



<b>Office Hours:</b> 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	<b>Monday - Friday</b>	<b>Closed on Federal Holidays</b>
<u>Uinta County Committee:</u> Allen Fairbourn Kyle Lowham Kirk Eyre Andrea Rollins , Advisor	<u>Office Staff:</u> Karey Clark, CED	FSA Home Page: <a href="http://www.fsa.usda.gov">www.fsa.usda.gov</a>
<u>District Director</u> Martin Hoffland	<u>Farm Loan Manager:</u> Brian Harrell, FLM Riverton, WY (307) 856-7524 Ext. 2	USDA Home Page: <a href="http://www.usda.gov">www.usda.gov</a>

**Local Administrative Area (LAA#3) Elects New Member - Minority Advisor Reappointed.**

Kirk L. Eyre is the newest member of the County Committee. Kirk was elected in the December election process and took office on January 1, 2007. Kirk resides in Lyman and will represent the ranchers from the Lyman Area. Kirk works with his father on the family ranch. We appreciate Kirk's willingness to serve and we look forward to working with Kirk in the months ahead. Kirk's appointment is for a three-year term. Andrea Rollins will serve as alternate to Mr. Eyre.

Rick Maxfield did not re-run for the position filled by Mr. Eyre. We take this opportunity to thank Rick for six years of service. Rick was very knowledgeable and of great help in the decisions made by the Committee. Rick, we wish you the best in your future endeavors!

Andrea Rollins has been re-appointed to serve yet another one-year term as Minority Advisor to the Committee. We wish to thank Andrea for her years of service and look forward to working with her in the coming year.

**2007 Established County Committee Meeting Dates**

The Uinta County FSA Committee established the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month as their meeting date for Calendar Year 2007. However, due to budget concerns nationwide, monthly meetings may not occur each month. In those months when meetings are conducted, the meeting will begin at 1:00 P.M. Occasionally, meetings begin at 10:00 A.M. Contact the county office staff for more information.

**2007 Crop Acreage Reporting Deadline Coming Soon!**

It is time again for the reporting of the "intended use" of your acreage. The first mailing of reports took place on March 22, 2007. Additional mailings will occur over the next several weeks. Acreage reports are now a requirement of most of our programs. These reports also serve as a history of the acreage should future programs utilize past years data. You must file this report every year even if you have no changes from the previous year. The program software is crop year specific. The deadline to file your report is July 2, 2007. Reports filed after July 2<sup>nd</sup>, will be assessed a late-filed fee of, at minimum, \$46 per farm.

As is the case in past years, the crop planting date is still required on the report. Please stop by with your "intentions" for irrigated pivot acres, or spring seeded crops, or if you plan to break out ground, etc. We are unable to mail these types of reports.

It is very important to report your hay fields correctly. Due to prior year dry conditions many fields may no longer have the required amount of alfalfa to be considered insurable. It is your responsibility to contact your insurance agent to determine which fields are insurable. Remember: Contact our office and your insurance agent BEFORE destroying any crop (including hay fields). This is a requirement for the Non Insured Assistance Program (NAP).

If you have had ANY land changes, sales, etc., please take a moment and contact the office so that we can have the updates completed timely. You are responsible for filing a timely and correct acreage report. When you sign the report, your signature is certifying that the information contained in the report is correct!

Proper signatures are required for entities such as General Partnership, Limited partnership, Corporations, LLC's etc., If you are not sure how to sign properly, we will include an example with the crop reports or contact the office for more info. Take a few moments and review your crop report packet, then sign, date and return the requested information promptly.

### **“Important” Information/Reminder for Wool and/or Shorn Wool LDP’s**

SHEEP PRODUCERS: Producers must sign CCC-633 EZ, Page 1, BEFORE selling the wool or before shearing if the wool is to be sold to the shearer. By signing Page 1, the producer indicates his or her intentions to receive LDP benefits. January 31, 2008 is the deadline for 2007 Wool LDP applications and prior to the producer having lost beneficial interest in the wool.

