

SERVICE CENTER NEWS

Campbell County Wyoming

September 2007

Farm Service Agency County Committee

307-682-8843, ext. 2

Rex Brown, Chairman
Lee Isenberger, Vice-Chairman
Amanda Sorenson, Member

Natural Resources Conservation Services

307-682-8842, ext. 3

Tim Kellogg, District Conservationist
Mike Cranston, SCT
Jennifer Woodward, HEB

Campbell County Conservation District

307-682-1824

Michelle Cook, District Manager
Debbie Hepp, Program Assistant
Crystal Dille, Admin. Assistant

Office Staff, ext 2

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Claudette Vander Voort, PT
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District Board Members

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Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) Signup Deadline Extended

Direct and Counter-cyclical Program sign-up period began October 1, 2006 and was extended to **August 3, 2007**. (You can sign your contract after August 3 and before Sept. 30, 2007, but you will be assessed a late-signing fee of \$100.)

Please Note: The September 30 deadline falls on a Sunday, making the final workday, Friday, September 28, 2007 the final day to sign. This date will not be extended!

When you sign the CCC-509, you agree to:

- comply with highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions on all your land;
- devote acreage equal to the base acreage to an agricultural or conserving use;
- effectively control noxious weeds and otherwise maintain base acres according to sound agricultural practices;
- not plant perennial fruits and vegetables or harvest annual FAVs (other than lentils, mung beans, and dry peas) or wild rice on base acres (Exceptions: Double-cropping covered commodities or peanuts with wild rice, fruits, or vegetables shall be permitted in any region in which there is a history of this type of double-cropping.);
- file an acreage report with respect to all cropland on the farm; and
- notify the county office staff when there is a transfer of or change of interest of a producer.

The DCP contracts are not like the old seven-year Production Flexibility Contracts. You must designate shares and sign a new DCP contract each year.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

Campbell County has submitted a request for the Emergency Conservation Program due to the wildfires in the northern part of the county and has been authorized to conduct a sign-up. Funding is not yet available but we will still be holding a sign-up period from September 17 through October 2. This program pays cost-share to restore or replace fences needed to return the land to productive agricultural use. Eligible cost-share items are new fencing supplies, labor, and equipment. Please visit with your neighbors to determine how you want to apply for boundary fences. **If you have already started the practice, you must file your application for cost-share within the first 15 calendar days of the start of the signup period.** We suggest you contact the office before you start any repair or replacement of fence damaged by fire.

2007 NAP Deadline Approaching

Coverage on 2008 NAP crops is now available for purchase through Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) and by Federal Crop Insurance.

Crop coverage under NAP will be limited to:

Grass Hay crops
Small Grains planted for hay
Small Grains not covered by FCIC

Crop coverage available under Federal Crop Insurance include:

Small Grains intended for grain
Alfalfa & Alfalfa/Grass mix hay
Native range
Improved pasture intended for grazing

Any crop insurable by FCIC will not be covered by the NAP program, therefore, native range coverage and coverage on grazed improved pasture policies will need to be purchased from FCIC.

Deadlines for purchase of 2008 crop coverage:

NAP DEADLINES FOR 2008

Grass Hay and fall seeding for grain hay (<i>including all Wheat, Winter & Spring</i>)	December 1, 2007
Fall seeding for grain not covered by RMA	December 1, 2007
Spring seeding for grain hay	April 1, 2008
Spring grains not covered by RMA (ie: millet, triticale)	April 1, 2008

RMA (FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION)

Rangeland and grazed crops	September 30, 2007
Fall seeded grains	September 30, 2007
Alfalfa, alfalfa grass mix and grass mix alfalfa hay	September 30, 2007
Spring seeded grains	March 15, 2008

LDPs for Barley, Wheat and Oats for HAY or Grain

LDP's and commodity loans may be available for eligible commodities: wheat, barley, oats, corn, wool, mohair and honey. Hay, silage and unshorn pelts derived from these commodities are eligible for an LDP but not for loans. LDP applications must be made at the County Office after harvest and before you lose beneficial interest in the commodity. A producer is considered to have beneficial interest in the commodity if ALL of the following remain with the producer: (1) control of the commodity, (2) risk of loss, and (3) title to the commodity.

Remember, you must sign up for your LDP prior to losing beneficial interest in the commodity.

LDP Rates at the time of publication (Sept. 4, 2007) are:

Barley	\$0.00/bu	HRW/HRS Wheat	\$0.00/bu
Oats	\$0.00/bu		

Daily market rates can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov. The bottom right hand column has a selection menu to choose your state and county to find the current daily rate.

2007 Wool and Mohair Loans and LPD's

Attention Sheep Producers: Wool, Unshorn pelts and Sheared LDPs for 2007 need to be filed before you lose beneficial interest (lose control / ownership). Producers must sign a CCC-633EZ before selling wool or if wool will be sold to the shearer. Please contact the County Office prior to shearing or selling unshorn slaughter lambs to file the correct forms. The deadline to file for 2007 wool LDP is January 31, 2008.

