

Sweetwater/Sublette County FSA
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Sweetwater/Sublette County
May 2009

County Committee Members

Kathy Miller, Chairperson
James Hodder, Vice-chair
Ben Arambel, Member
Robert Anderson, Member

FSA Office Personnel

Jennifer Dutton, CED
Bonnie Hueckstaedt, PT
Jodi Triplett, Temp
Martin Hoffland, DD

Farm Loan Programs

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

Brian Harrell, FLM
307.856.7524

2009 Acreage Reporting

It's that time of year again; time to file your 2009 crop report. Acreage reports are required for participation in many FSA programs. The deadline for filing crop reports is **July 1, 2009**. This year we are planning off-site days to make the crop reporting process more convenient for you.

May 19	Big Piney Library	9:30 AM – 4:00 PM
May 21	Pinedale NRCS	9:30 AM – 4:00 PM
May 27	Farson Firehouse	9:30 AM – 4:00 PM

For your convenience please call to set-up an appointment. This will reduce the amount of time it will take to file the crop reports.

Late filed crop reports will be assessed a fee.

Assistance Provided for Livestock Losses

If you suffered livestock death losses in 2008 and/or 2009 due to eligible adverse weather events, you may be eligible to receive payments from the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Eligible adverse weather events include blizzards, disease, extreme heat or cold, floods and wildfires.

Although forms and procedures to apply for the program are not available at this time, it is important to document the losses. Below are examples of eligible records, these are examples and others maybe acceptable.

Proof of Death

bank or loan documents
insurance documents
purchase records
vet records

Producer Records

brand inspection records
pictures
vaccination records

Third party certification

Written certification by a person who is not affiliated with the farming operation and is not a family member. They must provide name, address, phone number, specific details of knowledge about livestock death, affiliation with producer, the accuracy of claims by producer (ie number and type of livestock and adverse weather condition).

Please contact the Sweetwater/Sublette County FSA office for more information or with questions.

Dates to Remember:

April 27 – ACRE signup begins

May 18 – Buy-in waiver deadline

July 1 – Acreage Report deadline

July 1 – Final NAP production reports due for 2008

August 14 – DCP & ACRE signup deadline

NAP Production Reporting

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable. Production records must be filed by **July 1, 2009** for 2008 crop year. We recommend producers submit 2009 production records as soon as harvest is complete.

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)

For 2009 through 2012 crop years, to be eligible to receive a marketing loan gain (MLG) or Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP), an entity or individual's average adjusted gross **nonfarm** income cannot exceed \$500,000. A person or legal entity with average adjusted gross **nonfarm** income that exceeds \$500,000 is **not** eligible for MLG's and LDP payments. However, the person or entity is eligible for a marketing assistance loan if requested before the final loan availability date, but the Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) **must** be repaid at principal plus interest or a commodity certificate may be exchanged for the loan collateral. Commodity certificates are available until the end of the 2009 crop year.

Buy-In Waiver Extension Approved

If you did not obtain crop insurance or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2008 for three of the disaster assistance programs authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill you can pay a buy-in fee to become eligible. The three programs are: the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, (ELAP), and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). The deadline to purchase the buy-in fee is **May 18, 2009**. Contact the office for further details.

2009 DCP/ACRE Signup Extended

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program has been extended through **August 14, 2009**. This recent announcement was made to allow producers ample time to decide whether to participate in ACRE or remain in DCP.

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a new program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill that begins in crop year 2009. Through ACRE, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers producers an alternative to Direct and Counter-cyclical (DCP) payments.

ACRE payments are made when both state and farm revenues are below historic levels. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments. Producers also elect to receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates. ACRE sign-up dates will be announced soon so a producer can choose to participate in ACRE, or stay with DCP.

A decision to elect ACRE binds the producer to the program from the program year elected by the producer through the 2012 crop year. For more details contact your local FSA office.

ACRE signup begins on April 27, 2009.



New Provisions for Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments

Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) and Loan Deficiency Payments provide financing and marketing assistance for wheat, feed grains, soybeans, other oilseeds, honey, wool and mohair. This assistance is available to eligible producers beginning with harvest or shearing season and extending through the program year.