All known Wool Producers were mailed Page 1 of the FSA-633 EZ, on February 27, 2007, for the 2007 Wool Crop Year. Please take a moment and “properly” sign the FSA-633EZ, Page 1, and return the document in the envelope provided for you. Failure to return the completed document may result in you being ineligible to receive the 2007 LDP benefits.

If you did not receive a mailing, and you wish to know more about the program, please contact this office for assistance.

### **Annual Statements**

- ▶ Special accommodations will be made upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment so that eligible producers will have full access to all programs, administered by FSA. If you have a need for special accommodations, please contact the Farm Service Agency Office at (307) 787-3859, Ext. 2.
- ▶ All foreign investors who acquire, transfer, or hold interest in U.S. agricultural land are required to report the purchase or transaction to the local FSA office within 90 days of the transaction date. This requirement is in accordance with The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act. Foreign investors will need to complete form FSA-153. Contact this office for more information.
- ▶ Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been submitted to our office. Spouses may not grant Power of Attorney, to another person, for each other and may not sign claims settlement forms.
- ▶ By law, FSA must report all program payments, earned by producers, to the Internal Revenue Service. Producers who received payments in 2006 should have received a notice (CCC-1099-G) near the end of January. This notice states the amount of the program payments earned. If you have any questions about your payment amounts, please contact the County FSA Office.
- ▶ Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium poppies and other drug producing plants.
- ▶ All payments issued by the county FSA Office are made by direct deposit (electronic funds transfer) to a pre-designated checking or savings account with your financial institution. Forms are available at the county office to sign up. For those already signed up, it is important that we are notified anytime there is a change in your account number or financial institution. If we aren't notified, future payments can be delayed for a period of time.

### **2007 Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP)**

April 1, 2007 is the deadline to apply for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2007 spring seeded non-insurable crops. NAP provides crop loss coverage for crops, pasture and rangeland for which multi-peril or catastrophic crop insurance is not available. NAP coverage is available for forage for grazing (including privately owned rangeland), forage for hay not meeting CAT insurability requirements and other non-insurable crops that are grown commercially. There is a \$100 per crop administrative fee not to exceed \$300 per producer, per county, and \$900 per producer with multi-county interests. Coverage is based on 50% of yield and 55% of price.

Note: RMA (Federal Crop Insurance Corporation) deadline for purchasing insurable coverage on spring seeded grains is March 15, 2007.

### 2007 Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) Losses

Producers are reminded that crop losses must be reported the earlier of:

within 15 days of the disaster occurrence OR  
when it is apparent that a loss has occurred.

The policy applies to both crops and pasture grass. We ask that all crop losses (if applicable), including pasture grass, be filed as stated above, when at least a 50 percent loss has occurred on the total acres or unit. Please note that on grazing land, all acreage is included. IE: BLM allotments share, Forest Service Allotment share, leased and private grazing acres.

### 2006 NAP Production Reporting

**REMINDER:** All 2006 NAP participants are required to report their production by **July 2, 2007**. If you had hay production on grass hay or grain hay in 2006, please submit the following information (if you have not already done so): **1.** Number of acres hayed **2.** Total bale counts off of each farm/fields **3.** Bale weight or total tons for each crop.

If you *did not have production in 2006* please report this to the office and you may sign a request for a replacement yield by the County Committee.

All production reports must have your signature and date the production was reported. Using your maps to record production on helps keep track of acres and crops.

### Payment Limitations

Program participants are reminded of the requirements to timely and accurately file payment limitation forms. If you have a change in your farming operation that could affect current determinations, you are required to complete new forms. Payments and benefits are subject to: Payment limitation, "actively engaged in farming" requirements, Cash-rent tenant rule, Permitted entity restrictions, Foreign person rule and Average adjusted gross income limitation.

Entities are required to provide names, address, and ID numbers of members. The members of entities are required to designate which permitted entities are to receive USDA benefits. Note: Spouses may be considered as separate "person" for payment limitation purposes if applicable requirements are met.

