



Goshen County FSA Newsletter

March 16, 2007

Goshen County FSA Office
1441 East M St. Suite C
Torrington WY 82240-3521

Phone: (307) 532-4021
FAX: (307) 532-5783

Office Hours:
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee:
Tom Costopoulos
Stan Speckner
Larry Mullock
Linda Nichol

County Executive Director:
Darrell Jones
darrell.jones@wy.usda.gov

Farm Loan Manager:
Duane Wisroth
duane.wisroth@wy.usda.gov

Office Staff
Doris Hyatt
Brian McKenna
Todd Smith
Susan Thomas
Susan Wilson
Marty Yorges
Ryan Rapp-COT

FSA Home Page
www.fsa.usda.gov

USDA Home Page
www.usda.gov

Fruit/Vegetable Plantings

Don't forget DCP Contract requirements concerning Fruit & Vegetable (FAV) plantings. Applicable FAV's include dry beans, potatoes, onions, grapes, and chicory. We suggest that if you are planning on planting any FAV's on a farm in 2007, to address your intentions with this office and we can estimate if and how this would affect your payments.

2007 DCP Sign-up Continues

The 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP) began October 1, 2006, and continues until June 1, 2007. Following the June 1, 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 Application Deadline

April 1 is the deadline date for producers to apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, or NAP coverage, using Form CCC-471. The application and service fee must be filed by the applicable closing date for each of the 2007 spring seeded NAP crops. To remain eligible for NAP, a producer must annually report the crop, including: type, variety, location, producer shares, date planted, and the intended use (fresh, processed, etc.). Once the crop is harvested the production must also be reported.

The application service fee is \$100 per crop per county or \$300 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$900 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees.

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.

Continuous CRP Available

There will be no general signups scheduled for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in 2007 or 2008. The President's FY 2008 Budget assumed no available funding for CRP general signups.

However, environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the Continuous CRP will still be eligible for enrollment. These targeted programs will remain funded, and continue to provide a heightened environmental benefit on select areas.

Acreage Reporting

Acreage reporting time will soon be here. Please remember that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by the July 1.

Acreage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of July, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

If your farm(s) only have CRP and/or wheat/fallow, your acreage report can be filed immediately.

LDP Applications

The Farm Service Agency now employs the CCC-633 EZ in place of the old CCC-709 and CCC-633-LDP. The EZ form has been created to make the application process more user-friendly.

The CCC-633 EZ is a two-part loan deficiency payment request that allows producers to (1) indicate their intentions to receive LDP benefits *before* losing beneficial interest in the eligible commodity, and (2) submit a request for an LDP at any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest.

The EZ form was developed to cover field direct LDPs, basic LDPs and CCC-cotton AA, and revised to cover basic and field direct LDPs for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts.

By signing the first page of the EZ form, the producer indicates his or her intentions to receive LDP benefits. This one page covers all counties and all eligible harvested commodities for the entire crop year for the individual, joint operation or entity identified on the form.

Once the first page of the form has been signed and submitted, the producer can submit an LDP request by completing page 2 for all harvested commodities, except cotton; page 3 for cotton; or page 4 for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts. The LDP request can be submitted at any time during the loan availability period, before or after losing beneficial interest.

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.

County Committee Meetings

The Goshen County Farm Service Agency committee has established the third Thursday of each month as its regular meeting time and the Goshen County FSA office as its meeting place. Starting times are:

During Standard Time – 9:30 a.m.

During Daylight Savings Time – 9:00 a.m.

Because of budget constraints, county offices in Wyoming have been directed to limit the number of meetings to 6 per year. County Committee meetings are open to the public, with the exception of items that are covered during executive session. If you are planning on attending a meeting, we suggest you confirm the date and time prior to the meeting date.

County committee members are:

Chair Tom Costopoulos, representing LAA 1

Vice-Chair Stan Speckner representing LAA 2

Larry Mullock representing LAA 3

Advisor Linda Nichol

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. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

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;

DCP Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP 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.

If DCP direct payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded.

/s/ Darrell L. Jones-CED

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 FARM SERVICE AGENCY
 GOSHEN COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE
 1441 EAST M. ST. SUITE C
 TORRINGTON WY 82240

Dates to Remember	
April 1, 2007	Final date to request NAP coverage on spring seeded crops
Continuous	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
March 31, 2007	Final date to apply for a loan on 2006 crop small grains
Continuous	Farm Storage Facility Loans
May 31, 2007	Final date to apply for a loan on 2006 crop corn and sunflowers
June 1, 2007	Final date to timely apply for 2007 DCP benefits
July 1, 2007	Final date to timely file 2007 acreage reports

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