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Sweetwater / Sublette County



August 2010

County Committee Members

Jim Hodder, Chairperson
Ben Arambel, Vice-chairperson
Bob Anderson, Member
Penny Chrisman, Member

FSA Office Personnel

Jennifer Dutton, CED
Bonnie Hueckstaedt, PT
Mike Hoffland, DD



MOLES:

Machinery, Operating, Livestock, Expansion and Starting Out Loans

Questions regarding obtaining credit to start or enlarge a farming or ranching operation; financing agricultural operating expenses; livestock and machinery purchases call:

Brian Harrell, FLM
307.856.7524

Dates to Remember:

September 6 – Office closed; Labor Day

September 15 – Deadline to file for ECP

30 days after apparent – Deadline to file livestock losses (LIP & ELAP)

15 days after apparent – Deadline to file NAP losses (hay & grazing)

Want Your INFO in Your INBOX?



Some producers have expressed interest in receiving the monthly newsletter by e-mail. If you would like to receive a copy in your inbox, contact the office to sign up. You can give us a call or email us at jennifer.dutton@wy.usda.gov



Stack 'em, Count 'em, Report 'em

Keep Your APH up in case of disaster conditions!

While it's still fresh in your mind, swing by the office, (or send in), and report your 2010 hay production. Your 2010 production will be combined with previous years' production to calculate an APH for 2011 NAP policies.

Actual hay production is used to calculate your NAP APH (actual production history) which will be used to calculate your payment should there be a disaster in the coming years. If you fail to report production for just one year it could significantly lower your APH and your potential payment!



Actual production evidence should include bale count, average weight, and type of hay. The statement should be signed and dated by the producer.

Additionally, if you missed turning in past years' production you can "replace" those missed years by turning in the production records from those years. The production will be applied for the 2011 APH.

General Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Sign-up Getting Underway

CRP is a voluntary program that assists farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers to use their environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. Those enrolling in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving cover crops for rental payments, cost-share and technical assistance. CRP is designed to protect against topsoil erosion and improve America's natural resource base. Participants can remove sensitive land from agricultural production through the CRP program under 10-15 year rental contracts.



The general sign-up will run from August 2, 2010 through August 27, 2010. Please visit the CRP website or call the office for more information. The CRP website can be accessed at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=crp-sp>

Contact the office for more information about the continuous CRP program too!

NAP & Your Hay Crop

If meadows that were intended for use as forage (hay) suffer from a disaster condition it is imperative that you contact the office prior to harvest or grazing the acreage. 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 personnel. Failure to do so will result in the payment being made using the AUD grazing method.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) Sign-up for Sweetwater 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.

Due to flooding in the McKinnon area, the County Office will be taking sign-ups for cost-share assistance. Applications **must** be filed **before** restoration/clean-up work begins. 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 releveling, rebuilding permanent fences, structure restoration (including, but not limited to; dams, ponds, diversion ditches, headgates etc.)

To file an application you will need to know

1. What you want to do to fix the damage caused by the natural disaster
2. How many units will be needed (for example)
 - a. Feet of fence
 - b. Number of headgates
 - c. Cubic yards of concrete
3. When you plan to start each practice
4. Date you plan for your work to be completed

The sign-up period for 2010 ECP applications begins on **August 15** and ends on **September 15**.

C-CRP

Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

Producers can apply to enroll small acreages of eligible cropland or marginal pastureland in CRP under the continuous sign-up. Participants agree to establish approved conservation practices on the eligible land and remove the land from agricultural production in exchange for annual rental payments for the term of the contract, which usually is 10-15 years.

A 50% cost-share payment is available to help with the cost of completing approved conservation practices. There is an additional 40% cost-share incentive payment for some practices. Other incentives that the producer may qualify for include sign-up incentive payments and annual maintenance payments.



Practices that can be approved under the C-CRP program include, but are not limited to: field windbreaks, shallow water areas for wildlife, shelterbelt establishment and riparian buffers.

Filing for NAP Losses

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting. It may be completed by any producer with an interest in the covered crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for ALL CROPS INCLUDING GRASSES. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), you must file a CCC-576 in the County FSA Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

Even if you believe your losses are less than 50%, you can still file a notice of loss as there may be other programs available to provide loss assistance, at a later date.

Stressed Out? Help is a Phone Call Away!

Recently, the economy, inclement weather and other factors have hurt some farming operations around the country. These events can bring on emotional breaking points. Watching your livelihood being threatened is difficult for farmers and ranchers, especially those to rely solely on farming and ranching income to support their families.



The National Suicide Prevention Hotline is available to help.....for anyone! If you know someone who is under extreme stress and is reluctant to ask for help, or if you need to talk to someone, call 1.800.273.TALK (8255). Your call will be routed to the nearest crisis center where trained professionals are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This nationwide service is free and confidential. Help is just a phone call away. More information is available online at www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org. This service is not affiliated with USDA.

FSA Loans Available for Farmers and Ranchers of All Ages....even the little guys!

FSA makes direct and guaranteed farm ownership (FO) and operating loans (OL) to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank, Farm Credit System institution, or other lender. FSA loans can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed, and supplies. Our loans can also be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements.



Special loans are available for beginning farmers/ranchers, socially disadvantaged and youth. For more information about FSA loan programs visit FSA's website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> or contact the Fremont County FSA office at 307.856.7524.



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WHAT'S AROUND THE CORNER

- **September 6** – Office closed; Labor Day
- **September 15** – Deadline to file for ECP
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- **15 days after apparent** – Deadline to file NAP losses (hay & grazing)

*Timely file NAP losses
--15 days after apparent--
on hay & graze acres*

**Have a safe
Labor Day
Weekend
Office Closed**
September 6th