



Cowboy Country Connection

Carbon/Albany FSA Newsletter

April/May 2007

**Saratoga USDA Service Center
101 Cypress Avenue
PO Box 607
Saratoga, WY 82331-0607**

Phone: (307) 326-5657 #2
FAX: (307) 326-8572
<http://www.usda.gov>

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

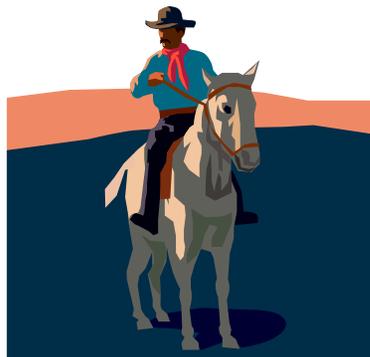
Sherrie Glenn, CED
Deb Shirley, PT
Sheryl Hunter, Temp PT

County Committee

Tom Page, COC
Ray Waliser, COC
Scott Sims, COC
Matt Weber, COC
Kelly Kennedy, COC
Heidi Custis, Minority Advisor

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Angus McIntosh, D C
Baggs 383-2550
Mark Shirley, DC
Saratoga 326-5657 Ext. 101
Marji Patz, Range Specialist
Medicine Bow 379-2542
Angus Vasques, DC
Laramie 745-3698



Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program

The 2007 DCP sign-up began October 1st, if you plan to continue to participate please contact this office to sign a 2007 DCP Contract (CCC-509). Sign-up began October 1, 2006 and must be completed before August 3, 2007. On the DCP contracts producers must designate shares and sign a new contract each year. Final payments for DCP will be issued in the month of October 2007.

Loan Deficiency Payment Information

Remember to file your CCC-633 EZ before selling your wool or mohair; you must still have beneficial interest to be eligible for an LDP payment. Page 1 of the EZ form must be signed by the producer before beneficial interest in the commodity is lost. Once the beneficial is lost the commodity is ineligible for an LDP. All producers are encouraged to sign the form for each crop year early before shearing. Letters and forms were recently mailed to producers; if you did not receive one give the county office a call to request the CCC-633 EZ form.

Continuous CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is a private land 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.

Continuous CRP program is a voluntary enrollment program. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment.

To be eligible for enrollment, participants and acreage 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.

Crop Adjusters

USDA/FSA is looking for loss adjusters that have crop appraising experience. If you wish to partnership with the Farm Service Agency please contact Wyoming Farm Service Agency 951 Werner Ct., Ste 130, Casper, Wyoming 82601. Or call (307)261-5010.

FSA Signature Requirements

Proper signatures on Farm Service Agency contracts, applications and forms must be submitted before the document will be considered as filed. All entities, including revocable and irrevocable trusts, estates, corporations, limited liability companies, partnerships, etc., must provide evidence of signature authority stipulating those individuals who are authorized to represent the entity. FSA cannot accept signatures without such documentation on file. Examples of acceptable evidence include trust agreements, corporate charters or resolutions, partnership agreements and court orders of appointment. Spouses can sign for one another on most program documents unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office staff. An FSA-211 Power of Attorney form may be filed to delegate signature authority for FSA program purposes to another individual.

Bank Account Changes

FSA payments must be made by electronic transfer based on current agency policy into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the Carbon/Albany FSA office staff if your account has changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if this office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

Farm Record Changes

If you have bought, sold or are leasing different land, make sure you report the changes to the local Farm Service Agency county office as soon as possible so farm/ranch records can be updated. For ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or recorded land contract. All landowners must furnish their tax ID numbers. Remember, failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and fines if you are participating in farm programs.

Payment Limitation / Eligibility

The USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. Documents and forms to determine eligibility and limitation, once completed, are reviewed on an annual basis. It is the responsibility of the producer to report changes in the farming operation which may affect payment eligibility and payment limitation.

The following annual payment limitations apply –

1. DCP - \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments
2. Environmental Quality Incentive Program – EQIP - \$450,000
3. Loan Deficiency Payments and Marketing Assistance Loans - \$75,000
4. Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program or NAP - \$100,000

FSA Spot Checks

All Member Information CCC-501s and payment eligibility CCC-502 Farm Operating Plans are subject to spot check through our end of year review process. If selected for a spot check, producers will be asked to submit proof of their contribution to the operation such as seed, fertilizer and chemical bills, land lease agreements, land contracts or property tax payments, equipment lists, cancelled checks for paid labor or hired management, and any other items the FSA County Committee determine are necessary.

