



**Washakie-Hot Springs
Farm Service Agency
208 Shiloh Road
Worland, WY 82401**



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Hours: M-F, 7:30 – 5:00
Closed Federal Holidays

COMMITTEE

Dan Rice LAA 3
Kathy Propp LAA 2
Bruce Thurgood LAA 5
Matt Brown LAA 4
Steven Snyder LAA 1

OFFICE STAFF

Bill Morrison – Farm Loan Manager
Lisa Bower - Program Technician
Sue Willey – County Executive Director
Darla Rhodes – Program Technician

USDA Home Page
www.usda.gov
FSA Home Page
www.fsa.usda.gov

JUNE 2010

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) Flood Sign-up Available in Hot Springs County

ECP is designed to provide cost-share assistance to producers who have suffered severe damage to farm and ranch lands as a result of a natural disaster, such as wind erosion, water erosion, floods, tornados, or in some cases drought. The damage must be severe enough that it would be too costly for the producer to repair without Federal assistance, generally more than \$1000. Due to flooding in the Owl Creek area, the County Office will be taking sign-ups for cost-share assistance. Applications must be filed before restoration/clean-up work begins, in most cases. Please understand that filing an application **doesn't** guarantee cost-share assistance. Cost-share assistance will depend on approval and funding granted. The maximum cost-share that is allowed under ECP is 75%. Some 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, headgates etc.) Work within the creek/river channel, is not eligible for cost share. If it is adjacent to the creek/river and is NOT subject to flooding, it may be eligible. The sign-up period for 2010 ECP applications begins on **July 21** and ends on **September 19**. Please contact the Washakie/Hot Springs County FSA office for more information.

Farm Service Agency County Committee Nomination Deadline Is Nearing

August 2, 2010, is the deadline to nominate eligible candidates or yourself, to serve on our local FSA county committee. We are accepting nominations from LAA 4 Hot Springs County, all land west of the Big Horn River that does not get their irrigation water from the river and LAA 3 Washakie County all land in the Nowood drainage. People can nominate themselves or others. FSA encourages beginning farmers and ranchers, as well as minorities and women, to nominate themselves. All nominees must sign the nomination form FSA-669A. All nomination forms for the 2010 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on August 2, 2010. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters on November 5 and are due back to the local USDA Service Centers on December 6. The newly elected county committee members will take office Jan. 1, 2010. More information on the elections, including nomination forms, is available at the county office or on line at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.

Reporting Crop Losses

Producers are reminded that they must report losses on Non-insured Assistance Program (**NAP**) crops within 15 days of the date of a disaster occurrence or date that damage to the crop(s) is apparent. Acres that were intended to be hayed, but are instead grazed due to disaster conditions are eligible to be appraised in order to calculate your expected NAP payment. Appraisals should be done prior to grazing the acreage. If grazing takes place first, then the producer must establish representative sample areas per instruction from FSA adjuster or personnel. Failure to do so will result in the loss payment being made using the AUD grazing method. Notices of loss that are filed after 15 days (late-filed) may be approved by the county committee if verification of the crop and acreage can be made and if it can be determined that the cause of loss is due to an eligible disaster condition. If a positive verification of the above requirements cannot be made, the late filed Notice of Loss will be disapproved and the producer will not be eligible for payment.

Low Interest Grain Bin Loan Program

Commodity Credit Corporation, acting through Farm Service Agency, has reauthorized the farm storage facility loan program. Basic provisions of the program are:

- o Loans may be made for grain storage structures, grain handling equipment and drying equipment
- o Loans will be for new storage or expansion or upgrades of existing storage
- o The term of approved loans is 7 or 10 years.
- o The interest rate is equivalent to the rate of interest charged on Treasury Securities of comparable maturity.
- o Participants are required to carry Multi-peril crop insurance on crops of economic significance.

