

September - 2007

Laramie County FSA News

Office Hours: 8:00 – 4:30

Phone: (307) 772-2314

FAX: (307) 772-2120

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

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 September is 5.75 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 losses is December 1, 2007.

Insured Rangeland Grazing Losses

Risk Management Agency (RMA) provides coverage for grazing losses on Rangeland in Laramie County. RMA signup deadline for grazing insurance is September 30th. FSA's NAP coverage is for crops not covered by RMA. If you want Rangeland Grazing coverage you must contact your multi-peril agent.

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.

Disaster Programs

USDA ANNOUNCES SIGN-UP DATES FOR NEW LIVESTOCK AND CROP DISASTER PROGRAMS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced sign-up dates for the new Livestock Compensation Program, Livestock Indemnity Program and Crop Disaster Program. The three ad hoc disaster programs provide benefits to farmers and ranchers who suffered losses caused by natural disasters in recent years.

Eligible ranchers and other livestock producers can apply to receive benefits under the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) beginning Sept. 10, 2007. Eligible farmers can sign-up for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) beginning Oct. 15, 2007, if they suffered quantity losses to their crops. USDA will announce and conduct CDP sign-up for quality losses as soon as possible.

LCP compensates livestock producers for feed losses occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, due to a natural disaster. This can include producers who suffered losses resulting from blizzards that started in 2006 and continued into January 2007. Livestock producers may elect to receive compensation for calendar year 2007 grazing season losses that are attributable to wildfire natural disaster occurring during the applicable period as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. Producers in primary counties declared secretarial disaster areas or certain counties declared presidential disaster areas between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, are eligible as are producers located in counties contiguous to those counties. Also, producers in a primary (or contiguous) county that received an Administrator's Physical Loss Notice directly associated with a disaster declaration made by President Bush may also be 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 apply for benefits. Laramie County was declared a secretarial disaster area for drought in 2006, so we would qualify for benefits for 2006 calendar year only.

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 January 2007. Producers in primary counties declared secretarial disaster areas or certain counties declared presidential disaster areas between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, are eligible as are producers located in counties contiguous to those counties. Also, producers in a primary (or contiguous) county that received an Administrator's Physical Loss Notice directly associated with a disaster declaration made by President Bush may also be eligible. Producers incurring eligible livestock losses in more than one of the 2005, 2006 or 2007 calendar years must choose only one year for which they want to apply for benefits. Laramie County was declared a secretarial disaster area for drought in 2006, so we would qualify for benefits for 2006 calendar year only.

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

Signup for LCP and LIP are scheduled to start September 10th but the FSA office has not been issued software, forms or regulations at this date, so we will notify you when we will be able to take applications. We are not taking appointments yet until we receive the above information. We will notify you when we can take appointments.

Farm Program Information

Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) Signup

The CCC-509, DCP contract, needs to be signed annually to receive payments for your base acreage on your farm. Signup ended August 3, 2007. Late filed applications will be accepted on or before September 28, 2007. (September 30 falls on a weekend, so all applications must be in before that date.) All signatures must be on the contract by the deadline before the application can be approved. Signatures not on the contract by September 28 will cause all payments to be lost for the crop year.

Signup for 2008 will need to be authorized by Congressional Legislation.

Farm Loan Program Information

Reminder to those Direct Loan Borrowers whose loans are secured by machinery/equipment, livestock and/or crop and livestock production: Form 1962-1, Agreement for the Use of Proceeds/release of Chattel Security is the agreement completed annually when the annual Farm and Home Plan is prepared. The agreement explains what sales of annual crop and livestock production are planned, when, for how much and how the proceeds may be used. All sales are required to be reported to FSA. Unless already planned any sales, trades, or other disruption of machinery/equipment and/or breeding livestock must be approved by FSA in advance. If during the course of the year any changes need to be made, you must inform FSA prior to the sale of the security property and obtain approval for the revision of the agreement. The unauthorized disposition or conversion of any security property may be a violation of federal law. This is also a reminder that accurate production records must be maintained in addition to income and expense records.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) News

NOTICE: The signup **DEADLINE** for 2008 conservation programs is **OCTOBER 1, 2007**. Private land owners may sign up for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), or the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP). Please contact your local NRCS office to fill out an application for assistance before the October deadline, (307) 772-2314 or for more information on NRCS programs go to <http://www.wy.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/index.html>.

NRCS has made the final 2007 Conservation Security Program (CSP) payments, meeting the fiscal year obligation. The 2008 Farm Bill will determine the future of CSP. If funding is available, Laramie County could be on the short list for another watershed sign-up. To prepare, make sure your farm records are complete and you practice sound nutrient management. Don't apply fertilizer without a soil analysis. If you use manure, apply it at the agronomic rate based on a manure analysis.

Current program participants are reminded to complete conservation practices as scheduled. Contracts that are terminated or cancelled may be subject to cost recovery as detailed in the Appendix to the Conservation Program Contract.

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

**PRSRT STND
Postage Fees Paid
Farm Service Agency
Permit NO. G-96**

Dates to Remember

September 3	Labor Day Holiday – Office Closed
September 28	Deadline for Late Filed DCP Signup
October 8	Columbus Day Holiday – Office Closed
November 12	Veterans Day Holiday – Office Closed
November 22	Thanksgiving Day Holiday – Office Closed
December 1	NAP signup deadline for fall seeded and perennial crops
December 3	Deadline for Returning Election Ballots

County Committee: Dave Bowman, Mark Child, 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

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD).
USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.