



United States Department of Agriculture Niobrara County Service Center

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Niobrara Conservation District

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November 2007 Edition

DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Livestock producers can now apply to receive benefits under the **Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)** and **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)**. LCP compensates livestock producers for feed losses and LIP compensates producers for livestock deaths due to declared natural disasters occurring between January 1, 2005, and February 28, 2007. Niobrara County received disaster declarations in 2005 due to drought, hail, disease, and winter storms. In 2006 disasters were declared due to hail, drought, insects, wildfires, high winds, excessive heat, and winter storms. Sioux County was declared a disaster area in 2006 due to drought and wildfire.

Producers who either owned or cash-leased eligible livestock on the beginning date of the applicable disaster event and who suffered an eligible feed or livestock loss are eligible to participate. Eligible livestock are dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, swine or deer that were physically located in the county and maintained for commercial use as part of a farming or ranching operation on the beginning date of the disaster period. Animals kept for non-commercial purposes, such as pleasure, hunting, pets, roping, or for show are not eligible.

To apply for LCP producers must file a completed application as well as documentation of the feed loss, any supplemental feed purchased; and livestock numbers, ages, and sales. To apply for LIP producers must file a completed application as well as documentation showing evidence of loss, the location of the livestock at the time of death, and current physical location of the remaining livestock.

Signup for the Quantity Loss portion of the **Crop Disaster Program** began October 15, 2007. CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered losses to the 2005-2007 crops from natural disasters and related conditions so long as the actual crop lost was planted or prevented from being planted before Feb. 28, 2007. 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. Qualifying quantity losses must be in excess of 35 percent due to natural disasters and related conditions. The payment rate is set at 42 percent of the established price. CDP payments, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster.

The Payment Limitation is \$80,000 for each program. Additional information and payments rates can be found on the FSA Web site, <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> ; click on Find FSA Fact Sheets and search under the topic Disaster Assistance, then Agricultural Assistance Act of 2007.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

Ballots for the 2007 COC Election in Local Administrative Area 3 will be mailed to eligible voters in November. Completed ballots must be postmarked or hand delivered to the office no later than December 3rd. Ballots will be counted on December 10th at 1:00 pm at the USDA Service Center.

NAP COVERAGE

The deadline to purchase 2008 Noninsured Assistance Program coverage for fall seeded and perennial crops is November 30, 2007. There is a \$100 per crop administrative fee, not to exceed \$300 per producer per county. Coverage is based on 50% of yield and 55% of price.

EMERGENCY HAYING AND GRAZING

Niobrara County has been approved for Emergency Haying and Grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres. Producers are reminded that all livestock must be removed from the CRP acres no later than November 10, 2007.

MARKET GAINS REPORTED TO THE IRS

Beginning with the 2007 calendar year, market gains associated with the repayment of a CCC loan will be reported to the IRS on Form 1099-G. All market gains will be reported whether the loan is repaid with cash or commodity certificates.

NEW WETLAND SYMBOLS FOR FSA AND NRCS

In May 2007 FSA and NRCS began using new wetland symbols on the GIS layer. Instead of blue dots to represent all wetlands on the maps you receive, the new system will use red, yellow, and green symbols to represent the types of use restrictions that apply to the wetland. For a complete list of the new symbols and their meaning please see the fact sheet "Wetland Determination Identifiers" available at the Service Center or on the Web at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/factsheets> .

NIORRARA CONSERVATION DISTRICT NOTES...

Introduction to Holistic Management

Roland Kroos, Holistic Management Instructor will be in Lusk on November 15th to give an overview of the holistic principles and new ways to look at ranch and rangeland management. The workshop is a brief introduction to what the upcoming week long workshop will cover in January 2008. This overview is free to the public and will run from 1 to 4:30 at the Niobrara County Fairgrounds. Attendance does not obligate you to the workshop in January. Please RSVP the Niobrara Conservation District by Wed. Nov. 14th 334-2953

Well Monitoring in Areas of Uranium Exploration

There has been quite a bit of interest in the county in the area of uranium exploration. The District has been approached about monitoring water wells in the affected area as an independent third party. The monitoring project would be developed to establish baseline water quality and quantity on stock wells and domestic wells in the areas of potential uranium mining. If you are interested in monitoring, contact the Niobrara Conservation District Office. Landowners, at the very least, want to be sure all their wells are permitted through the State Engineers Office. Permitting provides a legal record of the well and its use.

Are Your Water Wells Permitted?

Water wells are the mainstay and life blood for most ranching operations. Whether it is a domestic well, irrigation well or a stock well, they are the center of an operation. Anything, from climactic changes to human influence, affecting those wells, affects how your operation may function. Permitting a well through the State Engineer's Office establishes a legal record of the well, what it is used for, production rate and establishes a water right. Name transfer of a permit, does not automatically occur with property sales. As a landowner you must request this change. The validity of the permit is not affected; however any correspondence from the SEO, about the well, may be going to a previous owner. In these times of changing weather patterns and increased demands on our water resources, that first level of protection, a legal record of your water well and water rights is of tremendous importance to any operation or individual.

The State Engineer's Office maintains a database of permitted water wells that can be accessed by the public. Using a high speed internet access, this database can be searched using a legal description (township, range, section and quarter) to determine if a well is permitted and who it is registered to. To access the database follow these steps:

Go to the State Engineer's Office website: <http://seo.state.wy.us/>
Click on; "Water Rights Database"
Choose to display by: "Township, Range, Section and Quarter"
Click on the magnifying glass in the "Search" box
Complete the "Search Criteria"

Wyoming Natural Resource Conference "Wyoming's Working Lands" December 2-5, 2007

The Wyoming Natural Resource Conference is jointly sponsored by The Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts, Wyoming Stock Growers Association and Wyoming Wool Growers Association. Included in the conference are Profitability Sessions, Committee meetings for each Association, Trade Show and Bull Sale. The conference is being held at the Parkway Plaza, Casper, WY. Pre-register by November 26th.

Niobrara Conservation District Annual Awards Banquet

Saturday, December 8 2007 at 6 p.m. in the evening

Niobrara Country Club

Honoring:

Niobrara's and the State of Wyoming's "Outstanding Cooperator of the Year"
Harold & Carla Stroh

WAIC's "Teachers of the Year"
Laurie Wasserburger and Sandra Johnson

NRCS Lusk Field Office

Tickets will be \$18

RSVP by December 3, 2007

334-2953

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Niobrara County FSA Office

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Dates to Remember	
November 12	Veteran's Day – Office Closed
November 22	Thanksgiving Day – Office Closed
December 1	Deadline for NAP coverage for perennial and fall seeded crops
December 3	Completed election ballots to be returned to County Office or postmarked by
December 10	LAA 3 election ballot count - 1:00pm

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