



LINCOLN COUNTY FSA NEWS

September 2007

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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.

WYOMING ON THE WEB

The 2006 NAIP IMAGERY for Wyoming is finely available on the web at <http://gdw.apfo.usda.gov/naip/viewer/run.htm> if you would like to take a look at a color image of your land. This is the same flight that we are using to do GIS map work on the county.

Designation By Landowner Method of Division

Many farms and ranches in Lincoln County are changing owners. FSA regulations allow the division of these operations that have active Crop Acreage Bases under the "Designation by Landowner Method". This means that the crop acreage base can be divided in a manner agreed to by the parent farm owner and the purchaser. All sellers and buyers are required to sign an FSA-155 or a Memorandum of Understanding documenting the details of the agreement.

2008 NAP COVERAGE DEADLINES

All agricultural producers are reminded that the deadline to apply for coverage under the 2007 Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) on Grass Hay and Grass for Grazing is **December 1, 2007**. Coverage for spring-seeded small grain hay and non-irrigated oats, intended for grain is available through **April 1, 2008**.

The NAP Program provides crop loss coverage on crops for which multi-peril or catastrophic crop insurance is not available. The cost is \$100 per crop not to exceed \$300 per producer per county or \$900 per producer with a multi-county interest. Coverage is based on 50% of the yield at 55% of the market price.

All producers required to purchase 2006 NAP coverage to meet the "linkage" requirements as a result of participation in previous Crop Disaster Programs are reminded to keep these deadlines in mind. *Failure to purchase the correct NAP coverage and/or Crop Insurance may result in the refund of disaster benefits, plus interest.*

MEASUREMENT SERVICE RATES

FSA provides a number of measurement services for our producers that include: measuring crops after planting, measuring fields prior to planting, re-measuring previously measured acreages, verifying crops and disaster conditions and acreages, measuring or sampling farm stored grains and other commodity crops, and verifying crops for late-filed crop reports. The cost of this service has changed. It is now \$30 for the basic farm fee and \$16 for the first hour and \$8 for every 30 minutes after the first hour with a minimum of 1 hour charged

CRP Haying/Grazing Authorized

The Lincoln County Farm Service Agency (FSA) Committee announces that Emergency Haying and Grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage in Lincoln County has been approved. This authority extends to all CRP acres **except** those under "Continuous CRP" contracts.

Eligible Lincoln County livestock producers will now be able to hay or graze CRP acres to help offset losses from the ongoing drought conditions. Eligible producers will have access to CRP acreage within a 210-mile radius of Lincoln County.

CRP participants must request and receive approval to hay or graze eligible acreage before haying or grazing begins. There are special provisions that must be meant in order to stay in compliance with this request.

Emergency grazing must be completed and livestock removed by December 6, 2007.

Emergency haying must be completed by October 7, 2007. The hay must be removed from the CRP acreage by November 6, 2007.

A payment reduction shall be assessed based on the number of acres actually hayed or grazed times the CRP annual rental rate times ten percent.

Please be sure to call us for further information to be in compliance with this request. For further information call the Afton FSA Office at (307) 886-9001 ext. 2.

FSA's 2007 National Compliance and Spot Check Review

FSA is committed to delivering accurate program payments to America's agricultural producers. The accuracy of payments not only benefits farmers and ranchers, but also maximizes taxpayer dollars and government efficiency.

As part of the 2007 National Compliance Review, FSA's national office is requiring local FSA county offices to conduct compliance reviews and spot checks of certain producers selected by the national office through a statistical sampling method. A statistical sample of FSA employees, County Committee (COC) and State Committee (STC) members have also been selected for review using this same process.

FSA may review a producer's operations in multiple states and counties, depending on the scope of the producer's operations. FSA will review both the accuracy of the representations made by the selected producers in connection with participation in FSA programs as well as the producer's compliance with applicable program requirements. The reviews may need to be conducted at various times throughout the year depending on the FSA programs in which the producer is participating. FSA appreciates the cooperation of its customers as the agency continues to enhance its operations.

