



# NEWSLETTER



March 2011

## SURE Signup

### Weston County FSA Office

1225 Washington Blvd.  
Suite 2  
Newcastle, WY 82701

307-746-2701 phone  
307-746-2870  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/wy](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wy)

#### Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00am – 4:30 pm

#### County Staff

Peggy Livingston  
CED

JoAnn Stearns  
PT

Rob Weppner  
Farm Loan Manager  
Campbell Co. Office  
307-682-8843  
Ext. 2

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) began Jan. 10, 2011. SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. For SURE, all crops must be covered by crop insurance, NAP or eligible for waivers.

A farm enrolled in SURE is eligible when either:

- a portion of the farm is located in a county covered by a qualifying natural disaster declaration (USDA Secretarial Declarations only) or a contiguous county; or,
- the actual production is less than 50% of the normal production.

**We cannot complete signups until the National Average Market Prices are released, so please call the office to schedule an appointment for signup.**

## 2011 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011. Producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2011 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 2011, eligible producers may request partial direct payments as an advance on the total amount.

## Notice to Hispanic and/or Women Farmers or Ranchers

### Compensation for Claims of Discrimination

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be able to apply for compensation.

To register your name to receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit:

[www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

The claim package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.

## Reconstitution of Farms

Producers have until August 1st to request a combination or division of farms. Farms with the same owner / operator are a required combination. Land that is sold can be split from the parent farm using the “landowner designation” method. This method allows the landowner to designate the amount of DCP contract acres to go with the land sold. A written agreement between the buyer and seller must be made before the land sale is final. FSA requires a Warranty Deed or Land Sales Agreement for proof of ownership before a reconstitution of farms can be completed.

## Livestock Indemnity Program- LIP 2011

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. 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.



### **ELAP Assistance Available** *Have you bought extra feed because of winter storms?*

Livestock owners are eligible for financial assistance through ELAP if they suffered an eligible loss in a county that was affected by an eligible adverse weather event and has all acres in all counties covered by crop insurance and/or NAP insurance.

Eligible livestock losses include losses of purchases forage/feedstuffs, losses of mechanically harvested forage/feedstuffs, additional costs incurred for providing or transporting feed to eligible livestock. This includes, but is not limited to equipment rental fees for hay lifts and snow removal.

To apply for assistance for additional costs incurred, the producer must submit the original receipt or summary receipts for the calendar year losses are being claimed AND the previous calendar year.

Receipts should contain the following information:

1. Date of feed purchase
2. Name, address, phone number of vendor
3. Type and quantity of feed purchased
4. Cost of feed purchased
5. Signature of vendor if the vendor does not have a vendor license (ie neighbors).

Producers have 30 days from when the losses are apparent to timely file a notice of loss with the county office. Office staff may accept notices of loss by phone, fax, email or in person.

Applicants must file an application for payment no later than January 30, 2012 for 2011 losses.

Other losses that may be eligible for assistance include, but are not limited to:

- Loss of forage/feedstuffs
- Grazing losses
- Additional cost for purchase of additional feed & transportation
- Physical loss of livestock
- Honeybees and farm-raised fish losses

Contact the county office if you believe you may qualify for benefits.

### **Farming Operation Changes**

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible.

Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur.

Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

Also, almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. To keep the system running smoothly, it is critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions. If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

## Sales Closing Date For Spring Planted NAP Crops

For spring planted small grains, intended for harvest as hay, and spring planted crops which are not insurable, NAP coverage must be purchased no later than **April 1, 2011**. Producers must obtain NAP or crop insurance coverage on all crops in order to remain eligible for the agency's Disaster Assistance Programs such as SURE and ELAP. Producers must purchase at least catastrophic (CAT) level of insurance for all insurable crops. LFP requires coverage only on grazed acres.

## Actively Engaged

USDA has amended the rules that govern the requirements to be 'actively engaged' in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by FSA.

Normally the stockholder or a member of a legal entity **must** make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management for the farming operation. The contributions are to be performed on regular basis, must be identifiable, and separate from the contributions of others.

The exception to this rule for a stockholder or member of a legal entity only occurs when both of the following apply:

- At least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management; and
- The total direct payments received by the legal entity and each of the members does not exceed \$40,000.

## Adjusted Gross Income

USDA and the IRS have an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to USDA.

This to ensure that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to AGI rules must submit form CCC 927 (Individual) and/or CCC 928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service by June 15 to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from FSA and NRCS offices or online at:

<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet>.

## LDP's on Wool or Unshorn Lamb Pelts

It is shearing time. Wool producers are reminded that in order to be eligible for a LDP payment on wool and/or pelts the CCC-633EZ needs to be signed and on file in the county office before loss of beneficial interest in the commodity. If you have not yet signed the page 1 for 2011, please do so before your wool or unshorn lambs are sold.

## Hay Net – Your No-Cost Online Buying and Selling Market

Hay Net is a free, online hay locator service on the FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet>. Producers who want to buy or sell hay can post their ad at no charge to make connections. Hay Net is a popular site for farmers and rancher who have an emergency need, such as the one caused by the current extreme winter conditions. Individual ads can be posted by producers after completing a simple online registration form.

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



PRESORTED STANDARD  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 Newcastle, WY  
 PERMIT #G-96

Selected Interest Rates for March 2011	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	2.500%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.875%
Conservation Loan	4.875%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility	%
Sugar Storage Facility	%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	%

Dates to Remember	
March 14 – April 15	CRP Signup Dates
March 31	Loan/LDP Deadline for Small Grains
April 1	Application Deadline for NAP Spring Crops
April 15	CRP General Signup Ends
May 11	COC Meeting – 1:00pm at the Newcastle Office
May 30	Memorial Day – Office Closed
May 31	Loan/LDP Deadline for Feed Grains
June 1	ACRE Signup Ends
June 1	2011 DCP Enrollment Ends

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of 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, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or 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, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.