

Logan County News and Views

Logan County FSA Office
621 Iris Drive
Sterling, CO 80751

Office Hours: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Telephone: ((970) 522-7440
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June, 2007

County Committee:

Bill Marostica, Chairperson
Don Larson, Vice-Chairperson
Danny Wood, Member
Joyce Werner, Advisor

Staff:

Kathy Wolfe, CED
Doug Cress, FLM
Marilyn Gerck, PT
Bernie Aldrich, PT
Connie Hastings, PT
Sherry Lederhos, PT
Vic Vondy, Field
Joyce Lambrecht, FLT

County Executive Director Comments

Greetings,



I hope this finds you successful in getting a good stand on your spring plantings.

It has been a while since I've issued a newsletter. One reason being budget and the other is because of the weekly news column which is published in the local newspapers. Both the South Platte Sentinel and the Journal-Advocate (JA) have been very gracious in printing a weekly FSA article. The articles have provided up-to-date and current information on FSA happenings. If you are an absentee landowner and do not subscribe to the newspapers, I encourage you to follow these articles on-line at the following URL sites:

<http://www.southplattesentinel.com/>

<http://www.journal-advocate.com/>

The newspaper articles are a good way to keep current. I hope you will either subscribe to the Journal Advocate or access the articles on-line. The JA is a daily newspaper who prints the FSA articles each Wednesday whereas the Sentinel is a free weekly newspaper which includes the FSA article each week.

2007 Acreage Reports

Acreage reports must be filed for all cropland on the farm before any 2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical (DCP) payments can be made or before eligibility can be established for marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's).



Additionally, participants of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) must report the specific acreage for which benefits are being

requested.

The deadline for submitting a timely filed acreage report is July 15, 2007. However, since July 15, 2007 falls on a Sunday, producers will have until Monday, July 16, 2007 to file a timely acreage report.

Producers are reminded 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.

Producers requesting failed acreage credit must report the acreage before disposition of the crop to receive credit for that crop. The County Committee must be satisfied that the acreage was planted under normal conditions, but failed as a result of a natural disaster and not a management decision.

Various Lease Agreements Impact DCP Participation

Producers are reminded that flexible and combination leases must be provided to FSA for review and may alter the terms of the DCP contract. If a lease provides for both a guaranteed amount and an amount based on a crop share or an amount based on gross proceeds, both the owner and operator are required to share in DCP.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

CRP acres are covered by a binding contract. CRP must not be hayed, grazed, harvested for seed or any other benefit. Also, weeds must be controlled.

CRP acres can not be used to store machinery, vehicles or bales. Gravel, sand, and oil can not be taken from these acres. Mowing strips or lanes in CRP is prohibited.

Lanes or strips are considered hunting lanes and are a violation of the contract. Any activity that disturbs the permanent cover is prohibited.

Penalties for violations include a refund of all previous rental payments, cost shares, interest on both, and liquidated damages.

eLDP's

FSA allows electronic access for authorized producers to request LDP's using a personal computer. This allows producers to request LDP's at their convenience and receive payment within two business days with direct deposit. In order to obtain authorization, a producer must register for an "eAuthentication Level 2 Account." Registration can be completed by logging onto: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/eauthCreateAccount.html>

Producers must file a CCC-633 EZ page 1 with the administrative county FSA office and request a "Customer Profile" be established for their farm production that they intend to use for LDP.

After completion of these items, individual producers and authorized signature representatives for corporations can then file eLDP applications. Producers involved in general partnerships and joint venture operations must continue to file their applications with the county FSA office at this time.

Payment Limitation

Federal statute limits the amount a producer may earn in marketing loan gains and LDP's to \$75,000 for grains, oilseeds and pulse crops. There is a separate \$75,000 limitation for honey, wool, mohair and unshorn pelt marketing loan gains and LDP's.

CRP – Managed Haying and Grazing

Due to a settlement with the National Wildlife Federation provisions for managed haying and grazing of CRP acreage have been revised. The revision affects new or reenrolled CRP Contracts approved after September 25, 2007, and existing CRP Contracts; provided managed haying or grazing was not previously approved on the contract before September 25, 2007.

The following guidelines provide the settlement revisions with an exception noted at the end.

