



United States Department of Agriculture Niobrara County Service Center

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January 2008

2007 LOSSES NOW ELIGIBLE FOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE

The **Livestock Compensation Program** (LCP) has been expanded and now producers can apply for compensation for losses sustained in 2007. Previously only losses sustained in 2006 and 2005 were eligible in Niobrara County. LCP compensates livestock producers for feed losses and LIP compensates producers for livestock deaths due to declared natural disasters. Producers may only receive benefits for one year. If you have already received a payment for 2005 or 2006, but your livestock inventory was higher in 2007, contact the office to reapply.

Another recent change was made to include the value of feed losses from other eligible disaster counties if it is a normal part of the livestock producer's operation to move livestock to other counties. As long as the livestock was physically located in an eligible disaster county on the beginning date of an eligible disaster period, the feed loss and livestock numbers from both counties will be counted.

The Quantity Loss portion of the **Crop Disaster Program** was also expanded to include 2007 crop losses. CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered losses to the 2005-2007 crops from natural disasters and related conditions. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year for which to receive benefits. They may receive benefits for multiple crop losses if all were in the same crop year.

Signup deadlines for the disaster programs have not been announced, but, we do anticipate a deadline to be announced very soon. **Please do not delay**, call the office make an appointment to complete an application. There are no late filed provisions. Applications submitted by participants after the end of signup shall be disapproved because they were not filed during the application period.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

Ballots for the 2007 COC Election in Local Administrative Area 3 were counted on December 10th and Bryan Bruch was reelected to serve as committee member. Matt Dockery was elected 1st alternate. Thank you to everyone who participated in the election.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairments, or hearing impairment. Please call this office if assistance is needed.

NONINSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM REMINDERS

Producers with NAP coverage in 2007 must provide production evidence for mechanically harvested crops prior to July 1, 2008.

Also, producers must report crop losses on NAP crops within 15 days after the disaster event occurred or the date the crop damage was apparent. A late filed notice of loss may be approved if evidence of the crop and cause of damage is still apparent to the FSA representative.

2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE - TAKE TIME TO BE COUNTED

The 2007 Census of Agriculture was mailed out December 28, 2007 to producers across the country. The census is conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). By filling out the 2007 Census of Agriculture, ranchers and farmers are investing in the future of agriculture by providing a strong and unified voice about their needs and concerns. Their responses will provide law makers, government organizations, town planners and individual farm operations with valuable information used to plan for services, facilities and other investments to benefit agriculture and their local communities.

Wyoming producers can return their forms by mail or, for the first time, they have the convenient option of filling out the Census online through a secure website. Regardless of how they report, producers are guaranteed by law (Title 7, U.S. Code) that their individual information will be kept **confidential**. Census forms are due February 4, 2008. For more information, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov.

AGRICULTURE FOREIGN INVESTMENT DISCLOSURE ACT (AFIDA)

Foreign persons or entities who acquire, transfer, or hold a 5 percent or greater interest in agriculture land or who gross \$1000 or more from any agriculture land must report this information to the Secretary of Agriculture. The information must be reported to the local FSA office within 90 days of a change in interest.

Dates to Remember

January 31	Final Day to Apply for 2007 Crop LDPs
February 18	Presidents Day - Holiday

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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