The producer is required to provide these items if requested for the spot checks so that the FSA county committee can make a determination that the ranching operation is actually being performed as was stated on the applicable CCC-501 or CCC-502 that was originally completed.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA staff directly or by phone to schedule these needs.

Acreage Reporting

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing and accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and Loan Deficiency Program Payments (LDP). Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Drop Disaster Assistance program (NAP) must also be reported. Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, grazing lands if covered by NAP, and federal leases, whether idle or planted.

Producers are required to file reports by July 2, 2007 for all crops. Late filed acreage reports, will be charged a fee per farm. Acreage Reports are currently being mailed from the County office, be watching for yours and call if you have any questions or concerns, or if you haven't received one in the mail by June 15th.

2006 Production Evidence

Hay production evidence for 2006 crop year must also be turned in to the county office by July 2nd, to count towards your farm/ranch actual production history calculations. If you are not certain if you've already submitted your information please give us a call.

Measurement Service Rates

FSA provides a number of measurement services for our producers that include: measuring crops after planting, measuring fields prior to planting or harvesting, re-measuring previously measured acreages, verifying crops and disaster conditions and acreages, measuring or sampling farm stored grains or other commodity crops, as well as verifying crops for late-filed crop reports.

The cost of this service is now \$30 for the basic farm fee and \$16 for the first hour and \$8 for every 30 minutes after the first hour with a minimum of 1 hour charged.

Farm Loan Program News

FSA makes loans each year to farmers and ranchers who need a helping hand, whether it a young husband and wife who are ready to buy their first place, veteran rancher or a minority rancher facing temporary adversity. FSA provides financial assistance that helps ensure the well-being of American agriculture. All loans must meet qualifying criteria to be eligible. Loans are available under both the Direct and Guaranteed Loan Programs as follows:

**Direct Loan Program ** Farm Ownership Loans ** Farm Operating Loans
Emergency Loans ** Youth Loans ** Indian Tribal Acquisition Program
Guaranteed Loan Program ** Farm Ownership and Farm Operating
Beginning Farmer/Rancher Loans ** Socially Disadvantaged Loans**

These funds are targeted for beginning farmers and ranchers and socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family sized farms and ranches. Beginning farmers are someone who has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years. A socially disadvantaged applicant is someone who is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice. For more information call Dixie Mount, FSA Office in Platte County 307-322-4050. Dixie supports the producers in Albany and Carbon County for these programs.

New COC Members Elected

The election for LAA #5 was finalized in January. Tom Page was elected to take retired North Albany COC member Mike Dallas. We thank Mike Dallas for his past 12 years of dedication to the County Committee and you the producers of Carbon and Albany counties!

Minority Advisor Appointed by State Committee

Heidi Custis a local Saratoga rancher has been appointed as the Carbon/Albany Minority Advisor. FSA County Committee advisors are a valued voice for the under represented groups and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. County committee members and their county executive directors, actively reach out to producer groups who are under represented on county committees. Minority Advisors attend the meetings, and participate in discussions and deliberations. They help to increase the awareness of and participation in FSA activities, including elections, helping to develop interest and incentives in socially disadvantaged group members for considering FSA work as a career, and perform special duties at the COC's request.

Graduation Time!!!

If you have someone in your home that is graduating and exploring a further career in Agriculture, call the County Office 307-326-5657 for a complimentary CD discussing and exploring careers with USDA and the Farm Service Agency.

DATES TO REMEMBER – 2007

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| Anytime | Prior to selling Wool sign CCC-622 EZ pg 1 |
| May 28 | COF Closed Memorial Day Holiday |
| July 2 nd | Final Report deadline for Acreage/Crops |
| July 2 nd | Final Date for NAP Production Evidence 2006 crops |
| Anytime loss event | NAP producers must file within of loss event |
| July 4 th | COF Closed for Fourth of July Holiday |
| August 1 | Final Date for DCP Enrollment |
| August 1 | Final Date to request a Reconstitution |