



November 2009

FARM FOCUS

Stillwater Farm Service Agency

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Stillwater County Committee

Susan Arnold – Member
Lance Eisenman – Vice-Chair
Robert Yates – Chairman

Stillwater County Personnel & Ext.

Dane Schneidt, CED -104
Michelle Eder, PT -100
Susan Pederson, PT -105
Marsha Schultz, PT -106

Sweet Grass Farm Service Agency

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Sweet Grass County Committee

Kate Binckley – Chairman
William “Toby” Cheatham, Jr -
Member
Kevin Halverson – Vice-Chair

Sweet Grass County Personnel & Ext.

Dane Schneidt, CED – 2
Marla Moen, PT – 2

DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov. 6 – COC ballots mailed
Nov. 11 – Office Closed –
Veteran's Day
Nov. 26 – Office Closed –
Thanksgiving Day
Dec. 1 - NAP Application
closing date for 2010 honey
Dec. 7 – Final day to return
COC election ballots
Dec. 10 – 2008 calendar
year LFP losses deadline

Signup Began for LFP and ELAP

Signup for the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) began Sept. 14, 2009.

LFP provides financial assistance to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses due to qualifying drought or fire. For drought the losses must have occurred on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or a crop planted specifically for grazing for covered livestock due to a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the specific type of grazing land in the county. In order for a county to be eligible for LFP, they must meet a qualifying drought rating as determined by the U.S. Drought Monitor. County offices will be notified by the National FSA Office when they have qualified for a drought according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. For fire, LFP provides payments to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses on rangeland managed by a federal agency if the eligible livestock producer is prohibited by the federal agency from grazing the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland due to a qualifying fire.

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees, and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, including losses due to blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is for losses not covered under other Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance programs established by the 2008 Farm Bill, specifically LFP, the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE). ELAP is being implemented to fill in the gap and provide assistance under other conditions determined to be appropriate.

For both programs, producers must have suffered losses that occurred on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011. Producers are also required to meet a Risk Management Purchase Requirement in order to be eligible for these programs. Producers must have timely applied for and obtained either crop insurance; or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance (NAP) coverage.

For 2008 calendar year losses, applications may be taken beginning Sept. 14, 2009, and must be filed by Dec. 10, 2009. For 2009 and subsequent years signup, applications must be filed no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the losses occurred. Losses must occur in the calendar year the application is being filed.

Eligible livestock list is available at www.fsa.usda.gov/mt.

Farm Record Changes:

We are currently in the process of updating our farm records for 2010. If you have purchased, sold, or had a lease change – please contact our office ASAP!! Due to the integration of programs, changes need to be reported in a timely fashion. We can only be as accurate with our records as your information allows us to be!!

Map Changes:

NOW is the time to make any changes to field layouts. Contact the office for an appointment. We have new 2009 imagery and can use our computer's GIS system to assist you.

Deadline for Calendar Year 2008 Losses for LFP and ELAP

2008 Calendar year losses for the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) must be filed by December 10, 2009. For 2009 and subsequent years signup, applications must be filed no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the losses occurred. The losses must occur in the calendar year the application is being filed.

For both programs, producers must have suffered losses that occurred on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011. Producers are also required to meet a Risk Management Purchase Requirement in order to be eligible for these programs. Producers must have timely applied for and obtained either crop insurance; or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance (NAP) coverage or 2008 Buy-in for 2008 calendar year losses.

Eligible livestock list is available at www.fsa.usda.gov/mt.



COC Ballots must be returned to County Office by Dec. 7

FSA will mail County Committee Election ballots to producers beginning Nov. 6th. The voted ballots are due back to the local county office either via mail or in person by Dec. 7, 2009. Please contact the office for further questions or details.

Farm Loan Guaranteed Loan Amount Raised

The loan limit for FSA Farm Loan Guaranteed Loan Program has been increased to \$1,112,000. The limit is adjusted annually based on the "Prices Paid to Farmers Index" compiled by the national Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Participating lenders can use the Guaranteed Loan Program to strengthen a loan's viability through a guarantee of up to 95 percent of the loan amount. Farmers interested in guaranteed loans should apply through a conventional lender.

Fun Fact:

Six hundred seventy-five million pounds of turkey are eaten each Thanksgiving in the United States.

(according to University of IL Extension)

All of us at FSA are thankful to work with great producers!
We wish you a Happy Thanksgiving!



Reminder:

Please remember to return your completed 2009 Forage Production Reports to your local FSA Office.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in FSA programs should contact:

Dane Schneidt, CED
(406) 322-5348 ext. 104 (Stillwater)
(406) 932-5159 ext. 104 (Sweet Grass)

FSA Implements New Payment Process for CRP and DCP Payments

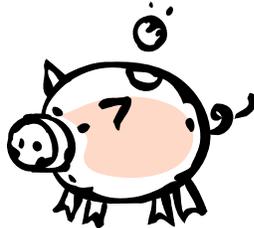
FSA implemented a new centralized payment processing system in October. Payment transaction statements are being mailed to producers for annual Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) payments, final direct payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. *FSA encourages producers to keep the payment transaction statements they receive as they will be needed for tax purposes and reconciling the FSA-1099s issued in January.* Since FSA payments are now centralized for the nation, payment reductions for advance DCP payments received or haying and grazing of CRP will be offset from the first available payment without regard to contract number, farm number, program, or administrative county.

Payments will be reduced for:

- existing FSA/CCC debt
- advance direct payments under DCP or ACRE
- payment reductions for haying and grazing of CRP
- eligibility determinations implemented with the 2008 Farm Bill (such as direct attribution, member contribution of labor and management)

If an offset is taken for one of these items, it will appear on the payment transaction statement as a payment reduction to "Commodity Credit Corporation" but may not clearly state which program, farm number, contract number, or county.

There are some known software issues with entity payments, such as a corporation or LLC, due to changes in the 2008 Farm Bill that required member contribution of labor or management. FSA is working hard to resolve the issues and doing their best to ensure delays are minimized with the new system. Some entities may initially receive a partial payment with the balance to be issued as soon as the software issues are resolved. Questions regarding Treasury offsets may be directed to the Treasury Offset Program (TOP) Call Center at 1-800-304-3107.



Wool and Mohair Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP)

Wool and Mohair Producers, who have submitted Page 1 of the LDP CCC-633 Form, need to remember that payment is issued when Page 2 and necessary eligibility forms are submitted and approved. 2009 Wool LDP's need to be requested on the CCC-633, page 2, before January 31st.

Farm Stored Wool:

•If you want to lock in an LDP rate, you can estimate your total pounds – then submit your actual sales slip once sold. The LDP is based on the day we receive a completed Page 2 and any eligibility forms.

Sold Wool:

•LDP is based on date of delivery. We will need a copy of your sales receipt.

Wool Pool:

•LDP is based on date of delivery. We will need a copy of your delivery ticket.



Got Hay?

The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) electronic Hay Net Ad Service (eHayNet) is an Internet - based service allowing farmers and ranchers to share 'Need Hay' and 'Have Hay' ads online. For more information, visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> and search for Hay Net.

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