



United States Department of Agriculture
 Farm Service Agency
 Washakie-Hot Springs FSA Newsletter
 November 2009

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
 Sue Willey – County Executive Director
 Darla Rhodes – Program Technician

FSA Home Page:
www.fsa.usda.gov

USDA Home Page:
www.usda.gov

PLEASE JOIN US!!!



After working for the government for 37 years, Program Technician Claire Lewallen is retiring!!! We will be having a retirement party for her on December 16th, 2009, from 1:30 to 3:30 at the USDA Service Center. Please plan on stopping by to wish her well!!!



Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The 2008 Farm Bill includes a new disaster program known as the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE). **To be eligible for the SURE program, you must have Multi-peril crop insurance for all insurable crops in the farming operation and you must have NAP coverage for all non-insurable crops!!** Failure to carry NAP coverage or failure to insure your crops will make you ineligible for SURE payments. A SURE calculator is available on the FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/fbapp?area=home&subject=landing&topic=landing>. The calculator is a tool to help with calculations and to help you determine whether to purchase the necessary insurance for SURE eligibility. It is not the approved software to compute and provide actual payment information. By using the calculator, you may begin familiarizing yourself with the SURE calculations which allows you to run various scenarios based on basic levels of insurance coverage versus buy up levels of insurance coverage. It is important to note that this calculator only addresses yield based crops and does not address value loss crops or those plans of insurance that are revenue based. It does not include calculations for situations such as prevented planting, first crop/second crop or other scenarios.

It is imperative that ALL crops be reported in all counties by producers to be eligible for the SURE program.

Reporting Production for NAP

Participants in the Non-insured Assistance Program need to submit crop production evidence in order for us to complete proven yield calculations. As you complete harvest and cleaning of NAP seed crops or sale of NAP crops, submit production evidence to this office so we can complete the proven yield calculations.

County Committee Elections

Ballots for the 2009 Washakie/Hot Springs County FSA committee election were mailed to eligible voters on November 6, 2009. The final date to return ballots is Monday, December 7, 2009. The committee election this year is for Local Administrative Area (LAA) #1 and LAA #5. LAA #1 is in Washakie County and includes everything west of the Big Horn River, and Steven Snyder is the candidate. LAA #5 is in Hot Springs County and includes everything east of the Big Horn River, plus those west of the river that get their irrigation water from the river. The candidate for LAA #5 is Bruce Thurgood. Make your vote count and return your ballot!!!



Wool, Mohair, and Pelt Loans and LDP's

Wool and mohair producers who shear wool and/or mohair can either request a 9 month marketing assistance loan or agree to forego the loan for a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP). Producers are reminded that they must sign up for their LDP prior to losing beneficial interest in the commodity. If you sell your wool or mohair at shearing, you must sign the application for LDP prior to shearing and prior to losing beneficial interest in the wool. If you store your wool or mohair, you must sign up for the LDP before you lose beneficial interest in the commodity. Eligible producers of unshorn lamb pelts may also apply for Loan Deficiency Payments. An unshorn pelt is defined as the removed skin and attached wool from a slaughtered lamb that has never been shorn. To be eligible for an LDP for unshorn pelts, producers must have owned the unshorn lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of the slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter or slaughter the unshorn lamb for personal use. Immediate slaughter is considered slaughter of the lamb within a 7 to 10 day period after the loss of beneficial interest. Eligible producers are considered to have lost beneficial interest on the date of delivery or the date of the receipt of payment, whichever comes earliest. Producers must sign an application for the unshorn lamb pelt LDP prior to losing beneficial interest on the lamb.

Buyers of Agricultural Products

It is required that buyers of agricultural products check or register with the Secretary of State's Office to determine if there are liens against the seller of the product. If a lien is found, the buyer is required to place both the lien holder's and seller's names on the check. Ag products include, but are not limited to, livestock (including horses), crops used for feed (hay, silage, oats, etc.), machinery, equipment and all other crops. Failure to place the lien holder's name on the check may result in civil legal action being taken against the buyer of the product. Protect yourself as a buyer!!! You may contact the Secretary of State's Office at (307) 777-7311.

2010 DCP Sign-up

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2010. DCP payments are calculated using base acres and payments yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2010, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment. 2010 advance payments will be issued beginning December 1, 2009. Counter-cyclical payments rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price. The effective price is higher of the national average market price received during the 12-month marketing year for each covered commodity and the national average loan rate for a marketing assistance loan for the covered commodity.

