



Weston County
USDA Service Center

Weston County FSA
1225 Washington
Blvd. Suite 2
Newcastle, WY
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,
Member

Staff

Peggy Livingston,
CED
JoAnn Stearns, PT
Rob Weppner,
FLM



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employer

Weston County News

November 2009

Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The final date to purchase NAP coverage on 2010 eligible crops is **December 1, 2009**. FSA's Non-insured Crop Assistance program, (NAP), provides coverage for crops not covered by Federal Crop Insurance. For Weston County this includes irrigated and non-irrigated grass hay harvested for forage; fall seeded grain harvested for hay, grazing land and honey.

The application service fee for NAP is \$250.00 per crop per county, with a county maximum of \$750.00. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1875.00 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on **November 6, 2009**. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on **December 7, 2009**. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight **December 7, 2009**.

The candidate in this year's election is:

Doug Materi is nominated in LAA #2 County, to serve as a committee member. Doug is an active member of Weston County Committee and serves as President

Eligible voters in a local administrative area #2 who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

Voter Requirements Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, is eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following:

an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, *or*
a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper; *or*

2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; *and*

3. Eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

NEW COUNTY OFFICE EMPLOYEE

I am excited to share with you that JoAnn Stearns has accepted the position as Program Technician for Weston County and started on October 13, 2009. JoAnn is a native of South Dakota where she, her husband Dan and their two sons, Dalton and Morgan are involved in farming and ranching operation east of Newcastle.

Please stop in when you get a chance and welcome her to the agency!

2010 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2010. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2010 DCP contract.

USDA 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 2010, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment. USDA will issue advance direct payments beginning Dec. 1, 2009. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price. The effective price is the higher of the national average market price received during the 12-month marketing year for each covered commodity and the national average loan rate for a marketing assistance loan for the covered commodity.

MOLES!



Machinery, Operating, Livestock, Expansion and Starting Out Loans

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

**Rob Weppner, FLM
(307) 682-8843**

The ACRE Option

The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. For 2010, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2008 and 2009 crop years.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The payment is based on 83.3 percent (85 percent in 2012) of the farm's planted acres times the difference between the State ACRE guarantee and the state revenue times the ratio of the farm's yield divided by the state expected yield. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. In exchange for participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent.

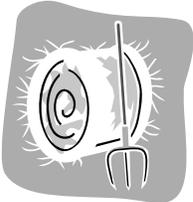
The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

The **June 1, 2010**, deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

Biomass Crop Assistance Program



Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) is available to chippers and producers who have contracts to prepare and deliver materials to biomass conversion facilities. Chippers and producers with such contracts can receive payments to assist with collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST). CHST payments are made at a rate of \$1 to \$1 per dry ton equivalent received by an eligible biomass conversion facility. Please contact the Weston County FSA office for more information.



Stack 'em, Count 'em, Report 'em Keep Your APH up in case of disaster conditions!

While it's still fresh in your mind, send in, or swing by the office and report your 2009 hay production. Your 2009 production will be combined with previous years' production to calculate an APH (Actual Production History) for 2010 NAP policies.

Actual hay production is used to calculate your NAP APH 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.



ACCURATE RECORDS

We cannot stress enough how important it is for producers to ensure that our office has accurate records. This includes updated records on all of your farming interests (all grain, forage and grazing crops, and livestock interest for livestock disaster programs) in this county and all others – nationwide, as well as deeded, share rent, cash lease and AUM grazing on all leases and agreements.

Additionally, when completing paperwork in our office you should ensure that your name, (either as an individual or as an entity - such as a trust), your ID numbers (including social security and entity ID numbers), and address are correct.

Incorrect information can delay benefits to you. Each time you file an application or contract, please ensure all information is correct.

Have a great Thanksgiving!

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



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
Weston County FSA
1225 Washington Blvd
Newcastle, WY 82701

Return Service Requested

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

November 6 - COC election ballots mailed
November 11 – Veteran’s Day (Office Closed)
November 26 – Thanksgiving Day (Office Closed)
November 30 - Crop Insurance policy deadline
December 1 – NAP application deadline for fall seeded crops and grazing
December 7 – Deadline for returning COC Election Ballots
December 25 - Christmas Day (Office closed)

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

VETERAN’S DAY

November 11, 2009
Office Closed