- A payment reduction shall be assessed based on the number of acres actually hayed or grazed times the CRP annual rental payment times 25%.
- The acreage may be rented or leased for haying or grazing privileges.
- Excluded CRP acreages are: Wildlife Food Plots, Filter Strips, useful life easements, and land within 100 feet of a stream or water body.

Managed Grazing – The acreage may be approved for managed provisions 1 out of every 5 years, including years of emergency grazing release.

Grazing is conducted from July 16 through November 12 not to exceed 120 consecutive days or as otherwise limited by a management plan or conditions.

Managed Haying – The acreage may be approved for managed provisions 1 out of every 10 years, including those years of emergency release. Haying is permitted on no more than 50 percent of each field or contiguous field once in five years. Haying is permitted from July 16 thru October 13. The hay must be removed from the field within 30 days from the final date to hay. The hay may not be stored on CRP acreage and the hay may be sold.

Exception – applies to existing CRP contracts providing that managed haying and/or grazing was approved on a CRP Contract's Conservation Plan prior to September 26, 2007. If haying and/or grazing was previously approved by this date the guidelines we have used in the past are grandfathered in. Below are guidelines for those in the exception status:

- Managed haying or grazing is authorized 1 of every 3 years.
- No haying or grazing during the nesting or brood season (March 15 – July 15).

** Please contact our office if you have further questions.

Wool, Mohair and Unshorn Pelt LDP's

LDP's are available when the CCC-determined market repayment rate is below the commodity loan rate. If an LDP payment is requested, a producer agrees to forego obtaining a loan on the same quantity. If requesting a graded application, core test results are required and the application cannot later be changed to ungraded if core test results are not provided.

LDP's are only available after the wool or mohair is sheared. Approved storage is not required for commodities to be eligible for LDP.

2007 DCP Signup Extended

Signup for the 2007 DCP began on October 1, 2006 and will end on August 3, 2007. From August 3 through September 30, 2007, farms can be enrolled in the 2007 Program with a late fee of \$100 per farm. Producers can request a 22% advance payment of the Direct Payment.

Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) signatures on the CCC-509 contract, including absentee landowners signatures, must be provided to the FSA Office by the August 3rd DCP enrollment deadline. Be sure to enroll into DCP early enough to allow yourself time to obtain all owners signatures and still return the CCC-509 contract to the FSA Office by August 3rd 2007. Logan County eligible farms are currently over 90 percent enrolled in the DCP program.

Fruit and Vegetable (FAV) Plantings and DCP

Producers are reminded that restrictions are in place for FAV plantings on DCP base acres. FAV's can be planted on "free acres" without restriction. Please

contact the FSA Office with any questions concerning planting restrictions and exemptions.

DCP Contract Succession-in-interest

A transfer of, or change in, the interest of producers on a farm with a DCP contract will result in the termination of DCP payments, unless the transferee or owner agrees to assume the obligations of the DCP contract. All successors to the original DCP contract must sign a revised contract by September 30 of the current fiscal year.

| 2007 Dates to Remember | |
|------------------------|---|
| July 4 | Closed for Independence Day |
| July 16 | Acreage Reporting Deadline |
| July 16 | 2006 Production Reporting deadline for NAP and deadline to file application for 2006 NAP payment. |
| August 1 | Final date to request reconstitution. |
| August 3 | Deadline to timely enroll in 2007 DCP. |

Weed Control on CRP

With the start of the new growing season comes a new growth of weeds. Remember to check CRP for weed growth throughout the growing season. Weeds must be controlled to the extent they do not adversely impact the required cover or surrounding land owners.

It is the CRP participants' responsibility to monitor weed infestations and take timely control action. If possible, limit control to spot treatments. Notify FSA of action that is taken to control weeds.

Nominations for County Committee Election

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will be conducting its annual committee election in November 2007. FSA County Committees represent farmers in their local communities and make decisions on crop bases and yields, commodity loans, conservation programs, disaster payments and other federal farm assistance programs. The current County Committee consists of 3 members elected from 3 Local Administrative Areas (LAA's) or districts. The **LAA** that is up for election this year is LAA 2 which stair-steps diagonally across Logan County paralleling the South Platte River which takes in most of the irrigated acres. Bill Marostica is the current COC member holding office from LAA 2. Bill has reached his term limit and is unable to run for re-election. If you know Bill please be sure to show your appreciation for his service to Logan County farmers and ranchers. For further information and details regarding the specific LAA conducting the election please contact the office at 970-522-7440.

