



Goshen County FSA Newsletter January 2008

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FSA Home Page
www.fsa.usda.gov

USDA Home Page
www.usda.gov

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office staff if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

2005/2006/2007 Disaster Sign-ups Continue

Goshen County FSA is continuing to take applications for 2005/2006/2007:

- Crop Disaster Program (CDP)
- Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

We have recently received information that benefits under CDP have been amended to include all crop year 2007 crops. Previously, only perennial crops and annual crops planted prior to February 28, 2007 were covered. As a reminder, only those crops that were covered with either Federal Crop Insurance or NAP are eligible for CDP benefits.

Additionally, this amended provision includes LCP for 2007 losses. We do not yet know if this will impact Goshen County.

No signup deadline has been announced for either program. For more details on either of these programs, contact this office.

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Linda Nichol, who was elected to represent farmers from Area 1 on the county committee. The election results for Local Administrative Area 1 are:

Linda Nichol — Elected to the county committee (COC)
Harold Thomas — COC Alternate
Edward Petersen – COC Alternate

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

The committee members will hold their organizational meeting in January to determine who will serve as the county committee chair and vice-chair.

We wish to thank Tommie Costopoulos for serving on the County Committee for the past 9 years. His service and dedication in this position is much appreciated.

Attention All Buyers of Agricultural Products

It is required that buyers of agricultural products check or register with the Secretary of State's Office to determine if there are liens against the seller of the product. If a lien is found you are required to place the lien holder's name on the check as well as that of the seller. Ag products include but are not limited to: Livestock (including horses), crops used for feed (hay, silage, oats, etc.), machinery, equipment, and all other crops. **Failure to place the lien holder's name on the check may result in civil legal action being taken against the buyer of the product. Protect yourself as a buyer!** You may contact the Secretary of State's Office at (307) 777-7311.

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

2008 NAP Coverage Deadline

April 1, 2008 is the deadline to apply for coverage under the Noninsured Crop Assistance Program (NAP) for 2008 spring seeded crops in Wyoming.

At the time of application, the producer must pay a \$100/crop fee for NAP.

For more information, contact this office.

Farm Reconstitutions

In program terminology, farms are *constituted* to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

Estate Method — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the cropland for each resulting tract relates to the cropland on the parent tract;

Default Method — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

Sodbuster, Swampbuster

Most FSA programs require compliance with sodbuster and swampbuster provisions. These provisions require producers to follow an approved conservation system on all highly erodible land planted to an annual crop as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Be sure to have determinations made on any new land you plan to plant to annual crops. If you plan to plant a different crop on your current cropland, check with NRCS to assure the new crop will qualify under your conservation system.

Swampbuster provisions state that converting a wetland to make possible the planting of a crop will result in the loss of all USDA benefits. To avoid this possibility it is strongly recommended that producers check with NRCS before starting to work in the fields.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

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 office staff directly or by phone.

2008 Wool

Wool, mohair, and unshorn pelt producers are reminded that the 2008 crop year began as of January 1, 2008. Producers should complete and submit Page 1 of Form 633 EZ to cover themselves for LDP purposes on these commodities. If you have any questions regarding this subject, please contact this office.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including small grains, course grains, and oilseeds.

The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.

All Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85% of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required. For details, contact your local FSA office.

Continuous CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) allows landowners to voluntarily enroll acreage in to conservation practices that reduces soil erosion, improves water and soil quality, and provides wildlife habitat and food sources. Eligible landowners enter into 10-15 year contracts in return for receiving annual rental, maintenance, incentive, and cost share payments. Signup can take place anytime during the year. For more information on CCRP, contact this office.

CRP Requirements and Reminders

CRP participants are obligated to maintain established cover. The annual rental payment includes a maintenance fee (\$5.00 in Wyoming) for this purpose. Participants shall ensure:

- Adequate approved vegetative cover is maintained to control erosion for the period of the contract.
- Compliance with state and local noxious weed laws. If any noxious weeds are found on CRP, you will be referred to the local weed and pest officials to draw up a plan for weed control.
- Control of other weeds as determined by the County Committee.
- That undesirable vegetation, weeds, insects, rodents, etc. that pose a threat to existing cover or adversely impact other landowners in the area are controlled.
- An annual acreage report must be filed to confirm the acres are still being maintained as CRP.

FSA conducts periodic spot checks on CRP to confirm program compliance. You neighbor also watches, so it in your best interest to keep on top of things.

Several CRP contracts contain an annual requirement for clipping or light disking 25-35% on fields on a rotational basis. The Goshen County FSA Committee has a policy that this practice must be completed by September 30 each year. We will be randomly checking these contracts to verify compliance. Things to keep in mind concerning this requirement:

- This practice cannot be done between the primary nesting season dates of May 15-July 15.
- We request that you inform this office when the practice is done so we can track completion.
- This requirement is on a per field basis, not on a contract basis. If there are multiple fields in a contract, each field stands on its own.

/s/ Darrell L. Jones-CED

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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