Following is a list of applicable programs subject to payment limitation and the limit for each "person" for 2007:

DCP Direct	\$40,000	DCP Counter Cyclical	\$65,000
LDP/Market Gains (total)	\$75,000	CRP Annual Rental	\$50,000
NAP	\$100,000	EQIP (FY 2002-2007)	\$450,000

### Farm Loan Program (FLP) Highlights

FSA is authorized to assist beginning farmers and/or members of socially disadvantages groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person whom:

Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years:

- ▶ Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- ▶ Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- ▶ Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Socially disadvantages groups are Hispanics, American Indians, African Americans, Asians, Pacific Islanders and women. FSA is an Equal Opportunity Lender.

### **Additional Farm Loan Program Information**

Farm Service Agency (FSA) has loan programs that could assist farmers and ranchers experiencing financial problems in today's economy. Several types of loan programs are offered through FSA.

Under the Guaranteed Loan program, FSA guarantees farm ownership, term operating loans, and lines of credit used for annual operation through conventional agricultural lenders for guarantees up to 95%. The guarantee generally allows the conventional lender to provide the applicant with longer terms and lower rates of interest. All applicants must meet certain qualifying criteria to be eligible for guarantees. Farmers and ranchers interested in Guaranteed Loans should apply directly with a conventional lender, who arranges for the guarantee.

For those unable to qualify for a Guaranteed Loan, FSA offers Direct Loans, which are made and serviced by FSA officials. Funding is limited for Direct Loans, and applicants must sometimes wait until funds are available. To qualify for a Direct Farm Ownership or Operating Loan, the applicant must meet eligibility criteria and have sufficient repayment ability and loan collateral. FSA will work with you to analyze your situation, provide technical assistance, and tailor loans to meet your needs.

YOUTH LOANS: Youth between the ages of 10 and 21 may also apply for a direct loan up to \$5,000 associated with their 4-H, FFA, or other youth organization activities.

FSA is an Equal Opportunity Lender. Beginning ranchers and farmers and members of traditionally underserved gender and ethnic groups are encouraged to apply for guaranteed and/or direct loan assistance from FSA. Each year, farm ownership and operating loan funds are temporarily set aside to meet the needs of beginning farmers and traditionally underserved groups.

Anyone having questions, please call Brian Harrell at the Fremont County FSA Office in Riverton at (307) 856-7524, Ext. 2. Mr. Harrell is the Farm Loan Manager. Mr. Harrell, currently schedules at least one monthly visit to the Lyman USDA Service Center. This visit is normally on the Wednesday after the third Tuesday. If you wish to meet with Mr. Harrell locally please call the Fremont County FSA Office, in Riverton, Wyoming to schedule an appointment.

### **Direct and Counter Cyclical Sign-Up**

Signup for the farms with acreage bases for year 2007 is underway. Only a select few in the county qualify for this program. The applicable deadline was June 1, 2007, but has been extended to August 3, 2007. The applicable applicants will be contacted directly.

### **Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**

Environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program includes pastureland adjacent to water bodies. This land is to be "set aside" and fenced off to allow natural regeneration of grasses, shrubs and trees to protect water quality and enhance wildlife habitat.

If anyone is interested in this program please contact the FSA office for more details. This program includes both an annual and a cost-share payment to establish the contracted project.

### **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, disaster conditions and acreages, 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 plus \$8 for every 30 minutes after first hour with a minimum of 1 hour charged. Mileage is included in the basic farm rate. There is no charge mileage.

Items of concern are late-filed crop acreage reports and late-filed NAP Notices of loss. Special attention should be paid to both of these items as the associated cost could be somewhat expensive to you.

### **Farm Service Agency (FSA) & Risk Management Agency (RMA)**

The RMA (Crop Insurance) and FSA work together to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse of the Crop Insurance Program. FSA will again be assisting FMA and insurance providers in monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse of Crop Insurance Programs to RMA.