NOMINATIONS for County Committee are accepted through August 1, 2007. A nomination form is printed in this newsletter for your convenience. If nominating yourself or another eligible candidate, please complete the form provided in this newsletter and return to this

office. Nomination petitions and fact sheets are also available at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under the News & Events tab. We encourage all producers to take an active roll in nominating and voting for the candidate of your choice. You may use the form on page 6 of this



newsletter to make your nomination. You may nominate yourself or someone else but in either case the nominee must sign. A candidate is eligible to hold office on the county committee if they reside in the County and have their farming interest

administered in the LAA for which they are a candidate. A candidate has the option to request that all voted ballots for an individual county committee election be returned to the State Office in lieu of being returned to the county office. This request must be in writing and submitted to the local County Executive Director prior August 1. The County is actively seeking members of socially disadvantaged groups as nominees for COC elections.

Important COC Election Dates in 2007:

| Date | Election Deadline |
|-------------|--|
| August 1 | Final date to Nominate |
| November 2 | Ballots mailed to eligible voters |
| December 3 | Completed ballots to be returned or post-marked. |
| December 10 | Final date to count ballots. |

Funds Reserved for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers

Farm Service Agency (FSA) reserves a portion of its operating and farm ownership loan funds for socially disadvantaged applicants (SDA). SDA members are defined as those who are part of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group and include women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders. Both ownership and operating loans are available, but funds are limited.

SDA producers primarily and directly engaged in farming and ranching on family-size operations may apply; however, loan approval is not guaranteed. Applicants must meet all requirements for FSA's regular farm loan program assistance, including: have a satisfactory history of meeting credit obligations, have sufficient education, training, or at least 1-year's experience in managing or operating a farm or ranch; be a U. S. citizen; be unable to obtain credit elsewhere at reasonable rates and terms; and possess the legal capacity to incur loan obligations. For more information, call a FSA staff member at your local USDA Service Center or visit our website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/co>.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), through FSA, may make loans to producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities for a program commodity. Loans shall not exceed \$100,000.00 for any one

borrower and real estate liens are required on loans over \$50,000.00.

Disaster Aid



On May 25, 2007, President Bush signed into law the "U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina

Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007" (2007 Act).

The 2007 Act provides, among other things, about \$3 billion in agricultural disaster aid for America's farmers and ranchers.

Specifically, the 2007 Act provides funds for a Crop Disaster Program (CDP), Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) and Dairy Disaster Assistance Program (DDAP).

Additionally, the 2007 Act extends the Milk Income Loss Contract program through September 2007.

USDA will move as rapidly as possible to deliver the aid.

USDA will publish regulations and fact sheets detailing CDP, LCP, and LIP in the weeks and months ahead.

In the meantime, here is an overview of the disaster programs and provisions:

Crop Disaster Program (CDP) -

- The program covers 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 February 28, 2007, or in the case of prevented planting would have been planted before February 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 assistance.
- Quantity losses must be in excess of 35 percent to be eligible. 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.

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) -

- The program compensates livestock producers for feed losses resulting from natural disasters occurring between January 1, 2005, and February 28, 2007, including losses due to blizzards that started in 2006 and continued into 2007. Livestock producers may elect to receive compensation for losses in the calendar year 2007 grazing season that are attributable to wildfires occurring during the applicable period, as determined by the Secretary.
- Producers in primary or contiguous counties declared Secretarial or Presidential disaster areas between January 1, 2005, and February 28, 2007, are eligible. Also, producers in counties receiving Administrator's Physical Loss Notice during the same period 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.
- The payment rate for each livestock category will be 61 percent of the national payment rate (which is yet to be determined).
- Producers who reduced the average number of livestock they owned for grazing during the production year for which assistance is being provided will not be penalized.
- The following are among 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 Indemnity Program (LIP) -

- The program compensates livestock producers for livestock losses between January 1, 2005, and February 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 or Presidential disaster areas between January 1, 2005, and February 28, 2007, are eligible. Also, producers in counties receiving Administrator's Physical Loss Notice during the same period are 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 receive benefits.
- The payment rate is to be not less than 26 percent of market value of the livestock on the day before the date of death, as determined by the Secretary.
- The following are among the eligible livestock under LIP: dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, catfish, crawfish, equine, sheep, goats, swine, poultry or deer.

