Service Agency
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**Attention:
CCC-927 and/or CCC-
928 Disclosure Form
Needed by the Internal
Revenue Service (IRS)**

Producers who participated in 2010 FSA programs subject to adjusted gross income limitations (AGI had to certify compliance with AGI rules.

The average verification process for 2010 payment eligibility requires all program participants to provide written consent to IRS for the disclosure of certain information to FSA.

On October 6, 2010, a letter was mailed to producers who have not submitted either: CCC-927 "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information for an Individual, or CCC-928 "Consent Disclosure of Tax Information for Legal Entity.

Individuals and legal entities, including members of legal entities, which certified to average AGI compliance for 2010 payment eligibility, must submit a completed CCC-927 or CCC-928 to the IRS regardless of whether they received program benefits directly or as a member of a joint operation or entity. These forms must be submitted to IRS in order to avoid a demand for refund of program payments and benefits received.

This same policy holds true for Year 2011. You as an individual, entity or member of an entity will be required to certify to the Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) provisions for approved FSA & NRCS applications and subsequent program payments.