



## Goshen County FSA Newsletter May 7, 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](mailto:darrell.jones@wy.usda.gov)

Farm Loan Manager:  
Duane Wisroth  
[duane.wisroth@wy.usda.gov](mailto: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](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

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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.

### 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 COC Election Information

One of FSA's responsibilities is to conduct County Committee elections in an open manner that ensures accountability. County FSA Offices will provide local organizations representing socially disadvantaged groups with detailed information about the COC election process. FSA is reaching out to agricultural communities to get equitable representation on their county committees.

Groups representing socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, will be actively solicited for COC election candidates, and encouraged to fill out a nomination form (**FSA-669A**). Under represented farmers and ranchers are encouraged to step up and participate in their county's COC election process. Producers will notice posters and announcements displayed in businesses, churches, and other public places. COC election fact sheets can be found online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under the News & Events tab on the FSA homepage.

## ***Acreage Reporting***

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 are required to file reports by July 1, 2007 for all crops. Once all crops are planted, the report can be filed.

### **Prevented Planting:**

Prevented planting needs be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date on form CCC-576.

*Example: In Goshen County, the final planting date for corn grain is May 25. Prevented planted corn grain would need to be reported on form CCC-576 by June 9 to receive credit in this office.*

### **Failed Acreage:**

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

## ***Measurement Service***

Farmers who would like a guarantee on their crop plantings and land use acreages can make it official by using the FSA measurement service. Producers must file a request with the county office staff and pay the cost of a field visit to have stake and referencing done on the farm. Common Land Unit (CLU) measurement data for the producer's farm may be provided in the FSA office free of charge.

Measurement service guarantees compliance with a program, if the planting is limited to the measured area. Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty, or loss of eligibility.

Measurement service rates are:

- Farm visits-\$30 Basic Farm Fee + \$16 first hour + \$8 every 30 minutes after the first hour (1 hour minimum)
- No Farm visit-\$15 Basic Fee + \$8 every 30 minutes (30 minutes minimum)

## ***Rotational Clipping/Disking***

Several CRP contracts contain an annual requirement for clipping or light disking 25-35% of a field on a rotational basis. The Goshen County FSA Committee has set the 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 1.
- We ask 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.

If you have any questions, please contact this office.

### ***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.

### ***Farm Loan Program Information***

Farm Service Agency (FSA) has loan programs that could help farmers and ranchers experiencing financial problems in today's economy of tight profit margins. Several types of loan programs are offered through FSA.

Under the Guaranteed Loan program, FSA guarantees farm ownership, term operating loans, and lines of credit used for annual operating through conventional agricultural lenders for guarantees up to 95%. The guarantee generally allows the conventional lender to provide the applicant with longer terms and lower rates of interest. All applicants must meet certain qualifying criteria to be eligible for guarantees. Farmers and ranchers interested in Guaranteed Loans should apply directly with a conventional lender, who arranges for the guarantee.

For those unable to qualify for a Guaranteed Loan, FSA offers Direct Loans, which are made and serviced by FSA officials. Funding is limited for Direct Loans, and applicants must sometimes wait until funds are available. To qualify for a Direct Farm Ownership or Operating Loan, the applicant must meet eligibility criteria and have sufficient repayment ability and loan collateral. FSA will work with you to analyze your situation, provide technical assistance, and tailor loans to meet your needs.

Youth between the ages of 10 and 21 may also apply for a direct loan up to \$5,000 associated with their 4-H, FFA, or other youth organization activities.

Farm Service Agency is an Equal Credit Opportunity Lender. Beginning farmers and members of traditionally underserved gender and ethnic groups are encouraged to apply for guaranteed and/or direct loan assistance from FSA. Each year, farm ownership and operating loan funds are temporarily set-aside to meet the needs of beginning farmers and traditionally underserved groups.

Anyone having questions please call your local Farm Service Agency in Torrington WY at 307-532-4021.

***/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

<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
June 1, 2007	Final date to timely apply for 2007 DCP benefits

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