Producers may report suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse to their local FSA County Office, RMA Office, or Office of Investigative General (OIG).

FSA will also assist with auditing claims with RMA.

### **Conservation Compliance**

All participants in USDA programs are required to have a conservation system in place on all the highly erodible land (HEL) that they operate. Several areas where problems can arise with complying with a conservation system are: renting new cropland, purchasing new land, breaking out additional cropland, planting different crops such as soybeans, and changing or removing existing conservation practices. Be sure to have determinations made on any new land you plan to plant to annual crops. Checking with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is a good idea for verification that your approved conservation system is current and correct.

It is very important that you contact the FSA and NRCS office before doing any of the above. Also, it is very important that you contact our office before modifying – tilling, draining, dredging, filling, or leveling – any wetland or drainage ditch. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in loss of all Federal Payments and eligibility.

Swamp buster provisions state that converting a wetland to make possible the planting of a crop will result in the loss of all USDA benefits. To avoid this possibility it is strongly recommended that producers check with NRCS before starting to work in the fields.

### **Buyers of Agricultural Products, Machinery and Equipment Facilities**

It is required that buyers of agricultural products check or register with the Secretary of State's Office to determine if there are liens against the seller of the product or equipment item. If a lien is found you are required to place the lien holder's name on the check as well as that of the seller.

Ag products include but are not limited to: livestock (including horses), crops used for feed (hay, silage, oats, etc.), machinery, equipment and all other crops.

Accepting items for trade constitutes a purchase of that item.

Failure to place a lien holder's name on the check may result in civil legal action being taken against the buyer of the product. Protect yourself as a buyer. You may contact the Secretary of State's Office at (307) 777-7311.

### **Banking Changes?**

If you have changed banks and 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 make 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 account such as account type, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

### **### FSA Signature Requirements – Very Important Information – Please read! ###**

Proper signatures on Farm Service Agency contracts, applications and forms must be submitted before the document will be considered as filed. All entities, including revocable and irrevocable trusts, corporations, partnerships, estates, etc., must provide evidence of signature authority stipulating those individuals who are authorized to represent the entity. FSA cannot accept signatures without such documentation on file. Examples of acceptable evidence include trust agreements, corporate charters or resolutions, partnership agreements 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 may be filed to delegate signature authority for FSA program purposes to another individual.

United States Department of Agriculture  
 Farm Service Agency  
 Uinta County FSA Office  
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 Lyman, WY 82937-0610

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**IMPORTANT DATES to REMEMBER**



*Program Reminders*

April 1, 2007	Deadline to purchase Nap on all 2007 Spring Seeded Nap Crops
May 28, 2007	Office Closed - Memorial Day Holiday
August 3, 2007	DCP Application Deadline for 2007
Report NAP Crop Production	2006 NAP- APH/Yield Report Filed (2006 Production Reporting) (Reporting deadline is July 2, 2007)
Report Crop Production	All other producers <u>not</u> enrolled in NAP (You Are Encouraged to Report upon Completion of Harvest)
Prior to losing Beneficial Interest of Wool	Sign-up for Wool LDP (FSA-633 EZ Page Filed) Page 4 of FSA-633 is completed when requesting LDP Payment
ANYTIME	Sign-up for Continuous CRP
ANYTIME	Youth, Direct & Guaranteed Loans
4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday as Scheduled	FSA County Committee Meetings held at the Lyman USDA Service Center.

IMMEDIATELY: Notify FSA of any changes that would affect Payment Limitations, Farm Record Changes,  
 I.E.: Sold or purchased land, or changes in lease(s), or operator changes, etc. OR  
 Report Direct Deposit changes / Change of Bank and/or Bank Name Changes.

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 bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET CENTER at 202-720-2600 (voice or TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington D.C. 20250-941- or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD).

Special accommodations will be made for the physically handicapped, vision- or hearing-impaired person upon request. If accommodations are required, please call Karey M Clark, County Executive Director at (307) 787-3859.