

Weston County FSA
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Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

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FSA Home Page
www.fsa.usda.gov

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WESTON COUNTY FSA

NEWSLETTER

April 2009

LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) is designed to compensate producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality rates due to adverse weather that occurred on or after **January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011.** Producers who had livestock deaths due to adverse weather conditions, including blizzards, disease, extreme cold or heat, floods, and wildfire, should document these losses as to the kind, weight range, number of livestock, and the date the animals were lost. Producers must have proof of death of livestock by but not limited to the following means:

- Production/purchase/property taxes records
- Brand Inspection records
- Contemporaneous producer records existing at the time of loss
- Pictures
- Vaccination records
- Veterinary records

Third party certification is acceptable only if verifiable proof of death is not available. The third party must certify in writing their name, address, telephone number, affiliation of the third party to the participant, details of knowledge of livestock deaths, and the number and kinds of livestock. The third party may not be someone who is affiliated with the operator, such as a hired hand, or family member. Producers should also document the loss by taking photos of the animal, keep veterinary records, record disposal costs and secure third-party verification.

At this time, the forms and procedure for taking loss applications are not yet available at your county FSA office. Maintaining records of your losses is important in order to be eligible if program funding becomes available.

NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

I would like to take some time during this newsletter to clarify the NAP program. The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) works just like a catastrophic coverage insurance policy. We offer coverage for a variety of crops that are not covered by private insurance. The two types of policies that we deal with most often are pasture coverage and hay coverage; both are available in Weston County. Each type costs \$250 each but works very differently.

Pasture coverage is a group policy in that no one producer can suffer a loss without the entire county suffering a loss in most cases. Pasture loss is set by the County Committee based off of two independent assessments of the grazing loss throughout the county. Once the County loss has been established, all policies are paid according to the established County Average Loss.

Hay coverage is very similar to your private insurance coverage. If a producer has a hay policy, that producer is required to provide the FSA office with their hay production in order to establish their Actual Production History. A producer can provide us with official records such as a weight receipt. However, we understand that most of our hay producers feed their hay to their livestock during the winter. In these cases, please provide us with any documentation that depicts your bale count. Any record that would not be considered "official" requires County Committee concurrence.

Hay loss is determined by the amount of hay cut or would have been cut if harvested compared to the producers Actual Production History.

If you suffer a loss and do NOT mechanically harvest your hay, we require an onsite appraisal of your hay in order to determine your production. If you plan on grazing your hay, an appraisal will need to be completed prior to grazing. If this cannot be accomplished prior to your need for grazing, you may fence out specific samples to be appraised at a later date. Failure to have your hay ground appraised will result in your hay policy being converted to a grazing policy. A hay policy will pay significantly better than a grazing policy depending on your Actual Production History. Additionally, you are required to have cut your hay in 3 of the last 5 years in order to be eligible for hay coverage instead of a grazing coverage.

Each producer of hay is responsible for completing the following paperwork in order to receive an indemnity.

- Complete your Application for Coverage no later than December 1st for perennial crops and April 1st for spring seeded crops.
- File a crop report no later than July 1st.
- Provide the FSA office with your past years production evidence no later than July 1st and sign your Approved Yield.
- Complete a Notice of Loss no later than 15 days after a loss is apparent.
- Complete an Application for Payment no later than July 1st of the following year.

CROP REPORTING

In the past, this office has traditionally mailed out crop reports with your acreage information. We will **NOT** be mailing out crop reports this year. I am sorry if this poses an inconvenience for anyone. We are not able to mail out crop reports this year because your acreage may have changed from last year. We need everyone to stop by the office and verify our Farm Records in order to determine the accuracy of our Farm Records before we are able to create a crop report for you. I encourage everyone that needs to create a crop report to call this office at 1-307-2701 and set up an appointment to have this completed. Those producers that have Non-insurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2009 are required to create a crop report. Producers that wish to participate in or are currently participating in the following programs are required to submit a crop report: Direct and Countercyclical Program (DCP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Grassland Reserve Program (GRP). This process will take longer this year, because of the acreage verification process. So, in order to prevent you from waiting, please set up an appointment. If you do not have any annual crops, please call us right away and set up an appointment. Because of the changes in Farm Records, the information on

your crop report will come directly from our digitized maps. You may remember this office mailing out information about changes to your acres. If you have not stopped by the office to ensure that your information is correct, I would encourage everyone to do so.

The deadline for submitting your crop report is **July 1, 2009**. If you do not complete a crop report by this time and are required to do so, you will be assessed a late file fee.

DCP SIGNUP CONTINUES

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended from June 1, 2009 to **August 14, 2009**. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. Producers eligible for the DCP Program are also able to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program or the Counter-cyclical Program. The enrollment period for the ACRE Program will begin April 27, 2009. You may first enroll in the DCP Program, receive advance direct payments and then later modify your enrollment to the ACRE program or you may wait and elect to enroll in DCP and ACRE no later than August 14, 2009. A factsheet for ACRE may be obtained in the county office or you may visit the web: www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp.

LOAN DEFICIENCY PROGRAM (LDP)

As of January 1st, 2009, the FSA office is accepting the CCC-633EZ form for WOOL LDP. When signing the first page of this form, it ensures your intent to participate in LDP or Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) for the 2009 crop year. All producers are required to complete this form before beneficial interest is lost.

May 25	Memorial Day Holiday – Office will be closed
July 1	Final Day to complete 2009 Crop Reports
July 3	4 th of July Holiday – Office will be closed
August 14	Final Day to signup for 2009 DCP/Acre
Continues	Continuous CRP Signup
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans

For more information on any Farm Service Agency program, visit or call our office, or visit the FSA Homepage at www.fsa.usda.gov

Have a great day!

/s/ *Peggy M. Livingston,*
County Executive Director

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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 Peggy Livingston, CED at (307)746-2701.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
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Return Service Requested