



NEWSLETTER



January 2011

Wool, Mohair and Unshorn Pelt LDP's

Lincoln County FSA

625 S Washington
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307-886-9001 phone
307-886-3744 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/wy

Hours

Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Jason Thornock
Chad Dana
Blair Hillstead
Trudi Julian

COC Meeting

2nd Tuesday of the Month

Office Staff

Dee Harbach, CED
Suellen Bagley, PT
Kresta Hedges, PT

Farm Loan Manager

Brian Harrell
307-856-7524

Natural Resources Conservation Service

DeMont Grandy, DC
Cokeville 307-279-3256
Dayle Funka, DC
Afton 307-886-9001

Wool, Mohair and Unshorn Lamb pelt producers are reminded of the availability of Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's). The "final" date to request these LDP's, on page 4 of the CCC-633 EZ, is January 31 of the year following the crop year the wool was produced. If you sheared or sold pelts in 2010, you have until January 31, 2011 to request payment.

LDP's for the **2010 crop** began on January 1, 2010 and will continue through January 31, 2011. LDP's for the **2011 crop** begins on January 1, 2011 and will continue through January 31, 2012. All producers are reminded that you must sign page 1 of the applicable form (CCC-633EZ) before losing beneficial interest in the wool or unshorn pelt.

Livestock, Grazing or Feed Losses?

The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) provides assistance to producers of livestock, farm-raised fish and honey bees. The program is implemented when the county, or area of the county, suffers livestock, fish or honey bee losses, livestock feed losses or grazing losses from a natural disaster event not covered under the LIP, LFP or SURE. Producers have to file a notice of loss the earlier of: 30 days when the loss is apparent, or the end of the calendar year. Then, the application for payment must be submitted, along with all loss documentation no later than 30 days after the end of the calendar year (**2010 losses need filed by January 30, 2011**).

All crops must be covered by either crop insurance or NAP in all counties that the applicant has an interest in. Crops intended for grazing are exempt from this rule for ELAP. There are provisions to apply for equitable relief when the participant made a good faith effort to comply with the risk management purchase requirement.

Reasonable Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call Dee Harbach at 886-9001.

IRS Form 1099-G

Each year producers receive 1099-G forms from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) detailing payments producers have received from the CCC. CCC's annual report of program payments on the 1099-Gs help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producer's own responsibility to report income to the IRS.

FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy.

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives can sign FSA and CCC program documents on behalf of each other for programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the County Office. Spouses may not grant Power of Attorney or sign claim settlements for each other. Spouses may not sign on behalf of the other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Direct Deposit of Program Payments & Account Changes

Farm program payments earned through this office are required to be paid by direct deposit into a bank account selected by the program participant. If you have completed a direct deposit agreement and had a bank account change, you must notify us of account changes for your payment to be properly deposited.

Farm Reconstitutions

In program terminology, farms are *constituted* to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

- **Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;
- **Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;
- **DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;
- **Default Method** — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

If payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded. Request for recons should be filed by June 1.

2011 Direct & Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) Signup

Producers have until June 1, 2011, to timely file a DCP contract (CCC-509). A CCC-509 will not be approved unless all producers sharing in base acres with more than a zero share have signed and submitted all applicable documentation. For those producers with an interest but a zero share of contract, a CCC-509 will not be approved before all producers have signed a CCC-509 or provided supportive and necessary contractual documents, such as cash leases instead of signing for a zero share. A CCC-509 not having all requisite signatures, will not be considered submitted to CCC for any purpose and will not be acted on or approved. Producers on a farm are solely responsible for ensuring that timely enrollment occurs. Please call for an appointment.

Producers who are eligible for the DCP Program will also be eligible to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue election (ACRE) Program. The enrollment period for the ACRE Program will begin in the spring. Producers may first enroll in the DCP Program, elect to receive advance direct payments and then later modify their enrollment to include the ACRE program or they may wait and elect to enroll in DCP and ACRE at the same time.

More information on ACRE will be in a future Newsletter.

Generally, no producer on a farm that has a total of 10.0 base acres or less shall be eligible to receive DCP payments on that farm. However, the prohibition does not apply to a farm that is wholly owned by a socially disadvantaged or limited resource farmer or rancher. If the farm is owned by a legal entity, such as a corporation, each individual or entity with any interest in the entity must be a socially disadvantaged or limited resource farmer or rancher. Additional details of this provision will be announced at a later date. Farms that have total bases of 10.0 acres or less may reconstitute and earn payments, if reconstitution rules are met.

The direct payment for each covered commodity or peanuts will be computed by multiplying:

- 83.3 percent of the covered commodity's or peanut's base acres, times
- the covered commodity's program payment yield, times
- the payment rate for the covered commodity, times
- the producer's share of the covered commodity.

For those CCC-509's timely enrolled and containing all required signatures, CCC will make advance payments at a rate of 22 percent to those producers who requested the advance payments. The advance payments will be issued as soon as practicable following completion of enrollment.

Before producers can receive payments, each producer must satisfy all other program or payment eligibility requirements including, but not limited to, filing a new CCC-926 (adjusted gross income certification) for 2011 and maintaining an up to date AD-1026 (certifying the farm is following an approved conservation system) and CCC-902 (farm operating plan).

County Committee Election Results

This year's County Committee Election for the Upper Valley Administrative Area has just been completed. Eligible voters elected Blair Hillstead to represent them for a three year term. Alan Linford was elected as First Alternate. We appreciate these producers and their willingness to serve.

Farm Record Changes

In order for us to accurately administer farm programs it is very important that we have current records of all owners and operators. If you have bought, sold or are renting different land, make sure you report those changes to this office, as soon as possible after they occur. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and fines.

Lincoln County FSA Office
625 S. Washington, Ste. A
PO Box 369
Afton, WY 83110



Important Dates to Remember

January 17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – Office Closed
January 30	Deadline to apply for 2010 LFP, LIP, & ELAP benefits
January 31	Deadline to apply for 2010 LDPs on Wool, Mohair, & Unshorn Pelts
February 21	George Washington, Holiday – Office Closed
March 31	Deadline to apply for 2010 LDPs and MALs for Barley, Oats, & Wheat
Within 15 days of noticing a loss file CCC - 576 NAP Notice of Loss	
Within 30 days of noticing a livestock or feed loss file FSA-914 LIP Notice of Loss or FSA-918 ELAP Notice of Loss	

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.