



## Goshen County FSA Newsletter June 2007

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### *2007 DCP Sign-up Continues*

The 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP) began October 1, 2006, and continues until August 3, 2007. **Note: The deadline had been June 1, 2007; however, due to issues related to FSA computer performance and workload addressing improper payments, the deadline has been extended.** Following the August 3, 2007, deadline, USDA will accept late applications through Sept. 30, 2007, with a \$100 late fee. While DCP participants must sign DCP contracts annually, producers can choose not to participate in the program in any given year.

USDA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2007, eligible producers may request to receive direct advance payments based on **22 percent** of the direct payment rate for each commodity associated with the farm. USDA will issue DCP advance direct payments beginning Dec. 1, 2006. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate) for a commodity is below its target price.

### *NAP Reminder*

Concerning Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policies, in the event of a crop failure caused by natural disaster, the producer needs to notify the local FSA office by completing a "Notice of Loss" (form CCC-576). The notice of loss must be executed within 15 days of the date the damage became apparent. Failure to timely report the loss could result in loss of benefits.

### *2007 COC Election Information*

From June 15 through Aug. 1, farmers and ranchers can nominate eligible peers as candidates for election to the Goshen County Farm Service Agency County Committee. This is an important time for Local Administrative Area (LAA) communities, because county committee members make decisions that have significant effects on you and the area's agricultural sector as a whole. This year's election in Goshen County covers LAA 1, the north part of the county. For example, committee members make decisions on applications for federal farm program and disaster payments. Committee members play a vital role by helping local farmers and ranchers manage tough financial times and natural disasters. County committee members make many other important decisions that affect local farmers and ranchers, such as whether haying and grazing should be allowed on Conservation Reserve Program land. Talk to a county committee member or the County Executive Director for details on the types of decisions county committee members make.

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet basic eligibility requirements. Contact the county office staff or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections> for details about candidate eligibility. Nomination forms can be obtained at the county office or online at the above web address. Remember, the nomination period runs June 15 through Aug. 1. Voting takes place in the fall. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 2. Dec. 3 is the last day to return voted ballots to the county office. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office Jan. 1, 2008.

## ***Acres Reporting Deadline Nears***

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, 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, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. **Producers in Wyoming are reminded that the deadline to timely file 2007 reports is July 1, 2007.**

## ***2007 Compliance Process***

Starting this year a new compliance and spot check selection process will be implemented for the 2007 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers will be made using a statistical sampling method. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc.

State and County Offices shall view and print their producer spot check lists as posted on the designated web site. If an entity is selected from the national database that is no longer farming or participating in the 2007 crop year, a notation shall be made on the spot check list. For more information about the new spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local Farm Service Agency office for additional clarification.

## ***CRP Requirements and Reminders***

CRP participants are obligated to maintain the 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 & 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. Your neighbor also conducts checks, so it is in your best interest to keep on top of things.

## ***Managed Haying/Grazing CRP Acres***

Producers considering haying or grazing Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres need prior approval from the county committee. Before the committee can allow haying or grazing, there must be an approved hazing and grazing plan. A 25 percent CRP payment reduction is assessed for every approved acre hayed or grazed. The county committee cannot authorize haying and grazing on acreage during the primary nesting and brood rearing season. In addition, some mid-contract management practices may limit the use of managed haying and grazing.

Additional information on haying and grazing of CRP acres is available from county office staff.

## **What are eLDPs?**

The Farm Service Agency's electronic Loan Deficiency Payment Service (eLDP) is an Internet-based service allowing producers to request LDPs online and, in most cases, receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours. Online eLDPs are offered as an additional option to producers requesting an LDP. LDP benefits are still available at the local FSA county office. However, eLDP services provide greater flexibility to producers who conduct business online and want to avoid travel time to and from the local FSA office.

Access to the eLDP service is available to all USDA customers. In order to insure personal identity, you must first register for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 Account. This process is easy and starts online by creating a user ID and password and confirming your e-mail address. The final step requires visiting a local USDA Service Center to complete the eAuthentication process.

USDA provides eLDP services in a secure online environment that protects your privacy through stringent security measures. All participating customers will have an eLDP Customer Profile set up through a software application that validates their farming and crop information.

Local FSA county offices will maintain Customer Profiles for accuracy. Customer Profile information is provided by the customer and verified by farm records stored in the local FSA county office.

FSA's eLDP customers can use a personal computer to submit an LDP application. After the eLDP is approved by USDA, the payment is automatically routed by electronic funds transfer to the customer's bank account. The eLDP process is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, except during routine backup and maintenance periods. The applicable LDP rate is based upon the rate in effect on the application date for the location of the stored commodity.

### **2007 Loan Rates**

2007 Goshen County commodity loan rates are:

Wheat-HRS	\$2.42/Bu.
Wheat-HRW	\$2.69/Bu.
Wheat-SWW	\$2.39/Bu.
Corn	\$2.03/Bu.
Barley	\$1.85/Bu.
Oats	\$1.30/Bu.
Canola	\$8.34/cwt.
Sunflower Seed (Oil)	\$8.84/cwt.
Sunflower Seed (Non-Oil)	\$8.84/cwt.
Mohair	\$4.20/lb.
Wool-Graded <18.6	\$5.27/lb.
Wool-Graded 18.6-19.5	\$3.38/lb.
Wool-Graded 19.6-20.5	\$2.45/lb.
Wool-Graded 20.6-22.0	\$2.24/lb.
Wool-Graded 22.1-23.5	\$2.20/lb.
Wool-Graded 23.6-25.9	\$2.07/lb.
Wool-Graded 26.0-28.9	\$1.48/lb.
Wool-Graded 29 and over	\$1.33/lb.
Wool-Nongraded	\$0.40/lb.

### **CCC-633-EZ Reminder**

The Farm Service Agency currently uses the CCC-633-EZ form. It's a one size fits all form you can fill out to indicate your intention to receive loan deficiency payments for all your crops at the beginning of the crop year, long before you've lost beneficial interest.

The same form is then used to submit a request for an LDP any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest.

For the 2007 crop year, the CCC-633 EZ and eLDP online requests are the only methods available to request LDPs.

### **Preventing Fraud & Waste**

The Farm Service Agency and Risk Management Agency are partners in preventing fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to RMA. Producers can report suspected cases to FSA or RMA.

*/s/ Darrell L. Jones-CED*

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<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
Continuous	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
Continuous	Farm Storage Facility Loans
May 31, 2007	Final date to apply for a loan on 2006 crop corn and sunflowers
August 3, 2007	Final date to timely apply for 2007 DCP benefits
July 1, 2007	Final date to timely apply file 2007 acreage report

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