

SERVICE CENTER NEWS

Campbell County Wyoming

MAY 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)

USDA Livestock Disaster Program Requires Documentation of Loss

Eligible Producers Urged to Begin Compiling Proof of Loss

This program will compensate producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather.

Normal mortality rates to be used for the program will be established by the WY State FSA Committee in the near future.

Livestock producers who incurred eligible livestock death losses due to adverse weather events on or after January 1, 2008, should begin gathering loss documentation in accordance with FSA's Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provisions.

Losses due to adverse weather, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture include blizzards, disease, extreme cold, extreme heat, floods, hurricanes, and wildfires, and are eligible for LIP. And this program is now open for qualifying losses incurred until October 1, 2011.

Producers are advised that the LIP application period is not yet opened, so documents are not being accepted, but now is the time to make sure you have verifiable death loss documentation. Adequate documentation must prove the death of eligible livestock occurred as a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event in the calendar year for which benefits are being requested.

If adequate verifiable proof of death records documentation is not available, a livestock producer may provide reliable records, along with verifiable beginning and ending inventory, as proof of death.

Third-party certifications of livestock deaths may be accepted only if verifiable proof of death records and verifiable beginning and ending inventory records are not available. A third party statement must be from an independent source not affiliated with the farming operation. Family members may not qualify. For further details on qualifying third-party sources, contact your county FSA office.

Our staff can provide producers with a list of acceptable document types for proof of death, producer records and verifiable inventory. Producers should note that LIP indemnity payments will be 75 percent of the fair market value of the livestock as determined by the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).

Additional information about LIP is available at FSA County Offices or by visiting the national FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

REPORTING PRODUCTION FOR NAP

July 1 is the deadline for Farm Service Agency to complete proven yields for producers who are participating in the Non-insured Assistance Program. In order for us to complete the proven yield calculations and to obtain the necessary signatures by the July 1 deadline, we are asking NAP participants to submit their production evidence to this office as soon as possible. Failure to turn in your production evidence will result in a decreased yield guarantee and will decrease program benefits in the event of a crop loss.

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!

PREVENTED PLANTING

Prevented planting is the inability to plant the intended crop acreage with proper equipment by the final planting date for the crop type because of a natural disaster. If you are prevented from planting a crop due to a natural disaster, be sure to report it to FSA. You may be eligible to receive credit for the crop as if it had been planted. Some examples of natural disasters that could result in prevented planting are:

- insufficient soil moisture for germination and progress toward crop maturity because of a prolonged period of dry weather
- excessive precipitation that leaves fields too wet to plant for an extended period

State and National Websites

Producers may access National and State websites for current program information, press releases and other information pertaining to Farm Service Agency policies and programs.

National: www.fsa.usda.gov

State of WY: www.fsa.usda.gov\wy

USDA Sets Date for Soybean Request for Referendum

The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced that it will offer soybean producers the opportunity to request a referendum on the Soybean Promotion and Research Order (Order), as authorized under the Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act (Act).

The act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a Request for Referendum every 5 years after the initial referendum, which was conducted in 1994. The last Request for Referendum was conducted in 2004. Soybean producers who are interested in having a referendum to determine whether to continue the soybean checkoff program are invited to participate.

The Request for Referendum will be conducted at USDA's county Farm Service Agency offices.

To be eligible to participate, producers must certify and provide documentation that shows that they produced soybeans and paid an assessment on the soybeans during the period of Jan. 1, 2007, through Dec. 31, 2008.

Beginning May 4, 2009, and continuing through May 29, 2009, producers may obtain a form by mail, fax, or in person from the Farm Service Agency county offices. Forms may also be obtained via the internet at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsmarketingprograms> during the same time period.

Individual producers and other producer entities may request a referendum at the county FSA office where their administrative farm records are maintained. For the producer not participating in FSA programs, the opportunity to request a referendum will be provided at the county FSA office where the producer owns or rents land.

Completed forms and supporting documentation must be returned to the appropriate county FSA office by fax or in person no later than close of business May 29, 2009; or if returned by mail, must be postmarked by midnight May 29, 2009, and received in the county FSA office by close of business on June 5, 2009.

USDA will conduct a referendum if at least 10 percent of the nation's 589,182 soybean producers support a referendum. Not more than one-fifth of the producers who support having a referendum can be from any one state.

The soybean checkoff program is administered by a 68-member producer board and is designed to expand uses of soybeans and soybean products in domestic and foreign markets. The national program is financed by a mandatory assessment of one-half of 1 percent of the net market price of soybeans.

Notice of the Request for Referendum will be published in the March 4, 2009, Federal Register.

For more information, contact the Marketing Programs Branch; Livestock and Seed Program, AMS, USDA; STOP 0251 - Room 2628-S; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, D.C. 20250-0251; tel. (202) 720-1115; or via the Internet at www.ams.usda.gov/lsmarketingprograms.

Extension of CRP Contracts Expiring in 2009

On May 1, Agriculture Secretary Vilsack announced that certain CRP participants with CRP contracts that are scheduled to expire on September 30, 2009, may modify all or part of that contract to extend the expiration date for a period of 3 or 5 years at the same per acres payment rate. No general CRP signup is scheduled for FY2009.

CRP participants with expiring contracts will be receiving a letter that will inform them if they are or are not eligible to extend their contract. If you are notified that you are eligible to extend your contract, please contact the FSA Office if you wish to complete the extension. Sign-up runs from May 18th, 2009 to June 30th, 2009.

ACRE Signup

Signup for the Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) is currently underway at the FSA Office. 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. If you would like to see how this program would work for your farm, there are on-line calculators available to estimate possible payments.

For more information about ACRE, DCP and other price support programs, or how to access the on-line calculators, please visit the FSA county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

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

May 4 – 29, 2009 – Soybean Referendum (see article inside)

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

June 30, 2009 - Final date to extend expiring CRP contracts

July 1, 2009 - Deadline to file 2009 Acreage Reports

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

July 4, 2009 – County Office Closed – Independence Day Holiday

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.”