



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

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WELCOME SUE WILLEY



As the new County Executive Director of Washakie and Hot Springs Counties I would like to introduce myself. I have twenty plus years of experience working for the FSA, mainly in Niobrara County. I grew up on a ranch in South Dakota, and my husband and I ranch near Harrison, NE.

I am very pleased to be your new CED and look forward to meeting you. Darla, Bill, Claire and I look forward to working with you and providing our two counties with the best possible service. Please stop in and introduce yourselves.

EXTENDING THE 2008 DCP SIGN-UP DEADLINE FOR FARMS WITH 10.0 OR LESS BASE ACRES

On October 13, 2008 H.R. 6849 was enacted and provides for an extension of the 2008 DCP enrollment deadline for farms with 10.0 base acres or less covered commodities not previously enrolled. Producers on farms with 10.0 base acres or less **have until November 26, 2008** to initiate and complete enrollment of a farm for 2008 DCP. H.R. 6849 **does not extend** the DCP sign-up deadline for farms **with greater than** 10.0 base acres.

With the extension of the 2008 DCP enrollment deadline for farms with 10.0 base acres or less to Nov. 26, 2008, late filed crop acreage report requirement and fees will be waived on farms with 10.0 base acres or less if filed **by COB, December 1, 2008**. This **does not waive** late filed crop acreage report requirements or fees for farms **with greater than** 10.0 base acres.

NAP COVERAGE CLOSING DATE IS DEC. 1

Since the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 was announced so late defining the 2009 risk management NAP Coverage requirement for the Supplemental Disaster Programs, the National Farm Service Agency (FSA) office has extended the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage purchase date for 2009 only. NAP application closing dates that fall before December 1, 2008 have been extended to December 1, 2008, for the 2009 application crop year.

LDP'S ON WOOL, MOHAIR, AND UNSHORN PELTS

Producers of wool, mohair, or unshorn sheep going to slaughter need to have a signed CCC-633 page 1 on file at the FSA office prior to loss of beneficial interest in the commodity. Once you have sold or have a weight on the commodity you need to bring them into our office to complete the application for payment. The deadline for requesting Loan Deficiency Payments for wool, mohair, or unshorn pelts for the 2008 crop year is January 31, 2009.

WAIVER FOR 2009 CROP YEAR FOR INSURABLE CROPS

For the 2009 crop year, producers of insurable commodities with a sales closing date before August 14, 2008, that did **not** meet the crop insurance coverage criteria can “buy-in” or be “waived in” to be eligible for the SURE Program, ELAP, and TAP. The 2009 crop year commodities that have sales closing dates before August 14, 2008, are the **only** 2009 crops eligible for the “buy-in”.

FARM MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS

Marketing Assistance loans are available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if you regain beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires you comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, report how you use cropland acreage on the farm and ensure that the commodity meets CCC minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program to be eligible for commodity loans. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may result in administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans. The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

REMOVING CCC LOAN COLLATERAL

Producers are reminded, if you have grain under Commodity Credit Corporation loan it cannot be removed or disposed of without prior county office staff authorization or repayment. The county office staff may issue release authorizations based on a telephone or in person request when you are ready to move the grain. A loan violation is subject to monetary and administrative penalties, such as repaying the loan at principal plus interest, liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans and loan deficiency payments.

All commodity loans are subject to spot check. Locking in a market loan repayment rate is not a marketing authorization. If you are planning to move CCC loan grain, call the county office staff, before you HAUL!

TURN-AROUND MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOAN (MAL) POLICY

Effective immediately, producers who store commingled commodities in unapproved/unlicensed warehouses, are **not** eligible to repay MAL using the commodity certificate exchange and will lose beneficial interest in the commodity on the day of delivery. Federally or State licensed warehouses, with or without a CCC storage agreement, and CCC-approved warehouses are eligible to store CCC loan commodities. Producers who store commodities in these facilities are eligible to repay a turn-around MAL using the commodity certificate exchange provision **only** for the 2008 and 2009 crop years. The authority to offer or make available commodity certificate exchanges to producers will terminate at the end of the 2009 crop year and will be unavailable for subsequent crop years (2010 through 2012).

