

November - 2007

Laramie County FSA News

Office Hours: 8:00 – 4:30

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<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

Disaster Programs Signup

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

LCP compensates livestock producers for pasture and feed losses resulting from natural disasters occurring between Jan.1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007.

Producers in primary or contiguous counties declared secretarial disaster areas or counties declared presidential disaster areas between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, are eligible. Producers incurring a loss in more than one of the 2005, 2006 or 2007 calendar years must choose only one year for which they want to receive benefits. **Laramie County meets the disaster declaration requirements for LCP for 2006, so producers will receive LCP Program payments for 2006 only.** Please call the county office to set up your appointment.

The following are the types of livestock operations that will be eligible for LCP: dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, swine or deer. Livestock must be maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation and must have been physically located in the disaster county on January 1, 2006. Livestock used for pleasure riding, roping, hunting, show, rodeo stock, pets, or consumption by owner are not eligible. Livestock that were sold or died after the beginning date of the disaster period (January 1, 2006) as a direct result of the drought are still eligible for the 2006 LCP.

Eligible producers must have had legal ownership or cash leased eligible livestock on the beginning date of the disaster period and suffered an eligible pasture / feed loss during the drought of 2006.

Eligible pastures include non-irrigated improved and native grasses and grazed non-irrigated forage sorghum. Pastures must be owned or cash leased by the livestock owner to qualify for LCP.

Applicants use their livestock numbers and their pasture acreage that is owned or cash leased along with extra feed purchased, beyond normal for 2006, due to the drought. You must have this information to file an application. The information supplied by the applicant is subject to spot-check.

Producers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in LCP benefits. Producers must have all payment eligibility forms on file for the disaster year such as CCC-502, AD-1026, and CCC-526. They must not be in violation of fraud or not in violation of a controlled substance. Payments will be issued when all requirements are met.

Livestock Assistance Grant Program payments received by USDA through the State of Wyoming will be subtracted from the payments received in LCP.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

LIP compensates livestock producers for livestock losses between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, that resulted from natural disasters, including losses due to blizzards that started in 2006 and continued into 2007.

Producers in primary or contiguous counties declared secretarial disaster areas or counties declared presidential disaster areas between Jan.1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, are eligible. **Laramie County meets the disaster declaration requirements for 2006 only.**

The following are the eligible livestock under LIP: dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, catfish, crawfish, equine, sheep, goats, swine, poultry or deer.

Producers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in LCP benefits. Producers must have all payment eligibility forms on file for the disaster year such as CCC-502, AD-1026, and CCC-526. They must not be in violation of fraud or not in violation of a controlled substance.

Applications will be taken if livestock died due to the drought in 2006. It is very unlikely that we will get applications for LIP because the cause of the livestock death must be directly related to the disaster designation, which is drought.

Crop Disaster Program (CDP)

Signup for the Crop Disaster Program began October 15, 2007. Program benefits will be based on crop losses incurred in the 2005 / 2006 / 2007 crop years. Applications will be taken by appointment at the County office. Please call for an appointment. Crop loss is covered under this signup and quality losses will be taken in a latter signup.

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses from natural disasters and related conditions that occurred in 2005 and 2006 and for 2007 crops if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007, or in the case of prevented plantings would have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to receive benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.

Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. The payment rate is set at 42 percent of the established price. The payment quantity for quality losses will be equal to the lesser of: (1) the actual production of the crop affected by a quality loss; or (2) the quantity of expected production of the crop affected by a quality loss. The quality loss must be at least 25 percent of the value that all affected production of the crop would have had if the crop had not suffered a quality loss. Assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and including the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster.

Farmers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in CDP benefits. Producers must have all payment eligibility forms on file for the disaster year such as CCC-502, AD-1026, and CCC-526. They must not be in violation of fraud or not in violation of a controlled substance.

