United States Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency
Washakie-Hot Springs FSA Newsletter
December 2007

208 Shiloh Road
Worland, WY 82401
Telephone (307) 347-2456
Fax (307) 347-8806

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday – Friday Closed on Federal Holidays

Washakie-Hot Springs Committee:
Nick Geis
Kathy Propp
Dan Rice
Matt Brown
Bruce Thurgood

Office Staff:
Bill Morrison – Farm Loan Manager
Claire Lewallen – Program Technician
Darla Rhodes – Program Technician

FSA Home Page:
www.fsa.usda.gov

USDA Home Page:
www.usda.gov

Attention: Livestock Producers

The USDA is offering the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) to livestock producers who suffered a loss caused by natural disasters. Due to Secretarial designations, Washakie and Hot Springs County producers are eligible for LCP losses for 2006. If you are interested in applying, please have the following information to help speed up your application process:

- Your livestock inventory as of January 1, 2006 (eligible livestock include: beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, swine, buffalo, beefalo, poultry, equine, goats, deer, elk, reindeer)
- All non-irrigated grazing land owned or leased (including Federal and State leases) for 2006

This program has an $80,000 payment limitation. If a producer received a payment from the Wyoming Department of Agriculture in 2006 for the Livestock Grant Assistance Program, that amount will be subtracted from the total payment.

Please feel free to call 307-347-2456, if you have questions on this program.

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses from natural disaster and related conditions that occurred in 2005, 2006, and 2007 crops if the crop was 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 Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for DCP benefits.

Mandatory Publications

Attention all Buyers of Agricultural Products

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. If a lien is found you are required to place the lien holders 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. **Failure to place the 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 1-307-777-7311 for more information.

SPOUSAL SIGNATURE AUTHORITY

A husband or wife may sign on behalf of the other for most farm programs in which either has an interest. Written notification must be submitted to the County FSA Office if the right to sign on their behalf is to be denied by either spouse. Certain restrictions apply. For more information contact this office.

BANK ACCOUNT CHANGES

As of January 19, 1999, all payments issued by the county FSA office will be by direct deposit (electronic funds transfer) to a pre-designated checking or savings account with your financial institution. Forms are available at the FSA office to sign up for direct deposit if you haven't yet. 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 or lost for a period of time.

FAXED SIGNATURES

Certain FSA program applications may be accepted by facsimile (fax) if Form FSA-237, "Facsimile Signature Authorization and Verification" is on file. This authorization form should be completed, signed, and witnessed by the FSA office staff, or notarized.

DIRECT DEPOSIT

The Debit Collection Act of 1996 mandates that future payments from FSA be directly deposited into a producer's savings or checking bank account. A transaction statement will be sent from the FSA office indicating the payment type and amount. Any person may request a waiver of EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) if it would impose a hardship because of physical or mental disability; the individual faces a geographic, language, or literacy barrier to receiving payments by EFT; or EFT would impose a financial or personal hardship. It is important that any changes in a 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.

Currently FSA is in the process of transferring the payment process to a more automated system. If you do not have a direct deposit on file and/or wish to waive EFT, your payment could be delayed up to an additional six weeks. If you are not sure about the account information your local FSA office has, please contact them immediately for confirmation.

YOUTH PROJECT LOANS

FSA makes loans up to $5,000 to individual rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, FFA, and similar organizations.

Each project must be part of an organized and supervised program of work. It must be planned and operated with the help of the organization adviser, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

Loan Purposes - These loans may be used to (1) buy livestock, equipment, and supplies; (2) buy, rent, repair tools and equipment; and (3) pay operating expenses for running the project.

Eligibility Requirements - *To qualify for a Youth Project Loan, you must:*

Be a citizen of the United States (or a permanent resident), which includes Puerto Rico, the U.S., Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and certain former Pacific Trust Territories;

- Be between 10 and 20 years old;
- Live in a town of less than 10,000 people;
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources; and
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program as outlined above.

You must also be capable of planning, managing, and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project adviser. The project adviser must recommend the project and the loan and agree to provide adequate supervision.

Project Size

Only projects of modest size can be financed. A modest project is limited in physical size, capital requirements, and overall objectives.

Security

You must sign a promissory note and be responsible for repaying the loan. In some cases, a cosigner may be required. Loan collateral normally consists of products produced for sale, livestock, equipment, and other items purchased with loan funds.

TAKE TIME TO BE COUNTED

The 2007 Census of Agriculture will be mailed out December 28, 2007 to producers across the country. Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the Census covers virtually every aspect of U.S. agriculture, providing the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation. By filling out the 2007 Census of Agriculture, Wyoming 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

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County Committee Elections

On December 6th, we counted ballots for LAA #3 and LAA #4. We are fortunate to have **Dan Rice** returning for LAA #3 and welcome new Committee Member **Matt Brown** for LAA #4. Other committee members include Nick Geis, Kate Propp, and Bruce Thurgood. Thanks to all who voted!!!

2007 Wool and Mohair Loans and LPD's

Attention Sheep Producers: Wool, Unshorn pelts and Sheared LDPs for 2007 need to be filed before you lose beneficial interest (lose control / ownership). Producers must sign a CCC-633EZ before selling wool or if wool will be sold to the shearer. Please contact the County Office prior to shearing or selling unshorn slaughter lamb pelts to file the correct forms. The deadline to file for 2007 wool LDP is January 31, 2008.

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