FSA's goal is to ensure that program dollars are delivered effectively and efficiently so America's farmers and ranchers can provide safe and abundant food, fiber and fuel for consumers at home and abroad.

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM (ECP)

The Lincoln County Farm Service Agency (FSA) announces that approval has just been received for the 2007 Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). This program applies to eligible land physically located in Lincoln County. It is intended to help producers develop water sources for livestock that are currently on pasture or rangeland, which do not have access to drinking water because of severe drought conditions. An adequate source of water must have existed prior to the drought.

Cost share projects available are pipelines, tanks, troughs, livestock water wells, spring developments, seeps and hauling water. Cost share levels vary from 50% to 75%. Hauling water is cost shareable at 75% of personal labor costs or contractor costs, not to exceed \$0.25 per Animal Unit Day (AUD). There is no cost sharing available for mileage, fuel, pumps or pumping equipment, a hired man driving the truck or where hauling water is a "normal" practice.

If you have started one of these practices before the county was approved for ECP, you must contact the office within 15 calendar days of the start, which is September 4, 2007.

Program regulations do not allow water development or the hauling of water on aftermath small grain, alfalfa or grass hay fields.

The application period runs through **October 15, 2007**. Producers who started a practice within the last 60 days are eligible to make application.

Interested producers are encouraged to call 886-9001 Ext. 2 for further information or to make application.

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NRCS MISSION IS: Helping People - Help the Land

Land stewardship is about caring for the land and leaving it a little better than we found it. Let us help you.

NRCS provides technical assistance (free advice) and cost share opportunities to landowners. To apply for assistance please contact NRCS. **The deadline is October 1, 2007** to have your project considered for 2008. Application forms are available at the office, on the web site, or by email. Applications received after October 1st will be held until the following year.

Each program has specific eligibility requirements. For example: certain programs are only available to agricultural producers. To qualify as an agricultural producer, one must have potential agriculture income of >\$1000. Additional eligibility requirements for each program are available at the office or the website <http://www.wy.nrcs.usda.gov/>. Even if you don't qualify for financial assistance thru one of following programs, we may be able to offer other kinds of assistance. If you have any questions, please call us at (307) 886-9001 X 3

Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

If you are a farmer or rancher who has participated in a farming operation for at least three but no more than 10 years, you may qualify for beginning farmer targeted loan funds with Farm Service Agency.

The program is designed to assist these farmers by providing direct and guaranteed loans when they are unable to obtain financing from commercial credit sources.

If you believe this program could be of benefit to you, please contact the county office staff for more information. Our loan officials will welcome your interest.



2006 Wool, Mohair and Unshorn Pelt LDP's

Wool, Mohair and Unshorn Lamb pelt producers are reminded of the availability of 2007 Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's). Producers need to remember that they must sign page 1 of the applicable form (CCC-633EZ) *prior to losing beneficial interest* in the wool or unshorn pelt. The "final" date to request these LDP's on page 4 of the CCC-633 EZ is January 31, 2008.

2006 County Committee Election

This years County Committee Election is being held in the Upper Star Valley Administrative Area. Nominations were accepted by Rollin Gardner, Blair Allen and Angela Hardesty.

Ballots will be mailed to all known eligible voters on November 2, 2007. The completed ballots must be returned to this Office or be postmarked by December 3, 2007. They will then be counted by the final date December 10, 2007 here at the Afton USDA Service Center

DATES TO REMEMBER

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| October 1 | Deadline for NRCS cost share signup for 2008 |
| October 7 | <u>End</u> Emergency CRP Haying |
| October 15 | <u>End</u> ECP Signup |
| December 6 | <u>End</u> Emergency CRP Grazing |
| Anytime | Wool LDP |
| Anytime | Continuous CRP sign-up |

IMMEDIATELY

- File Notification of Loss Forms Within 15 days of Loss for NAP**
- Notify County office of any Changes in Direct Deposit information**
- Payment limitation changes, Farm records changes, etc.**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited based apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication or 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, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.