Dairy Disaster Assistance Program (DDAP) -

- The program provides \$16 million in benefits to dairy producers for dairy production losses.
- Producers in primary or contiguous counties declared Secretarial or Presidential disaster areas between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, are eligible. Also, producers in counties receiving Administrator's Physical Loss Notice during the same period are eligible.
- FSA will publish regulations as soon as possible detailing other program provisions.

Colorado FSA Seeks Proposals for New Conservation Initiative

Colorado Farm Service Agency (FSA) is asking federal, state and local agencies as well as private or non-profit organizations to submit proposals for a new 500,000-acre Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) program to improve habitat for high-priority wildlife species nationwide. More than 11,000 acres have been allocated to Colorado.

SAFE will enable the public, producers, state and federal agencies, non-profit conservation organizations and others to propose areas where new CRP acreage may be established to address the habitat needs of endangered, threatened or high-priority fish and other wildlife species. In addition, conservation practices currently offered under CRP can be fine-tuned under SAFE to improve, connect or create higher-quality

habitat to promote healthier ecosystems in areas identified as essential to effective species management.

Interested entities can submit a SAFE proposal for consideration to the FSA County Office at their local USDA Service Center or directly to the Colorado FSA State Office attention: Lynette DiFeo, CRP Specialist; 655 Parfet Street, Suite E305, Lakewood, CO 80215. **Proposals must be received by FSA no later than 4:00 p.m. on Monday, July 2, 2007.**

Approved program participants will receive an annual CRP rental rate equivalent to soil rental rates for the county plus an annual maintenance payment. Also, the producer is eligible for cost-share assistance of up to 50 percent of eligible practice installation costs. In addition, depending on the practice, producers may be eligible for a one-time payment of \$100 per acre signing Incentive Payment. Producers may also be eligible to receive a practice incentive payment equal to 40 percent of the eligible establishment costs of the practice.

For SAFE proposal details and protocol, contact the FSA County Office at your local USDA Service Center.

2007 CROP LOANS

The 2007 crop loan rates for Logan County are as follows:

| Crop | Loan Rate |
|---------------|-------------|
| Wheat | \$2.78 bu. |
| Corn | \$2.02 bu. |
| Grain Sorghum | \$3.10 cwt. |
| Barley | \$1.95 bu |
| Oats | \$1.34 bu. |
| Sunflowers | \$8.96 cwt. |
| Soybeans | \$4.62 bu. |

Other oilseed rates are available if needed.

Crop loans are for a nine month period. For grain in the elevator, the warehouse receipt must show storage is paid for the nine month period or the loan rate is reduced. Interest rates change monthly, but the rate is fixed from disbursement to January 1 when it changes to the January interest rate.

Farm stored grain must be in a structure that allows safe and easy access. **There must be sufficient headroom in the bin to allow for inspection, probing and treatment. Permanent ladders must be attached to the bin and bins must be numbered.** This applies whether the quantity is for a certified or measured loan.



Logan County FSA Office
 621 Iris Drive
 Sterling, CO 80751
 (970) 522-7440 Ext. 2

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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| FSA-669A (03-08-06) Page 2 U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency Form Approved - OMB No. 0560-0229 | |
| NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION | |
| TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE | |
| 1. NAME OF NOMINEE (Type or print Nominee's Full Name) | 5. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE (MM-DD-YYYY) |
| 2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE | 6A. COUNTY |
| 3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION <i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.</i> | 6B. LAA NO. |
| 4A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE | 7. STATE |
| 4B. DATE (MM-DD-YYYY) | DATE OF ELECTION IS 1st MONDAY OF DECEMBER OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR |
| 8. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE | |
| VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES: The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way. | |
| ETHNICITY <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino | RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable). <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander |
| GENDER <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female | |
| INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM | |
| Complete the form as follows: ITEM 1 Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be: A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election. B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member. C. Willing to serve if elected. | |
| ITEM 2 Enter the nominee's current address. | |
| ITEM 3 The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes. | |
| ITEM 4 The nominee must sign and date. | |
| ITEM 8 Completing this item is voluntary. | |
| ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 1. | |
| NOTE: The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a) and the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as amended. The authority for requesting the following information is 7 CFR Part 7. The information will be used to obtain nominees for County FSA Committee. According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE. | |