



FSA Newsletter

Routt-Jackson-Grand-Summit Counties

June 2008

USDA Farm Service Agency
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Steamboat Springs, CO 80487
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Hours: 7:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Closed on all Federal Holidays

County Office Staff

Leon Padia
County Executive Director
Jennifer Blair
Program Technician
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Program Technician

County Committee

John Colburn
Chairperson
Ed Camilletti
Vice-Chairperson
Patricia Schalnus
Minority Advisor
Tom Hackleman
Gilbert Anderson

Acreage Reporting Requirement

Acreage reporting time is here! Please remember 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.



Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date for that crop.

Acreage reports are required annually if you want to be eligible for Farm Service Agency programs. **Acreage reports are to be certified by July 15 for all crops.** Please note: for all crops, with the exception of grains, acreage reports will be processed and mailed in the coming weeks based on the crop data reported in 2007. Please review the forms for accuracy and if correct please sign, date and return to this office as quickly as possible. If corrections are needed, please notify the office immediately and office staff will make the necessary revisions. **Grain Producers** are asked to report their acreage to the office as soon as planting is complete.

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) Deadline Announcement



The deadline to signup for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) has recently been announced. Any qualifying livestock producers in Routt, Jackson, Grand and Summit Counties who suffered feed losses between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2007 may apply **no later than COB**

July 18, 2008. Eligible losses are those that occurred as a result of drought, high winds, or excessive heat. If you suffered an eligible loss and have not yet applied, please come in to complete and sign the required forms.

Crop Disaster Program (CDP) Signup Continues



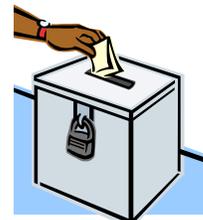
Eligible farmers and ranchers in Routt, Jackson, Grand and Summit Counties who suffered crop loss damage before December 31, 2007, can still apply to receive disaster assistance. Eligible losses are those that occurred as a result of drought, high winds, or excessive heat.

If you suffered an eligible loss, please come by the office to complete and sign the required forms.



County Committee Election Nominations Needed for North Routt

We will begin to accept nominations for this year's county committee election from now through August 1, 2008. This year's election will be in Local Administrative Area 2, which is the area located in North Routt County. Nominations from this area are strongly encouraged, as Gilbert Anderson will not be eligible to seek re-election. If you know of someone who either lives or has a ranch or farm headquarters in this area who would be interested in getting involved in the county committee process, this is your chance to nominate that person for the election. Nomination forms are enclosed and are also available in the county office or can be found on the web at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under the News & Events tab. Please feel free to contact the office for additional information regarding the county committee, or contact any of the current county committee representatives listed on the cover page of this newsletter. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning November 3, and must be returned to the county office by the close of business on December 1, or postmarked by midnight December 1, 2008. Please get involved in this very important part of the FSA administrative process. The County Committee system is unique within the US government and it ensures that local inputs can be implemented in the administration of farm programs. Be sure to nominate your favorite candidate for the 2008 County Committee Election. We encourage the nomination of members of socially disadvantaged groups. If you know of an agricultural producer who does not receive a ballot, please let us know so we can update our name and address database.



Conservation Reserve Program – Critical Feed Use

USDA has authorized certain acreage enrolled under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to be available for hay and forage after the primary nesting season ends for grass-nesting birds. Signup for interested CRP participants began June 2, 2008. This modification for critical feed use is only for 2008. All forage use must be completed no later than November 10, 2008.

Eligible land may not be hayed or grazed until after July 15, 2008, the end of the primary nesting season in Colorado. Some of the eligible land or forage of the land must be reserved for wildlife and any land that is used under this authority must have a conservation plan. Further, the most environmentally-sensitive land enrolled in CRP will not be eligible. The land will be subject to a site inspection to ensure compliance with the conservation plan. No rental payment reduction will be assessed on contracts being utilized for this critical use, however, a \$75 fee will be charged to process the required contract modification.

REMINDERS

Maintaining CRP Cover

CRP cover maintenance is the participant's responsibility and must be done according to the conservation plan. All CRP maintenance activity, such as mowing, burning and spraying, must be conducted outside of the primary nesting season for wildlife and in accordance with the conservation plan. Spot treatment of the acreage may be allowed during the primary nesting season if certain criteria are met. The ending date for the primary nesting season in Colorado is July 15.



Please be aware that random spot checks will be conducted throughout the county to check for compliance. For more information about the spot check process, please contact the local office for additional details.

Signature Authority

Proper signature on program contracts, applications, and forms must be submitted before the document will be considered as filed. All entities, including trusts, estates, corporations, partnerships, etc. must provide evidence of signature authority stipulating the individual(s) authorized to sign on behalf of the entity. FSA will not accept signatures without proper documentation of signature authority. Examples of acceptable evidence include trust agreements, corporate charters or resolutions, partnership papers, and court orders of appointment. Spouses can sign for one another on most program documents unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office staff. An FSA-211, Power of Attorney form, may be filed to delegate signature authority for FSA program purposes to another individual.



Banking Changes?

If you have changed banks and have not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account. If we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems. In order to ensure timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in producer's accounts, such as type of account, bank mergers, and routing number or account numbers be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

NAP Participants

- Must report **acreage** no later than July 15th.
- Must report 2007 hay and/or alfalfa **production** no later than July 15th, 2008.
- Must provide the county office with a copy of all current **lease** agreements. NOTE: Terms of verbal lease agreements must be handwritten or typed and signed by both landowners & lessees.
- Notice of Loss must be filed **NO LATER THAN 15 DAYS** after loss becomes apparent.

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency
Routt-Jackson-Grand-Summit Counties
1475 Pine Grove Rd, Suite 201A
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487-8803



Summer is Finally Here!

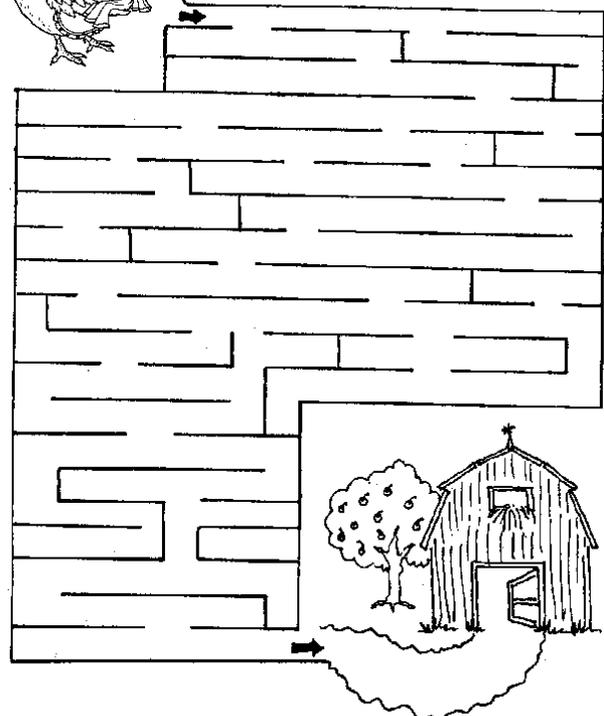
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- June 15 – COC Nomination Period Begins
- June 21 – 1st Day of Summer
- July 4 – Independence Day (Office Closed)
- July 15 – Acreage Reporting Deadline & 2007 Crop Production Reporting Deadline for NAP
- July 18 – LCP Sign-up Deadline
- August 1 – COC Nomination Period Ends & Final Date to Request Farm Reconstitution

KIDS CORNER



Show this hen the way back to the barn.



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