UNAUTHORIZED DISPOSITION OF LOANED GRAIN

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe. Additionally, producer could be subject to criminal prosecution under federal law. Always call the office before any grain under loan is fed or sold.

ADDITIONAL FARM BILL PROGRAMS

A few more disaster programs are provided for in the 2008 farm bill. Direct / Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) will be back as well as a new crop base payment program called ACRE. DCP will be administered like it has been in the past and will have “direct” payments and “counter-cyclical (CC) payments when the market triggers are met. ACRE provides for direct payments like DCP but instead of CC payments a producer will receive a payment based on the number of acres planted of a contract crop. More detailed information will be coming out in the near future.

Other items of importance in the new farm bill are a restructuring of the Person and Payment Limitation program with a host of other eligibility and program items being redesigned – some with major changes.

ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME LIMITATIONS

New Adjusted Gross Income limitations will be in place for 2009 and future years. There are three limitations to consider now, one that affects all commodity programs, one that affects DCP only, and one that applies to only Conservation Programs. These certifications will be based on the average income in the three years preceding the most recent complete tax year (so, for the 2009 program year, the years in consideration will be 2005, 2006, and 2007). The table below summarizes these limits:

\$500,000 Average Adjusted Gross Non-farm Income	Exceed this - ineligible for any commodity, price support, or disaster program benefits
\$750,000 Average Adjusted Gross Farm Income	Exceed this - ineligible for DCP Payments
\$1,000,000 Average Adjusted Gross Non-farm Income	Exceed this - ineligible for Conservation programs, unless 66.66% or more of AGI is average adjusted gross farm income

Direct and indirect program participants will be required to certify to the new income limitations for the 2009 crop year on form CCC-926 or through an accountant’s or attorney’s certification. The Adjusted Gross Income Certification form is no longer a continuous certification and must be filed at least once every 3 years. The new form and procedures are not yet available. Additional information, including specifics on what is considered farm income and what is considered non-farm income will be made available at a future date.

Other Agency News

The Wyoming section of the Society for Range Management will be presenting a Rangeland Management 101 School in Worland on Wednesday December 17, 2008. The School is being hosted by the Washakie County Conservation District and will be held at the USDA Service Center, 208 Shiloh Road in Worland.

The Rangeland Management 101 School is a one day introduction to the art and science of range management and includes presentations on how plants grow, time and timing of grazing, animal nutrition and behavior, monitoring methodologies that can be used on private and federally owned rangelands, applied grazing management, and management strategies to deal with drought.

There have been 14 schools held throughout the state since June 2004 with over 450 attendees consisting of ranchers, federal and state land managers, educators and students, and interest groups. Comments on the course evaluation forms indicated the schools were well received and attendee’s increased their knowledge of the principles of range management.

Cost for the school is \$20 which covers the notebook that contains handouts from all the presentations and other pertinent information. Attendees will also receive the newest version of the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide. Lunch will be provided by the Washakie County Conservation District at no extra charge.

For more information or to obtain a registration brochure contact Blaine Horn at (307) 684-7522 or bhorn@uwyo.edu, or Tori Dietz at (307) 347-2456 ext 191 or wccd@rtconnect.net.



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

November 27, 2008	Thanksgiving Day (Office closed)
November 30, 2008	Crop Insurance policy deadline
December 1, 2008	NAP deadline
December 1, 2008	Deadline for returning Election Ballots
December 4, 2008	Election Ballots will be counted
December 25, 2008	Christmas Day (Office closed)
January 1, 2009	New Years Day (Office closed)
January 31, 2009	Last day to sign up for Wool, Mohair, Unshorn Pelt LDP's

- Call FSA prior to breaking up sod (new land) and before planting a crop on sod.
- IMMEDIATELY...Notify county office of direct deposit changed, farm record changes, or management changes.

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Special Accommodations will be made for the physically handicapped, vision- or hearing-impaired person upon request. If accommodations are required, please call Sue Willey, CED at (307) 347-2456.