

SERVICE CENTER NEWS

Campbell County Wyoming

APRIL 2009

**Farm Service Agency
County Committee**

307-682-8843, ext. 2
Rex Brown, Chairman
Lee Isenberger, Vice-Chairman
Amanda Sorenson, Member

**Natural Resources
Conservation Services**

307-682-8842, ext. 3
Tim Kellogg, District Conservationist
Erika Peckham, Habitat Extension Biologist

**Campbell County
Conservation District**

307-682-1824
Michelle Cook, District Manager
Debbie Hepp, Program Assistant
Crystal Kellebrew, Admin. Assistant

Office Staff, ext 2

Susan Kramer, CED
Claudette Vander Voort, PT
Peggy Seppala, PT
Judy Bishop, PT
Rob Weppner, FLM
Stefanie Cowen, FLOT

District Board Members

Wanda Burget
Travis Hakert
Jason Oedekoven
Brenda Schladweiler
Richard VanCampen

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The 2008 National Farm Bill included a Livestock Indemnity Program. Very little information is available on this program at this time. This program will compensate producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather.

This program will not have a sign-up period. You will apply for benefits when the disaster is apparent and will be required to file a notice of loss within 30 days of when this loss is apparent. Until more information is available, be sure to keep records of all livestock death losses with good documentation that can be provided to the county office. Beginning inventory documentation must also be provided when the first LIP application is filed during the calendar year.

2009 Acreage Reporting

Please call the county office to schedule an appointment for your 2009 acreage report. Acreage reports are a requirement for most of the program benefits received from this office. You must file this report every year even if you have no changes from the previous year. Hay and Native Range are considered crops and must be reported. Please visit your hay fields to verify any alfalfa plant count before you come to your appointment. Acres reported incorrectly will cost you program benefits.

Acreage reports filed after July 1 will be assessed a late-filed fee. This fee is calculated as follows:

An hourly rate of \$16.00 the first hour and \$8.00 every 30 minutes after the first hour (minimum of 1 hour). This rate begins when the county office employee leaves the county office and ends when the employee returns to the county office.

The final date for reporting a specific crop acreage for which NAP assistance may be paid is the **earlier** of the following:

- July 1
- Date producer files a notice of loss

Please bring copies of any new leases you have for the 2009 crop year.

REMEMBER, WHEN YOU SIGN YOUR ACREAGE REPORT, YOU ARE CERTIFYING THAT ALL ACRES ARE REPORTED CORRECTLY!

Buy-In Waiver Extension Approved for Disaster Assistance Programs

Casper, WY, March 19, 2009 – Steve Swieter, Acting Executive Director of USDA's Farm Service Agency in WY announced today that producers who did not obtain crop insurance or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2008 can pay a buy-in fee through May 18, 2009, to become eligible for 2008 disaster assistance programs authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

"Producers have an additional opportunity to become eligible for several programs if they suffered 2008 agricultural losses due to natural disaster," said Swieter.

Producers who have not already taken the necessary steps to become eligible for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP), and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) are required to complete the following steps by May 18, 2009:

- Pay a \$100 "buy-in" fee per crop. The maximum fee is \$300 per county, per producer, not to exceed \$900 for multi-county producers.
- In the case of each insurable crop, excluding grazing land, agree to obtain a policy or plan of insurance for the next insurance year for which crop insurance is available; coverage level should equal 70 percent or more of the yield at 100 percent of the price.
- In the case of each noninsurable crop, agree to file the required paperwork and pay the applicable administrative NAP coverage fee by the applicable state application closing date for the next available year.

Producers who buy in will not be eligible for actual crop insurance or NAP benefits for the 2008 crop. The buy-in option simply enables producers to satisfy the eligibility requirement for the new disaster assistance programs. The SURE program payments differ based on the level of crop insurance or NAP coverage purchased. The buy-in results in the eligibility for a SURE payment based on 70 percent of the crop yield.

Producers who meet the definition of "Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource," or "Beginning Farmer or Rancher," are not required to pay the buy-in fee.

USDA RESPONDS TO PRODUCER CONCERNS BY EXTENDING SIGN-UP DATE FOR DCP AND ACRE PROGRAMS

WASHINGTON, March 31, 2009 - Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced today that USDA has extended the sign-up deadline from June 1, to Aug. 14, 2009, for both the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and the forthcoming Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. This action extends the sign-up deadline by 10 weeks to give producers ample time to decide whether to participate in ACRE or remain in DCP.

Sign-up for ACRE is expected to start in late April, with an official sign-up announcement to be made in the coming weeks. Producers can elect ACRE at their FSA county office after the sign-up period commences. The original June 1 deadline may have forced producers to rush their decision, which is why this extension gives producers more time to make an informed decision about staying with DCP for 2009 or participating in ACRE for crop year 2009 and beyond through 2012.

The ACRE program, authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill, provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price. ACRE payments are made when both state and farm-level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments, receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates. The decision to elect ACRE binds the farm to the program through the 2012 crop year, the last crop year covered by the 2008 Act.

For more information about ACRE, DCP and other price support programs, please visit your FSA county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Currently guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,094,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

CURRENT DIRECT LOAN INTEREST RATES:

Farm Ownership	6.25%
Operating Loans	5.25%
Emergency Loans	3.75%

Guaranteed Rates are the lender's regular agricultural rates.

For additional information, please contact Rob Weppner, Farm Loan Manager at (307) 682-8843.

FSA Farm Loans Available To Beginning Farmers or Rancher

Beginning farmers or ranchers may obtain a farm ownership loan by using funds set aside especially for them by the Farm Service Agency. These loans can be finance up to the \$300,000 loan limit, and the term of the loan can be up to 40 years.

Farm ownership loan funds may also be used in joint financing where FSA lends up to 50 percent of the amount financed and another lender provides 50 percent or more. FSA may charge an interest rate of not less than 4 percent with terms up to 40 years.

Down Payment Farm Ownership Program

Purpose: To finance a down payment up to 45 percent of the purchase price of a farm. The Farm Service Agency financing cannot exceed 45 percent of the lesser of: the purchase price of the farm, the appraised value of the farm, or \$500,000. The applicant must put down 5 percent. The remainder of the purchase price can be financed on contract with the seller or a loan through a conventional lender. The lender can obtain a guarantee from FSA if the customer is eligible.

Rates: The FSA loan rate will have a term of 20 years, and currently the interest rate is 1.5 percent. Other financing must be amortized over 30 years with the interest rate negotiated by the farmer and the lender.

Qualification: Applicants must either meet the definition of a "beginning farmer" or a "socially disadvantaged applicant". Beginning farmer applicants must have three years of farm experience, must have farmed for less than 10 years, and cannot own real estate that exceeds 30 percent of the median farm acreage for the county. Socially disadvantaged applicants include women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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GILLETTE, WY 82716-4127**

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Current – Report livestock losses within 30 days of when losses are apparent (See article on page 1)

May 25, 2009 – County Office Closed – Memorial Day Holiday

July 1, 2009 - Deadline to file 2009 Acreage Reports

July 1, 2009 – Deadline to submit 2008 Hay Production Reports

IMMEDIATELY --File Notification of Loss Forms within 15 Days of Loss
--Notify County office of any changes in Direct Deposit information,
Payment limitation changes, Farm records changes, etc.
Any time --CRP Continuous Signup
--Paid measurement services from FSA

Office Hours are from 8:00am to 4:30pm. Producers are urged to call for an appointment, so the office staff can assist you timely. Due to the computer environment, some applications/processes are unable to be completed after 4:00pm.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above dates or information in this newsletter, please contact the County office for more information (307) 682-8843, ext.2.

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."