Commodity Loans and LDP's

The 2010 commodity loan rates for Washakie County

Barley \$/Bushel	1.91
Canola \$/Cwt.	9.14
Corn \$/Bushel	2.11
Crambe \$/Cwt.	9.03
Flaxseed \$/Cwt.	9.57
Grain Sorghum \$/Cwt.	3.29
Mustard Seed \$/Cwt.	10.07
Oats \$/Bushel	1.32
Rapeseed \$/Cwt.	9.89
Safflower \$/Cwt.	8.85
Soybeans \$/Bushel	4.53
Sunflowerseed - Oil Type \$/Cwt.	9.85
Wheat - Hard Red Winter \$/Bushel	2.46
Wheat - Hard Red Spring \$/Bushel	3.67

The 2010 commodity loan rates for Hot Springs County

Barley \$/Bushel	1.91
Canola \$/Cwt.	9.07
Corn \$/Bushel	2.11
Crambe \$/Cwt.	8.87
Flaxseed \$/Cwt.	9.55
Grain Sorghum \$/Cwt.	3.36
Mustard Seed \$/Cwt.	10.05
Oats \$/Bushel	1.32
Rapeseed \$/Cwt.	9.89
Safflower \$/Cwt.	9.00
Soybeans \$/Bushel	4.53
Sunflowerseed - Oil Type \$/Cwt.	9.78
Wheat - Hard Red Winter \$/Bushel	2.56
Wheat - Hard Red Spring \$/Bushel	3.72

Eligible producers of these crops can obtain a loan or Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) from FSA. The producer must have beneficial interest in order to receive a loan/LDP. Beneficial interest means the grower has (1) control of the commodity, and (2) title of the commodity.

FARM STORED LOAN: An applicant can request either a paid for measured loan or certify the quantity. In either case, a loan for up to 100% production can be made. The commodity must be stored in a structure that can be safely measured and inspected, and be structurally sound. It is the borrower's responsibility to assure the commodity is in good condition and continues to remain so.

WAREHOUSE LOAN: A warehouse grain loan can be obtained through a warehouse. The elevator will issue warehouse receipts to the producer, who, in turn, gives them to CCC (FSA) for keeping as security through the life of the loan. The information on the warehouse receipts will be the basis for the loan quantity and loan rate.

LOAN MATURITY DATE: Loans will mature on the last day of the 9th month following application.

LOAN SERVICE FEES: Fees are the smaller of ½ of 1% times the gross loan amount, or \$45/loan plus \$3.00 for each bin or warehouse receipt over one.

INTEREST RATES: Commodity loans will carry the interest rate of the month in which the loan is disbursed through December 31 of each year, at which time the rate will change to the January rate.

LIENS: If any liens on the commodity exist, we require that the lien holder complete a lien waiver form before the loan is issued. CCC requires first lien on any commodity put under loan.

REPAYMENTS: Repayments can be made any time after the loan is disbursed. On farm-stored loans, any quantity can be paid off; however, on warehouse loans, a whole warehouse receipt must be paid off. At the time of repayment, the borrower will pay the lesser of (1) principal plus accrued interest, or (2) the applicable day's Posted County Price (PCP) times the loan quantity. The second option is referred to as a Market Loan Repayment (MLR) and is only available through the maturity date of the loan.

LOAN DEFICIENCY PAYMENT: An LDP is a payment made to an eligible producer who agrees to forego a loan in return for a direct payment. In order for a LDP to apply, the daily PCP must be below the loan rate for the applicable commodity. FSA currently uses the CCC-633-EZ form for all LDP purposes. It's a one size fits all form you can fill out to indicate your intention to receive loan deficiency payments for any of your crops at the beginning of the crop year, long before you've lost beneficial interest. The same form is then used to submit a request for an LDP any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest.

Commodities harvested as other than grain (hay, silage) are eligible for LDP. In these cases, you will be required to give us information concerning acreages, bale numbers and weights, load weights, crop appraisal information, and yield estimates.

APPLICATION DEADLINES: The deadline to apply for either a 2010 loan or LDP is:

Wheat/Barley/Oats March 31, 2011

Corn/Sunflowers May 31, 2011

Wool/Mohair January 31, 2011

In addition to the commodities listed above, the following crops are also eligible for LDP's: Small Chickpeas and Honey. For more information, contact your local FSA Office.