The 2008 Farm Bill included several changes to the Marketing Assistance Loan and Loan Deficiency Payment program. Some of the changes include:

- Beginning with the 2009 crop year, marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments will no longer be subject to a per person payment limit;
- Loan rates will no longer be adjusted on warehouse-stored loans by premiums and discounts at loan making time;
- Beginning with the 2009 crop year, warehouse-stored loans will be adjusted by premiums and discounts only at loan settlement, if the commodity is either farm-stored delivered or warehouse-stored forfeited;
- The Commodity Credit Corporation will no longer require the execution of a storage agreement in storage facilities that are either 1) federally-licensed or 2) in compliance with applicable state laws and issue warehouse receipts. This provision also begins with the 2009 crop year.

MALs are available for nine months. The loan rate for ungraded wool is currently \$0.40/lb. The interest rate for loans made in April is 1.625%. Interest rates are adjusted on a monthly basis. Please contact the office for more information.

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

by Baxter Black, DVM

AMERICA'S FUNNIEST FARM VIDEOS

It's curious why more cows aren't featured on America's Funniest Home Videos. Maybe it's because we cow guardians always have our hands full of hay forks, reins, twine cutters, squeeze chute handles, syringes or up the back of a cow! And, if the truth were known, you could stand in a pen or pasture full of cattle all day with your video recorder and see nothing more exciting than you would in a day room full of senior citizens after lunch.

See cows are not like monkeys, puppies or bull riders who can always be counted on to show you some kind of bizarre body function, tail pulling or booger-related behavior! And yet, I cannot count the number of stories I've been told wherein the dull, cud chomping, cloven-hoofed grazer has made a fool out of our Supermanic cowboy hero!

In Spring Cowbelt cowmen can see green on the horizon from the top of the windmill. You can hear the tickertape sound of mental calculations dividing bales of hay left in stacks divided by days till the grass arrives.

"It's gonna be tight," said Bob as he tossed the last two broken bales off the back of the hay wagon into the adoring crowd of cows. Pete, who was driving the horse-drawn flatbed wagon through the snow, pulled ahead of the cows and looked back. The three cowedogs had jumped on board and were lolling in the lazy morning sun.

"Bob," said Pete, "I believe that brockle-face calf there needs a scour pill." He stopped the wagon. Bob slipped off the side and approached the calf.

The calf's mama lowered her head and snorted a warning! In one smooth cowboy move, Bob grabbed a front and hind leg and swung the startled calf onto the wagon bed! The sudden movement spooked the horses! They jumped, knocking Pete over backwards! Bob ran to catch the wagon with the mama cow right behind him! Up on the wagon...first Bob...then the COW!

The dogs rose to full barking mode! The horses picked up speed! Soon a whirlpool of dogs set upon the cow! Our two intrepid cowboys flew off the wagon like bird poop on a windmill fin!

The final scene in this America's Funniest Farm Video would be of the horses in a crazed run pulling the bouncing, bucking wagon across the bumpy terrain, the cow with legs spread wide trying to keep her balance, and the dogs circling her like Geronimo attacking Ward Bond's wagon train

Credits would include: Stunt work – Bob and Pete and a cast of thousands.

<http://www.baxterblack.com/t-readcolumn.aspx>

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Loans and LDP**

April 27 – ACRE signup begins
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A New Face in the Office

My name is Jennifer Dutton and I was hired by the County Committee (COC) as the County Executive Director (CED). I will begin work in the county office on May 11, 2009. I am excited to join the county office staff and work with the producers here in Sweetwater and Sublette counties.

I was born in Kingman, Kansas and grew up on a family farm in Limon, Colorado. I was active in 4-H activities and athletics. I continued my education at Western State College of Colorado in Gunnison, where I earned B.S. degrees in Business Administration and Economics while playing basketball for two years. I attended Oklahoma State University in Stillwater to obtain my Master's degree in Agricultural Economics. I completed research on retail beef pricing characteristics. During my time in Stillwater, I was active in the local community, volunteering as a girls' basketball coach at Stillwater High School. Following completion of my Master's Degree, I began working as a marketing specialist for the University of Tennessee Extension. This position allowed me to work hand in hand with producers across the state by researching market feasibility and creating producer-specific marketing plans for value added products.

If you are in Rock Springs, please stop by the office. I look forward to meeting each of you and begin working on your specific FSA needs.