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

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James Donahue – County Executive Director
Bill Morrison – Farm Loan Manager
Claire Lewallen – Program Technician
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FSA Home Page:
www.fsa.usda.gov

USDA Home Page:
www.usda.gov

2007 CROP REPORTS

The Washakie – Hot Springs FSA Office is now accepting crop reports. All Washakie and Hot Springs County agricultural producers are reminded that the 2007 Crop Report deadline is July 1st, 2007. Crop reports are required from all producers with DCP, CRP, CDP, and anyone interesting in applying for a commodity loan or LDP (grain crops, wool, or unshorn pelts). **We need to have planting dates for all crops that have been planted, so please come with that information.**

CROP LOSS ADJUSTERS NEEDED

The USDA Farm Service Agency is looking for loss adjusters that have crop appraising experience. If you wish to partner with the Farm Service Agency, please contact Wyoming Farm Service Agency; 951 Werner Ct., Suite 130; Casper, Wyoming 82601. Or call (307) 261-5010.

PLANTING OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES (Dry Beans) ON FARMS ENROLLED IN DCP

For farms that are enrolled in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), don't forget the regulations concerning the acres of Fruits and Vegetables (FAV's), which includes dry beans grown for commercial or seed purposes, that may be grown without penalty or payment reduction. To avoid a payment reduction, liquidated damages penalty or contract termination, FAV acres may not exceed the non-contract acres for the farm. Depending on the farm or producer's FAV history, the penalty that is assessed can range from an acre for acre DCP payment reduction to severe cash penalties and possible termination of the DCP contract. A farm or producer will have a dry bean FAC history if dry beans were grown on the farm or were grown by the producer on any farm, at least once during the years of 1991 through 1995 or 1998 through 2001. An acreage report showing the dry bean acres grown must be on file in this office for the respective year(s). We will be happy to review the cropping history of your farms and your personal FAV history and show you what your options are regarding the FAV provisions. Please feel free to contact this office if you have questions.

NOMINATIONS FOR COUNTY COMMITTEE

Nominations for your 2007 Washakie-Hot Springs County FSA Committee election will be accepted through August 1, 2007. FSA county committees are elected by local agriculture producers to administer USDA farm programs at the county level. There are three Local Administrative Areas (LAA) in Washakie County and two LAA's in Hot Springs County. This year two of the LAA's must elect their representative. LAA #3 (Washakie County), which is everything in the Nowood River drainage currently held by Dan Rice, and LAA #4 (Hot Springs County), everything west of the Big Horn River that does not get their irrigation water from the river currently held by Lisa Kimsey, will be electing officials. A list of persons who are eligible to run for the county committee is available from this office. If you wish to run or want to nominate a fellow producer for the county committee, please contact this office for a nominating petition. If no nominations are received, the Secretary of Agriculture will complete the slate of nominees.

2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program

It's time to enroll your farm for the 2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program. Sign ups started October 1st, 2006 and will go through August 3, 2007. If you will be farming the same farms as 2006 **stop by our office and complete your 2007 signup**. If you are unsure of your farming interests, please wait until your plans are definite before signups are completed. Advance payments on the 2007 DCP will be paid on 22% of your total payment with the final payment being 78%. If you are ready to enroll or have questions concerning your farms enrollment, stop by or call our office.

The EZ Makes it Easy

The Farm Service Agency now employs the CCC-633EZ in place of the old CCC-709 and CCC-633LDP. The EZ form has been created to make the application process more user-friendly. The CCC-633 EZ is a two-part loan deficiency payment request that allows producers to (1) indicate their intentions to receive LDP benefits *before* losing beneficial interest in the eligible commodity, and (2) submit a request for an LDP at any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest. The EZ form was developed to cover field direct LDP's, basic LDP's, and CCC-cotton AA, and revised to cover basic and field direct LDP's for wool, mohair, and unshorn pelts. By signing the first page of the EZ form, the producer indicates his or her intentions to receive LDP benefits. This one page covers all counties and all eligible harvested commodities for the entire crop year for the individual, joint operation, or entity identified on the form. Once the first page of the form has been signed and submitted, the producer can submit an LDP request by completing page 2 for all harvested commodities, or page 4 for wool, mohair, or unshorn pelts. The LDP request can be submitted at any time during the loan availability period, before or after losing beneficial interest. A key point to remember is that page 1 of the EZ form must be signed by the producer before beneficial interest in the commodity is lost. Once beneficial interest is lost the commodity is ineligible for an LDP even in beneficial interest is regained. All producers are encouraged to submit page 1 of the EZ for each crop year whether or not they plan to subsequently request a loan or LDP.

2007 Non-Insurable Assistance Program

Important reminders regarding Non-Insurable Assistance Program

- Crop Reporting Date and Production Evidence Date (July 1st, 2007).
- Notice of Loss must be reported 15 days after disaster occurred.
- Application for payment should be completed promptly.
- Changes in ownership, operator, or shares should be reported to this office.

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OTHER AGENCY NEWS….

Washakie County
Conservation District

PLANNING ON INSTALLING A WATER LINE?

The Washakie County Conservation District has recently purchased a "HOT HEAD" FUSION TOOL. This tool is available to Washakie County residents to use, free of charge, (refundable deposit required) to assist you in fusing the pipe for your project. Call 347-2456 ext. 191 for more information.

Washakie County NRCS Receives Additional Funding

The most widely used Farm Bill Program in Washakie County; the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) received significant funds for cost-sharing with producers in 2007. NRCS staff is in the final push for completing contract obligations for 2007 and the preliminary funding allocations in the different EQIP sub-accounts are as follows:

Irrigation Water Management:	$507,728
Livestock Waste Management:	$245,005
Wyoming Wildlife Initiative:	$60,960
Riparian Enhancement:	$40,875
Range Management:	$48,128
Total:	**$902,696**

This final figure reflects an additional **$228,731** that was granted to Washakie County in the last couple of weeks because we had the demand and enough good applications waiting to obligate these funds quickly. This demonstrates how important it is that Washakie County producers show interest in these programs by applying for cost/share and technical planning assistance. That demand ultimately plays a significant role in determining dollars allocated to this County. The deadline for 2008 project applications is December 1, 2007. The above figures reflect the demand in these sub-accounts based on the number of applications received. NRCS has the ability to allocate more funds towards the Range Management sub-account, for example, if we have a greater demand for good projects. If you are thinking about a project that NRCS might be able to assist with, stop by the office or call the local District Conservationist, Rory Karhu, at 307-347-2456 ext. 106.

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FSA Spot-Checks

All member information (CCC-501's) and payment eligibility (CCC-502's) are subject to spot check through our end-of-year review process. If selected for a spot check, producers will be asked to submit proof of their contributions to the operation. Examples include seed, fertilizer and chemical bills, land lease agreements, land contracts or property tax payments, equipment lists, cancelled checks for hired labor or hired management, and any other items the FSA County Committee determines are necessary to make a determination.

The producer is required to provide these items for the spot check so that the FSA County Committee can determine if the farming operation is actually being performed as was reported on the CCC-501 or CCC-502.

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