



Weston County
USDA Service Center

Weston County FSA
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82701
(307) 746-2701

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm
www.fsa.usda.gov

County Committee
Doug Materi,
Chairman
Monte Hamilton,
Vice Chairman
Ann Wehri, Regular
Member

Staff
Peggy Livingston,
CED
Katrina Perino, PT

Weston County Newsletter

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009

County Committee Elections Results

This year's election was held for LAA (Local administrative Area) number 3. LAA 3 covers the southern one-third of Weston County. Ann Marie Wright Wehri was elected to her first term to serve as the LAA 3 representative to the County Committee effective January 1, 2009. Ann and husband Rick and two children ranch south of Newcastle.

LDP's on Wool, Mohair, and Unshorn Pelts

The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 authorizes the MAL and LDP programs for the 2008 through 2012 crops of graded and ungraded 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 County FSA office prior to loss of beneficial interest in the commodity (example, wool). Once you have sold or have a weight on the commodity, you need to bring the weight slips into our office to complete the application for payment. The 2009 crop year for wool and mohair begins on January 1, 2009 and ends on February 1, 2010.

2009 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP)

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 provided for continuation of DCP for 2008 through 2012. Signup for the 2009 DCP started on **December 22, 2008** and will run until **June 1, 2009**. Beginning with the 2009 crop year, regulations no longer provide for a **"late filed"** signup period or fee. Accordingly, enrollment is **not** permitted after June 1, 2009. Contracts will not be approved unless all producers sharing in base acres with more than a zero share have signed and submitted all applicable documentation. Those contracts not having all required signatures on or before June 1, 2009 will not be considered submitted and will not be acted on or approved. Producers may request an advance payment any month throughout the year prior to October 1, 2009, at 22 percent of the total payment. Counter Cyclical payments are authorized for a covered commodity when the effective price for the commodity is less than the target price for the commodity. It is very important that when the DCP signup is completed that you are sure of your 2009 farming interests. If

advance payments are made and a change to your operation occurs, you will be required to refund the advance payment plus interest from the date of dispersal. Farms that were previously enrolled in the DCP program with 10.0 base acres or less will **not** be eligible for 2009-2012 enrollments. However, the prohibition does not apply to a farm that is wholly owned by a socially disadvantaged or limited resource farmer or rancher. The 2009 payment rate for covered commodities is as follows: Barley \$0.24/bu., Corn \$0.28/bu., Grain Sorghum \$0.35/bu., Oats \$0.024/bu., Wheat \$0.52/bu.

PAYMENT LIMITATION

Payments will be limited by direct attribution. More on Payment Limitation, direct attribution and how it works will be included in the next Newsletter.

ACREAGE REPORTS

Please call and make an appointment to report 2009 crop as soon as possible. All producers participating in DCP, CRP, LDP, NAP and Disaster Programs **must** complete a crop report to be in compliance with the program requirements. Because of the new requirements for 2009, it is imperative that you call ahead so that we can schedule adequate time to complete all necessary paperwork to help alleviate multiple visits to the office. The 2009 crop acreage reports will be using the new Global Information System maps.

FARM OPERATION CHANGES

As always you are required to notify our office of any changes in your farming operation for 2009. Did you buy some new land? Are you renting different land or have your shares changed for 2009? Do you have a new address? Did you form a new entity? Producers are responsible for notifying FSA of any changes regarding your farming operation.

NEW ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME (AGI)

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 Conservation Programs only. 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 Direct 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

Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

Reminder: NAP participants must report their 2008 NAP insured crop production by July 1, 2009 to establish an actual production history (APH). If production is not reported, a zero yield will be assigned. Please bring your 2008 production evidence on **NAP insured crops** with you when you come to the office.