DCP/ACRE Erosion and Cover Requirements

If a farm has non-planted cropland that supports DCP base acres, those fields must be protected from wind and water erosion, and weed control measures may have to be implemented to assure program compliance.

If erosion problems exist, the County Committee has the authorization to require treatments such as planting a cover crop or emergency tillage.

Weed control on these acres is required to prevent the propagation of weeds. Control measures must be implemented timely to achieve the most effective control of weed growth.

Conservation Reserve Program *Weed Control*

Please check your CRP acreage for noxious weeds. CRP contract holders are required to control noxious weeds on their CRP.

Transition Incentives Program

The Transition Incentives Program (TIP) encourages retired or retiring owners or operators to transition their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers. TIP sign-up opened May 17, 2010. If all program requirements are met, TIP provides annual rental payments to the retiring farmer for up to two additional years after the expiration of the CRP contract, provided the transition is not to a family member. For eligibility requirements producers should visit the FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) & Risk Management Agency (RMA)

The RMA and FSA work together to prevent fraud, waste and abuse of the Crop Insurance Program. FSA will again be assisting RMA and insurance providers in monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse of Crop Insurance Program to RMA. Producers may report suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse to their local FSA County Office, RMA office, or Office of Investigative General (OIG). FSA will also assist with auditing claims with RMA.

Foreign Landowner 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. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who 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 could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Tree Assistance Program

TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes, and vines that were lost by natural disasters occurring on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011. Orchardists and nursery tree growers may apply to receive TAP benefits beginning May 10, 2010, for losses suffered during calendar years 2008 and 2009, and for losses suffered during January 1, 2010, to May 7, 2010. Application for losses between May 8, 2010 and September 30, 2011 must be filed within 90 calendar days of the disaster event or date when the loss of trees, bushes, or vines is apparent.

Farm Loan Program – Youth Loans

FSA makes loans to individual rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, Future Farmers of America, and similar organizations.

Each project must be part of an organized and supervised program of work. The project must be planned and operated with the help of the organization adviser, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

Each year, many young entrepreneurs take advantage of these loans and gain valuable business experience in the process. For more information contact Bill Morrison, Farm Loan Manager, at 307-347-2456 ex 110.

Changing Banks

Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. To keep the system running smoothly, the county office staff must be kept up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions. If you have changed accounts or institutions that may affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

Farm Loan Program Information

FSA has loan programs that could help farmers and ranchers experiencing financial problems in today's economy of tight profit margins. Several types of loan programs are offered through FSA.

Under the Guaranteed Loan program, FSA guarantees farm ownership, term operating loans, and lines of credit used for annual operating through conventional agricultural lenders for guarantees up to 95%. The guarantee generally allows the conventional lender to provide the applicant with longer terms and lower rates of interest. All applicants must meet certain qualifying criteria to be eligible for guarantees. Farmers and ranchers interested in Guaranteed Loans should apply directly with a conventional lender, who arranges for the guarantee.

Farm Service Agency is an Equal Credit Opportunity Lender.

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Documenting Eligible Fungicide Purchases for the Durum Wheat Quality Program (DWQP)

Durum wheat producers must provide verifiable documentation for having purchased eligible fungicides used to control FHB on 2010 durum wheat to be partially compensated for the cost of fungicides applied to durum wheat to control Fusarium head blight (FHB), commonly known as wheat scab. Contact your local FSA office for more information.

Farm Reconstitutions

In program terminology, farms are *constituted* to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. If payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded. Request for recons should be filed by **August 1**.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

August 2 - Nomination deadline for LAA#3 and #4 COC committee person
August 11 - Office day in Thermopolis, NRCS office
August 19 - County Committee Meeting (meeting is subject to change, contact the local office)
September 6 - Labor Day Holiday Office Closed
September 19 - ECP application closing date

- Second Wednesday of the Month - Thermopolis Office Day
- 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 operator changes or NAP losses
- **15 days after apparent** – Deadline to file NAP losses (hay & graze)
- **30 days after apparent** – Deadline to file livestock losses (LIP & ELAP)

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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.