Loan Repayment Methods for All Eligible MAL Commodities

New loan repayment rate methods were announced April 6, 2009. Section 1204 of the 2008 Farm Bill permits producers on a farm to repay MAL's on wheat, feed grains, soybeans, other oilseeds, pulse crops, wool, mohair, and honey at a rate that is lesser than the loan rate established for the commodity, plus interest.

MAL's can be repaid at any time during the loan period at a rate that is lesser of 1 of the following:

- Loan rate plus interest
- The 30-calendar-day method
- Or an alternative method.

Please contact the county office when repaying a loan for instruction.

Important NAP and RMA Insurance Information

The RMA Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage-Vegetative Index (PRF-VI) policy only covers losses because of drought. Losses are calculated using a deviation from the historical average index, as determined by RMA for a specific time period selected by the producer. Because PRF-VI does not cover all perils, NAP **MUST** be purchased by producers on the same acres covered by PRF-VI to provide coverage for losses resulting from other eligible NAP conditions, such as flood, fire, and freeze.

A producer could obtain both a PRF-VI policy and NAP coverage on the same acres with the same intended use because the PRF-VI policy is limited to drought as a cause of loss and does not cover all perils. However, if the producer earns an indemnity payment under the PRF-VI policy for a specific intended use, then the producer is ineligible for a NAP payment on any of the acres covered by NAP for the same intended use on that unit.

Livestock Forage Disaster Program

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought conditions or fire on federally managed land.

Eligible livestock producers may receive assistance for eligible livestock grazing losses that occur due to drought or fire on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011, during the calendar year in which the loss occurs.

County committees can only accept applications after being notified by the National Office of qualifying drought as signified by a Drought Monitor level of D2 or higher, or if a Federal agency prohibits producers from grazing normally permitted livestock on Federally managed lands due to a qualifying fire.

FSA began accepting 2008 calendar year applications September 14, 2009. The applications must be filed by December 10, 2009. Late filed applications for LFP cannot be approved. For 2009 and subsequent years, signup applications must be filed not later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the grazing losses occurred. Losses must occur in the calendar year the application is being filed.

The monthly payment rate will be an amount equal to 60 percent of the lesser of:

- The monthly feed cost for all covered livestock, using a feed grain equivalent (for example, the feed grain equivalent for an adult beef cow is 15.7 pounds of corn per day)
- The monthly feed cost calculated using the normal carrying capacity for the grazing land

Drought eligibility criteria require that the drought must have occurred on:

- Native or improved permanent vegetative cover
- Small grains or forage sorghum planted specifically for grazing

Losses due to drought must occur during the normal grazing period for the specific type of grazing land. Additional information about LFP including eligible livestock and fire criteria is available at the Washakie/Hot Springs County FSA Office or online at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Electronic Services Available

Producers with Internet access can access many services from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive approval and payment by direct deposit with 48 hours. To participate in these services, you must meet all program eligibility requirements. Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private information. To utilize electronic services, a producer needs an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account and an e-mail address. You can visit www.eauth.egov.usda.gov to complete the online registration form. Note that you must also visit your FSA county office for identity verification.

Loans for 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 capital and/or to purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for member of Socially Disadvantaged Groups. Socially Disadvantaged applicants are members of groups who have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice without regard to their individual qualities.

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

If producers or their spouses believe they qualify as socially disadvantaged, please contact the FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Farm Changes

In order for us to properly and accurately administer farm programs, it is very important that we have current records of the owners and operators of farms. Farm owners and operators are asked to report changes in farming or ranching operations to this office. This may include the purchase or sale of a farm or the rental of a farm which you did not have an interest in last year. Please report these changes so that we can process applications for program participation in a timely manner and so we can keep you informed regarding program eligibility.

Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

FSA can provide coverage for Non-insurable forage crops including your grazing under NAP. FSA's NAP coverage is for crops not covered by RMA. The deadline to purchase NAP coverage on all crops has now been changed to April 1, 2010.

An important reminder is all of your crops excluding grazing must be covered by either Crop Insurance or NAP to be eligible for the crop disaster program known as SURE, LFP, and ELAP. The NAP application fee is \$250 per crop per county with a maximum of \$750. If you have multiple counties, the fee cannot exceed \$1,875.

"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 a 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 provider and employer."

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.