Crop Loan / LDP Information

Crop Loans are available for program crops and oilseed crops. Nine-month commodity loans can be made to eligible producers. The current interest rate for loans disbursed in October is 5.25 percent for farm-stored or warehouse stored commodities. Laramie County 2007 loan rates are: winter wheat - \$2.74/bu, barley - \$1.90/bu, corn - \$2.04/bu, oats - \$1.35/bu, sunflowers - \$8.79/cwt, and spring wheat - \$2.47/bu. Please call the office for more information if you are interested. The loan process does take some time. The office is required to do a lien search, obtain lien waivers from lenders, and file a lien against your crop before a check can be issued.

It is the producer's responsibility to maintain the quality of the grain in storage.

Both husband and wife must sign the loan document. A notarized or FSA witnessed FSA Power of Attorney Form, FSA-211, may be filed giving the husband and/or wife authority to sign for each other.

Measurement services are available to measure the grain in your storage facility. The cost is \$30 per farm plus \$16 per hour / \$8 for every 30 minutes after the first hour with a minimum charge of 1 hour. Fees must be paid for the measurement before the loan check can be disbursed. **We strongly recommend that producers get a measurement service to avoid penalties for overstating grain in storage.**

Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) will be available if posted county price goes below the loan rate. To date there are no LDP's available.

Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) Reminders

If you had NAP coverage in 2007, remember to provide production evidence of the mechanically harvested crops prior to July 1, 2008.

Producers are to report crop losses on NAP crops within 15 days after the disaster event occurred or the date the crop damage was apparent. Late filed notice of loss may be approved if the crop damage is still apparent to the FSA office and the loss was disaster affected.

NAP Rangeland / Forage Hay Losses

FSA can still provide coverage for irrigated and non-irrigated grass hay under NAP. FSA's NAP coverage is for crops not covered by RMA. The deadline to purchase NAP coverage for hay is December 1, 2007.

County Committee Election

Laramie County FSA will be holding an election for a person to represent LAA 2. LAA 2 includes all of the southeast corner of Laramie County east of County Road 136 and south of County Road 221. Eligible producers will receive ballots after November 2, 2007. Marked ballots must be returned or post marked by December 3, 2007.

Discrimination Prohibited: No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

Farm Loan Program Reminders

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 holders 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 1-307-777-7311.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) News

NOTICE: The application deadline for 2008 funds through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) was October 1, 2007. **However**, if the 2007 Farm Bill passes with additional allocations and NRCS receives a 2008 budget that exceeds the current fiscal year continuing resolution level, it is possible there could be a second round of applications received for FY 2008. If you qualify as an agricultural producer and have natural resource concerns that you would like to address, please contact the local NRCS office to fill out an application for assistance. Applications may be submitted throughout the year. Applications received before October 1, 2007 will be obligated as contracts by December 31, 2007 to the extent of available funds based on the established ranking.

REMINDER: Current EQIP contract participants need to review their schedule of operations and make an attempt to apply practices scheduled in 2006 and 2007 before December 1, 2007. Remember, if your contract started in 2006 and has a **conservation completion incentive**, all practices must be completed and certified by December 31 to receive the first year incentive payment. If you know you are not going to be able to apply these practices, please contact your NRCS field office, in Laramie County call (307) 772-2314. All contracts with practices scheduled for 2006 will be modified after December 1, 2007, if you don't notify the NRCS that you will finish these practices this calendar year.

For more information on NRCS programs go to: <http://www.wy.nrcs.gov/programs/index.html>

USDA / FSA
Laramie County FSA Committee
11221A U.S. Highway 30
Cheyenne WY 82009 8730

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Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

Dates to Remember

November 12	Veterans Day Holiday – Office Closed
November 23	Thanksgiving Day Holiday – Office Closed
December 1	NAP signup deadline for fall seeded and perennial crops
December 4	Last day to return Committee election ballots
December 25	Christmas Day Holiday – Office Closed

County Committee: Mark Child, Dave Bowman, Mike Peterson, **Advisor:** Louise Jacobsen
Office Staff: Doris Scheel, Denise Hunt, Mark Lanning, Susan Pierce
/S/ Gary Gompert, CED – Email gary.gompert@wy.usda.gov

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