USDA LAMB REFERENDUM

Farm Service Agency (FSA) Acting State Executive Director Steve Swieter announced that FSA will be assisting the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) initiative to offer lamb producers, feeders, and first handlers the opportunity to vote in a nationwide referendum on whether to continue or terminate the Lamb Promotion, Research, and Information Order, authorized under the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996. The referendum will be held Feb. 2-27, 2009. The referendum will be conducted at USDA FSA county offices. To be eligible to vote, persons must certify and provide documentation, such as a sales receipt or remittance form, which shows they have been engaged in the production, feeding, or slaughtering of lambs during the period, Jan. 1, 2008, through Dec. 31, 2008. Beginning Feb. 2, 2009, and continuing through Feb. 27, 2009, persons eligible to vote should obtain form LS-86 from a county FSA office either in person, by mail, fax, or online at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsmarketingprograms>. Persons must vote in the referendum at the County FSA office where their administrative farm records are maintained. For those persons not participating in FSA programs, the opportunity to vote will be provided at the County FSA office where the person owns or rents land. Form LS-86 and supporting documentation must be returned in person, by mail, or by fax to the appropriate county FSA office. The form and documentation returned in **person** or by **fax** must be received in the appropriate county office prior to the close of business on Feb. 27, 2009. The form and documentation returned by **mail** must be postmarked no later than midnight on Feb. 27, 2009, and received in the county FSA office by March 6, 2009. The mandatory program is financed by producers, seedstock producers (breeders), feeders, and exporters who are assessed one-half cent (\$.005) per pound when live ovine animals are sold. The first handler, primarily packers, pays an additional 30 cents per head on ovine animals purchased for slaughter.

PROVISIONS FOR TRADITIONALLY UNDERSERVED GROUPS

- **Beginning Farmer or Rancher:** an individual or an entity who has not operated a farm or ranch or has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 years qualifies as a beginning farmer or rancher. For entities to qualify all members of the entity must be related by blood or marriage and all must be beginning farmers or ranchers. Definitions currently used by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Services Agency add the requirement that the individual or entity must substantially participate in day-to-day operations of the farm or ranch (definition applies to all members of the entity).
- **Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher:** This term means a farmer or rancher who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group. "Socially disadvantaged group" means a group

whose members have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities.

- **Limited-Resource Farmer or Rancher:** The term "limited-resource farmer or rancher" means such term as defined by the Secretary. As [currently defined by USDA](#), a limited-resource farmer or rancher is one who has: 1) direct or indirect gross farm sales not more than \$116,800 in each of the previous 2 years (in 2005 dollars, adjusted for inflation each year), and 2) a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four or less than 50 percent of county median household income in each of the previous 2 years.

If you have additional questions as to the participation incentives and improved access to farm programs for the above mentioned, please feel free to contact this office for further information.

SIGNATURE AUTHORITY FOR SPOUSES

Husbands and wives may sign documents for each other for programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been submitted to our office. Spouses may not grant a Power of Attorney to another person for each other. Spouses may not sign a promissory note for a commodity loan, a CRP contract, or a debt settlement for each other without an FSA Power of Attorney signed giving them authority.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE VIOLATIONS

Persons convicted of planting, cultivating, growing, harvesting or storing a controlled substance in any crop year shall be ineligible for Federal program benefits during the crop year of conviction and the four succeeding crop years.

AGRICULTURE FOREIGN INVESTMENT DISCLOSURE ACT (AFIDA)

AFIDA requires foreign persons or entities who acquire, transfer, or hold a 5 percent or greater interest in agriculture land or who gross \$1000 or more from any agriculture land report this information to the Secretary of Agriculture. The information must be reported within 90 days. This information must be reported to the local FSA office.

REASONABLE ACCOMODATIONS

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairments, or hearing impairment. Please call this office if assistance is needed.

DIRECT DEPOSIT CHANGES

Remember to notify FSA if you have changed bank accounts or your bank ownership has changed. Payments are made by direct deposit to the bank account FSA has on file. Payments are delayed if you have made changes and you have not informed FSA.

IMPORTANT DATES

February 16	Presidents Day Holiday – Office Closed
March 31	Final Day to request Loans/LDPs on 2008 Barley, Oats, & Wheat
April 1	Final Day to Purchase NAP on Spring Seeded Grain Crops
May 25	Memorial Day Holiday – Office Closed
June 1	Final Day to Sign up for 2009 DCP Program
July 1	Final Day to sign up crop reports for 2009

/S/ **Peggy M. Livingston, CED**
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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 Peggy Livingston, CED at (307)746-2701.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
Weston County FSA
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Newcastle, WY 82701

Return Service Requested