



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

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Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Monday – Friday	Closed on Federal Holidays
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### Washakie-Hot Springs

#### Committee:

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#### Office Staff:

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](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

USDA Home Page:

[www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)

## **Important News for Livestock Producers in Washakie and Hot Springs Counties**

The United States Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) Livestock Compensation Program 2005-2007 (LCP) provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed losses or incurred additional feed costs directly resulting from natural disasters occurring between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2006.

To be eligible under LCP, livestock must:

- Be dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, swine, or deer that;
  - Have been physically located in an eligible county on the beginning date of the applicable disaster period;
  - Have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the beginning date of the disaster period; and
  - Not have been produced and maintained for reasons other than commercial use as part of a farming operation. Such excluded uses include, but are not limited to, wild free roaming animals or animals used for recreational purposes such as pleasure, hunting, pets, roping, or for show.

To be eligible under LCP, producers must have:

- Either owned or cash-leased eligible livestock (but not both for same livestock) on the beginning date of the applicable disaster period, and
- Suffered an eligible feed loss from produced or purchased forage or feedstuffs, or incurred additional feed costs as a result of an eligible disaster event(s) during the applicable disaster period and the feed lost or additional incurred feed costs were intended for use with eligible livestock.

FSA will calculate LCP payments by multiplying the national payment rate for each livestock category by the number of eligible livestock in each category. The national payment rate represents 61 percent of the cost for corn needed to maintain the specific livestock for 30 days, as determined by FSA. Producers will not be penalized if they reduced the average number of livestock they owned for grazing during the production year for which assistance is being provided. Producers may not receive duplicate benefits under LCP for the same loss or any similar loss if they previously received payment under the 2006 Livestock Assistance Grant Program (LAGP). A producer who applies for benefits under LCP in calendar year 2006, will have their LCP payment reduced by the amount of payment received under the 2006 LAGP.

LCP benefits may not exceed the smaller of the calculated payment rate *or* the value of the feed loss as determined by FSA. Producers may receive no more than \$80,000 under LCP.

For a complete overview and to view the payment rates, please either contact your local FSA office at 307-347-2456 ext. 2, or online at [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/lcp07.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/lcp07.pdf).

Sign-up for LCP began September 10, 2007. Livestock producers must submit applications in their administrative county FSA office. FSA employees will be receiving training on this program October 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>, and will then be able to answer more questions.

## CROP DISASTER PROGRAM

FSA is also offering a Crop Disaster Program (CDP). CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters 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 apply for benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. The payment rate is set at 42 percent of the established price. The payment quantity losses will be equal to the lesser of: (1) the actual production of the crop affected by a quality loss; or (2) the quantity of expected production of the crop affected by a quality loss. The quality loss must be at least 25 percent of the value that all affected production of the crop would have had if the crop had not suffered a quality loss. Assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and including the value of the crop production, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster.

Sign-up for the Crop Disaster Program begins October 15<sup>th</sup>. Please contact your FSA office at 307-347-2456 or at 208 Shiloh Road, for more information. FSA employees will be receiving training on this program October 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>, and will then be able to answer more questions.

## 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.

## Reminder for NAP Applicants

Once your NAP crop is harvested the production must be reported to this office to complete your application process. In the event of a crop failure caused by natural disaster, the producer needs to notify the local FSA office by completing a "Notice of Loss" (form CCC-576). The notice of loss must be executed **within 15 days** of the date the damage became apparent, or after the normal harvest date.

## County Committee Elections



Elections for LAA #3 (Washakie County – everything in the Nowood River Drainage) and LAA #4 (Hot Springs County – everything west of the Big Horn River that does not get their irrigation water from the river) will be electing their County Committee representative this year. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters on November 2, 2006, and must be returned to this office or post-marked by December 3, 2006.

## **BEGINNING FARMER/RANCHER LOANS**

Are you a farmer or rancher who has substantially participated in the farming operation for at least three but no more than 10 years? If so, you may qualify for beginning farmer targeted loan funds with the Farm Service Agency. The program is designed to assist these farmers by providing direct and guaranteed loans when they are unable to obtain financing from commercial credit sources.

If you believe this program could be of benefit to you, please contact the county office staff for more information. Loan officials are available to answer questions and assist with the necessary application paperwork. You may contact Bill Morrison, Farm Loan Manager in Worland, WY at (307) 347-2456.

## **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.



## **What is Continuous CRP?**

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program allows participants to voluntarily enroll acreage in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality, and provide wildlife habitat and food sources. Eligible landowners enter into 10 to 15 year contracts in return for receiving annual rental and perhaps maintenance, incentive and cost share payments. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year. For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments, please contact this office.

## **Farm Changes**

In order for us to properly and accurately administer farm programs, it is very important that we have current records of the owners and operators of farms. Farm owners and operators are asked to report changes in farming or ranching operations to this office. This may include the purchase or sale of a farm or the rental of a farm which you did not have an interest in last year. Please report these changes so that we can process applications for program participation in a timely manner and so we can keep you informed regarding program eligibility.

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Washakie – Hot Springs FSA Office  
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### **USDA ANNOUNCES DROUGHT AID**

A lack of moisture, over an extended period of time, has caused producers in Washakie and Hot Springs Counties to suffer from the effects of severe drought conditions. Farms and ranches experiencing severe drought conditions may be eligible for cost-share assistance under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). The disaster program is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency (FSA), which provides cost-share assistance if the damage is so severe that water available for livestock has been reduced below normal to the extent that they can't survive without additional water.

A producer qualifying for ECP assistance may receive cost shares not to exceed 75 percent of the cost of installing eligible temporary measures. Cost sharing for permanent measures is based on 50 percent of the total eligible cost. Cost-share assistance is limited to \$200,000 per person per natural disaster. Approved practices and measures may include:

- Installing pipelines or other facilities for livestock water
- Constructing and deepening wells for livestock water
- Developing springs or seeps for livestock water
- Hauling water for livestock (this has a separate cost share amount – please call for more information)

Producers who have experienced severe drought conditions requiring outside assistance to provide supplemental emergency livestock water, may contact the local FSA County Office. Requests for assistance will be accepted at the Washakie – Hot Springs FSA County Office from October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007 to November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

To be eligible for cost shares, practices shall not be started until a request has first been filed at the FSA County Office and an onsite inspection of the problem area has been made by County Committee (COC) or its representative. COC will review the inspection findings when considering the request for cost shares.

**If producers have been hauling water prior to the sign-up period, they MUST file an application within the first 15 days of the sign-up period.**

For more information please call 307-347-2456 ext. 2 or stop by the office at 208 Shiloh Road, Worland, WY.