Production History

July 2, 2008 is the deadline for turning in your 2007 crop production for NAP. Failure to turn in production will decrease your yield history which will cost you program benefits.

Big Game Management, Habitat Health, and Hunting Access on Private Lands

By Jenney Woodward (Habitat Biologist ph. 682-8843) and Heather O'Brien (Wildlife Biologist ph. 682-1579)

Fall is quickly approaching, and with it will come a large convoy of hunters hoping to find an okay and a reasonable price from a local rancher for access to some of the best antelope, deer, and elk hunting in the west. Due to each landowner's efforts to enhance the productivity of private lands, those lands provide substantial habitat and open space for wildlife. High populations of antelope, deer, and elk can devour a large portion of a ranch's cultivated land, and can damage the surrounding native habitat. While there is an abundance of hunters seeking access to hunt on private land, some ranchers may have had a few "bad egg" hunters in their time. As a result they may be reluctant to accept new hunters, or may be too busy to assist hunters. Others may have opted to lease their operation to an outfitter, in which case the cost of hunting and access is often too high for the average hunter.

All of these issues combined make access on private land difficult for hunters and ranchers alike in northeastern Wyoming. The result can be that big game populations remain under-harvested, growing higher than management objective. Native habitat can only withstand overabundant game for so long before becoming so degraded that it cannot support the entire herd anymore. Drought compounds the situation. Die offs can result, as we saw this past winter. Hundreds of Campbell County antelope died in late spring 2007 of starvation due to a spring blizzard in late March and lack of forage. Sagebrush plants showed considerable wear from over browsing by deer, pronghorn and rabbits.

In terms of big game management, mule deer herds are currently right at Game and Fish objectives in Campbell County. To keep mule deer at objective, 200 more doe/fawn licenses were added to Campbell County hunt areas for 2007. Antelope herds are considerably higher than objective throughout the county. Hunt area 23 is highest at 200% over objective. Hunt area 24 is 24% over objective, while hunt areas 17, 18, and 19 north of Gillette are 63-69% above objective. Doe harvest is the most effective means to reduce overpopulated herds and improve wildlife habitat, which in turn can improve buck quality. With these principles in mind, an ample number of doe/fawn licenses are available in all Campbell County hunt areas, and are restricted to use on private land. They are inexpensive (\$19 for residents, \$29 for non-residents), and one hunter can purchase a total of two pronghorn buck and four doe/fawn licenses. Most doe/fawn licenses do not sell out, due in part to lack of access. Some ranches have reduced their trespass fee for hunters who agree to harvest does.

Game and Fish has also attempted to mediate hunting access on private lands through the Department's Private Lands Public Wildlife (PLPW) Program, which includes the Walk-In Areas as well as the Hunter Management Areas. Private land is leased to the Game and Fish Department for public hunting while the landowner designates the number of acres, type of access (walk-in, road access, etc), and species allowed for harvest. The participating landowner receives a monetary reward based on the number of deeded acres enrolled in the program.

Game and Fish staff runs the Campbell County Hunter Assistance Program at the Gillette Visitor's Center where an active list of landowners seeking additional hunters is kept on hand for hunters to contact. Landowners may specify dates, species, sex, or type of access. Landowners can now sign up with Game and Fish personnel to have their contact information listed on the Game and Fish web page to solicit additional hunters as well. **For further information on any of the Game and Fish access programs please contact Brian Olsen, Regional Access Coordinator, at 307-473-3437.**



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

September 28, 2007 – Late-signing deadline for DCP Contract
October 8, 2007 – County Office Closed – Columbus Day Holiday

***** *Sign up for 2005/2006 Disaster Programs; Crop Disaster Program, Livestock Compensation Program and Livestock Incentive Program to be announced soon. Watch for updates.* *****

November 12, 2007 - County Office Closed – Veteran's Day Holiday
November 22, 2007 – County Office Closed – Thanksgiving Day Holiday
December 1, 2007 – Sales Closing date for 2008 NAP Coverage for Grass Hay, Fall-seeded grains and Spring Wheat planted for Hay

IMMEDIATELY --File Notification of Loss Forms within 15 Days of Loss
--Notify County office of any changes in Direct Deposit information,
--Payment limitation changes, Farm records changes, etc.
Any time --CRP Continuous Signup
--Paid measurement services from FSA

Office Hours are from 8:00am to 4:30pm. Producers are urged to call for an appointment, so the office staff can assist you timely. Due to the computer environment, some applications/processes are unable to be completed after 4:00pm.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above dates or information in this newsletter, please contact the County office for more information (307) 682-8843, ext.2.

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