



United States Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency
Washakie-Hot Springs FSA Newsletter
August/September 2008

208 Shiloh Road
Worland, WY 82401
Telephone (307) 347-2456
Fax (307) 347-8806

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Monday – Friday

Closed on Federal Holidays

Washakie-Hot Springs

Committee:

Nick Geis
Kathy Propp
Dan Rice
Matt Brown
Bruce Thurgood

Office Staff:

Bill Morrison – Farm Loan Manager
Claire Lewallen – Program Technician
Darla Rhodes – Program Technician

FSA Home Page:

www.fsa.usda.gov

USDA Home Page:

www.usda.gov

Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Assistance Program

USDA enacted into law on May 22, 2008, the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, which has amended the Trade Act of 1974 to create an agricultural disaster relief trust fund and a supplemental agricultural disaster assistance program. The trust fund provides five new disaster assistance programs that may be used to make payments to farmers and producers. The new disaster programs are the:

- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program,
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP),
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP),
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP), and
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish (EALHF) Program.

To be eligible for these programs, producers must purchase at least catastrophic risk protection (CAT) level of crop insurance for all insurable crops and/or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for non-insurable crops.

2008 Crop Year Buy-in for Disaster Assistance

For the 2008 crop year only, producers who were eligible to obtain at least CAT level crop insurance or NAP, but did not, can “Buy-in” to be eligible to participate in the applicable Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance programs by paying the administrative fee that would have been applicable if the producer had timely applied for CAT or NAP. *The deadline for the buy-in is September 16, 2008.*

Crop Disaster Program (2005-2007)

The deadline for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) has not been announced but do not delay in filing your application. Deadline will be announced and there are no provisions for late filed applications. Please call the Washakie/Hot Springs County FSA Office if you have questions at 307-347-2456.

Quality Loss Crop Disaster Sign-Up

Sign-up for quality losses under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) **began on June 23, 2008**. Producers **must have applied** for quantity loss to be eligible to apply for quality loss. However, producers do not need to qualify for a quantity loss. Producers must have suffered quality losses of at least 25 percent to be eligible for CDP quality loss. In addition, the requirement for Crop Insurance or NAP coverage still applies.

Quality loss participants **will be required** to provide actual production evidence. The actual production evidence will need to show the total quantity, price and quality factors to receive a payment. This includes evidence showing quality factors of the affected production, such as university or other commercial lab test results. For instance, documentation showing only that a crop graded as “feed” **will not** be considered verifiable evidence to substantiate the quality of the crop.

All crops eligible for quality loss must have been harvested as the intended use was reported.

The CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered losses to their 2005-2007 crops from natural disasters and related conditions. Producer who incurred qualifying quantity or quality losses in 2005, 2006, or 2007 may receive benefits for only one of these years. However, producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. For more information or to apply for crop quality losses, please contact the Washakie/Hot Springs County FSA Office.

Crop Reporting Deadline

The 2008 crop reporting deadline was August 15, 2008. Crop reports were required from all producers with DCP, CRP, NAP, CDP contracts, and anyone who applied for a commodity loan or LDP (grain crops, wool, or unshorn pelts). If you have one of these contracts, but did not file a crop report, you are required to do so before receiving any future payments, and you will be charged a minimum of \$46 per farm.

Failed Acreage

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the County Committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

2008 Non-Insurable Assistance Program (NAP)

A notice of loss must be provided to the County Office **within 15 calendar days** after the disaster occurrence or date damage to the specific crop is apparent to the producer.

2009 Non-Insurable Assistance Program (NAP)

NAP Continuous Coverage letters for 2009 were mailed out to producers. Those who are already in the NAP program were reminded with this letter, those who are not enrolled in NAP for 2008; you will need to contact this office to enroll for 2009, if you choose to do so. Effective May 22, 2008, the administrative fee was increased to \$250 per crop, \$750 per county, and \$1875 for multi-county. The **final date to sign up for NAP is December 1, 2008**. Please note that if you do not purchase either NAP or CAT crop insurance you may not be eligible for future programs.

County Committee Election

Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters on November 3rd, 2008. If, for some reason, you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the County FSA office. Washakie County LAA #2, which is everything east of the Big Horn River, is currently holding elections for a representative. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on December 1st, 2008.

DCP Enrollment

The Washakie/Hot Springs County FSA Office is now taking DCP applications. The 2008 program will be ran the same as 2007. Changes to the program will come in 2009. Advanced direct payments for 2008 may be requested at signup at 22% of the direct payment total.

Continuous CRP Signup

Producers may sign up for Continuous CRP. This provision provides producers and landowners with management flexibility when planning conservation enhancements to their farming operation. The purpose of the program is to enhance the ecosystem of the water body, improve habitat for aquatic organisms, habitat for wildlife, and restore cover along river and creek banks and to protect the surface water. For further information, please contact the Washakie/Hot Springs County FSA Office at 347-2456.

BEGINNING FARMER/RANCHER LOANS

Are you a farmer or rancher who has substantially participated in the farming operation for at least three but no more than 10 years? If so, you may qualify for beginning farmer targeted loan funds with the Farm Service Agency. The program is designed to assist these farmers by providing direct and guaranteed loans when they are unable to obtain financing from commercial credit sources.

If you believe this program could be of benefit to you, please contact the county office staff for more information. Loan officials are available to answer questions and assist with the necessary application paperwork. You may contact Bill Morrison, Farm Loan Manager in Worland, WY at (307) 347-2456.

Washakie – Hot Springs FSA Office
208 Shiloh Road
Worland, WY 82401

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

September 16, 2008 – Deadline for 2008 Crop Year Buy-In for Disaster Assistance Program

September 20, 2008 – Deadline to sign-up for 2008 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program

October 13, 2008 – Office Closed for Columbus Day

November 3, 2008 – Election Ballots for COC elections to be mailed to eligible voters

December 1, 2008 – Last day to return voting ballots to the FSA Office

December 1, 2008 – Last day to enroll in the Non-Insured Program (NAP)

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