



NEWSLETTER



October 2010

Weston County FSA Office

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Newcastle, WY 82701

307-746-2701 phone
307-746-2870 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/wy

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

County Staff

Peggy Livingston
County Executive
Director

JoAnn Stearns
Program Technician

Rob Weppner
Farm Loan Manager

NAP Coverage – New Purchase Deadline for 2011 Perennial/Biennial Forage Crops

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance (from a crop insurance agent).

The application deadline for 2011 NAP coverage for biennial and perennial forage crops, regardless of intended use is December 1, 2010. NOTE: This is a date change from April 1st. Crops included in this date change are biennial forage (hay) crops such as sweet clover; perennial forage crops such as grass varieties, grass/alfalfa mix that are not insurable by crop insurance; and pasture grass for grazing. For all other crops (those not perennial or biennial) the application closing date remains the same – April 1, 2011 with the following exceptions: Producers who want “winterkill” coverage on HRW Wheat forage must purchase NAP by December 1st.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a “Notice of Loss” within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc

2010 DCP/ACRE & CRP Payments

Annual direct payments for the Direct/Counter Cyclical Program (DCP/ACRE) and annual rental payments for CRP - the Conservation Reserve Program will be paid in October to producers who participate in these programs and have met all program requirements. Please watch your account for these payments and contact our office if you have any questions.

Livestock Indemnity Program-LIP

Losses of livestock due to adverse weather must be reported to the FSA Office within 30 days of when the loss is apparent by filing a Notice of Loss application. A filed Notice of Loss must be finalized by completing an Application for Payment by **January 30, 2011.**

Applications for livestock losses require documentation of beginning and ending inventory, records showing the date of each death for normal death loss and show death losses due to the weather event, along with records showing the number of livestock in inventory on the date of the weather event. Beginning and ending inventory require a third party verification of losses, such as, vet records, loan documents, shipping records, brand inspections, etc.

County Committee Elections

Starting early next month, watch your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot. Mailing of ballots to all eligible voters starts on November 5, 2010. Monte Hamilton, who is eligible to run for one more term and Tim Tysdal will be running for the LAA 1 position.

Completed and signed ballots will be due back in the county office by the close of business on December 6, 2010.



FSA Conservation Loan Program

The Farm Service Agency makes and guarantees conservation loans on farms and ranches to help conserve our natural resources. The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the credit necessary to implement conservation measures on their land.

The direct CL limit is \$300,000 and the guaranteed CL limit is \$1,119,000. Guaranteed loans are available through lenders working with FSA.

Applicants will work with Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) staff to develop a conservation plan. Conservation practices must be approved by NRCS before FSA can provide financing. Examples of conservation practices include installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; transitioning to organic production; manure management, including manure digestion systems; and more.

FSA Financial Inquiries Web Site

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Financial Inquiries Web Site is an Internet-based service that allows agricultural producers and other customers to generate reports showing their current and historical financial information related to FSA programs.

Authorized customers may view summary and detailed information about specific payments received, collections paid, outstanding debt (excluding loans) and information reported on the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Form 1099.

The FSA Financial Inquiries Web Site offers the following benefits:

- **Availability:** Financial information is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- **Convenience:** Customers can access their financial information from home or office.
- **Improved Customer Service:** Reduces the number of trips customers make to FSA or USDA Service Centers, which allows

USDA personnel more time to assist others.

- **Identity Security:** The Web site is only available to registered e-Authentication users. Users can only access information on their accounts.

Using the Web site:

Customers can access information on the FSA Financial Inquiries Web Site only after being signed up for a USDA e-Authentication Level 2 account. To obtain a Level 2 e-Authentication account, go to Internet site:

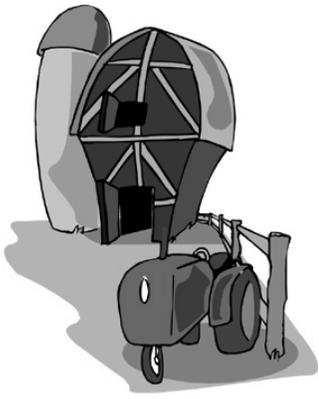
<http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov>.

- Click on "Create an Account" and choose Level 2 Access in the section titled "What Level of Access do you need."
- Complete the customer profile and submit it online.
- After submitting the customer profile, a customer will receive a confirmation by e-mail. The customer must respond to the e-mail within seven days to activate his or her account.
- A customer must complete the "Identity Proofing" process at a local USDA Service Center.

Accessing the Web Site

Links to FSA Financial Inquiries are provided on the following Web sites:

- **FSA Online:** Visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>. From the top menu bar, click on "Online Services." Under "Related Topics," click on "Financial Inquiries for FSA Producers."
- **Service Center Agencies Online Services:** <http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov>, under "Online Services."



Disaster Program: Livestock, Bees, Fish (ELAP)

Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) provides compensation to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other loss conditions, including losses due to blizzards and wildfires. ELAP is for losses that are not covered by Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), or Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE).

ELAP originated from the 2008 Farm bill to assist producers with losses that occurred on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011. Eligible losses include feed losses, physical losses and additional costs incurred in providing feed to eligible livestock.

There are two parts to the ELAP application process:

1. A notice of loss (file within 30 days of loss)
2. Application for payment (sign up before 1/30/11)

An application for payment cannot be filed without a notice of loss.

Eligible physical losses of honey bees and honey bee hives, lost due to adverse weather or loss conditions are eligible under ELAP. Producers will be required to provide documentation of beginning and ending inventory of honey bee colonies when claiming a physical loss of honey bees or honey bee hives.

Additional ELAP information is available at FSA county offices or on line at www.fsa.usda.gov

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan

assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA

- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size. Additional program information, and loan applications, are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov

Paper Check Conversion (PCC)

Over the next year, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is moving toward an electronic method for processing producers' checks. This will allow FSA/CCC to process collections faster.

When producers present checks, either in person or through the mail, the checks will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt.

Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information:

<https://www.pccotc.gov/pccotc/pcc/usingpcc/Legal%20Notices/legalnotices.htm>

Continuous CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is a private lands environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll environmentally sensitive acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

This program is a voluntary enrollment program. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10-15 years. In return, landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment.

To be eligible for enrollment, acreage and participants must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year.

Weston County FSA Office
 1225 Washington Blvd., Suite 2
 Newcastle, WY 82701



**PRESORTED STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 Farm Service Agency
 PERMIT #G-96**

Insurance Coverage/Linkage Requirements:

Program:	Insurable Crops (Crop Insurance)	Non-Insurable Crops (FSA-NAP)	Exceptions
SURE	At least CAT level for all insurable Crops planted. All interest, all Counties	NAP on all non-insurable crops planted. All interest, all counties	Crops intended for grazing (pasture)
LFP	At least CAT level on grazing crops incurring loss. (Can buy for specific Acreages)	NAP on grazing crops (Policy covers all acres of crop)	None
ELAP	At least CAT level on all insurable planted/intended. All interest, all counties	NAP on all non-insurable crops planted/intended. All interest, all counties	Crops intended for grazing.

Selected Interest Rates for October 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	2.125%
Farm Ownership	5.000%
Conservation Loan (NEW)	5.000%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency	3.750%

Dates to Remember	
Oct. 11	Columbus Day Holiday
Nov. 5	County committee ballots mailed to voters
Nov. 11	Veterans Day Holiday
Nov. 25	Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Dec. 1	Deadline to purchase NAP
Dec. 6	Ballots for County Committee due to office