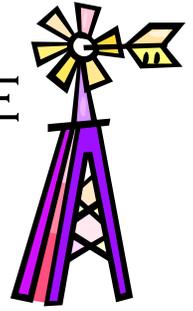




# NATRONA/CONVERSE COUNTY WINDMILL



September 2009

## Livestock Indemnity Program Continues

The Natrona/Converse County FSA is continuing to take applications for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). This program was authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill and will continue to be in effect during the life of the 2008 Farm Bill. Therefore, livestock losses caused by a natural disaster incurred now through September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011 will be eligible for the program.

Ever since this program was released on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009, we have witnessed several changes in the way applications are being processed and what requirements are being placed upon our producers to prove losses. Therefore, I have decided to reiterate the requirements in our newsletter so that the application process runs more smoothly in the future.

### **1. File a Notice of Loss within 15 days of your losses being apparent.**

- This can be accomplished by simply calling us at the County Office and providing us with a description of the event that caused your livestock losses.

### **2. Keep documentation that proves your livestock inventory.**

- This documentation needs to be verifiable such as purchase receipts or veterinarian records.

### **3. Document your livestock losses.**

- This is the most important part of the application process. Each producer needs to be able to prove that their death losses were caused by the natural disaster claimed on the Notice of Loss. Producers may provide personal records to prove their losses, however the more information provided about how and when the livestock died will assist the County Committee in making the correct determination on your application. The records that you provide need to be more than branding records showing your ending inventory. Your

records must show that your death losses incurred were a direct result of a natural disaster. Photographs are a great way of proving this, but you should provide a date and a description of the loss on each photo. Also, keep documentation of your losses due to normal mortality. This will allow more of your livestock that died due to an eligible disaster to be eligible for payment.

- If you are still unable to provide documentation of your livestock losses, you may obtain a Third Party Certification Form from the county office and have someone, not related nor affiliated with your operation, complete the form.

### **4. Complete the Application for Payment.**

- This can be completed up to 30 days after the end of the calendar year for which benefits are being requested.

I hope that this clarifies your requirements for the LIP program and that you take the necessary steps to make the application go as smoothly as possible.

*James R. Neill, County Executive Director*

Natrona/Converse  
County FSA  
5880 Enterprise Dr Ste 100  
Casper, WY 82609  
(307) 261-5436  
or  
Toll Free 1-866-596-4478

Office Hours:  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

### **County Committee**

Jared Vollman - Chair  
Mary Owens - V. Chair  
Jim Price - Member  
Neal Forgey - Member  
John Bentley - Member

### **Staff**

Jim Neill - CED  
Wanda McLean - PT  
Deena McDaniels - PT  
Dave Lengle - FLM

Douglas USDA Service  
Center  
911 S. Windriver Dr.  
Douglas, WY 82633  
(307) 358-3050

## **Farm Storage Facility Loan Program Changes**

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Early partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin. The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

## **Biomass Crop Assistance Program**

The new Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) is of interest to biomass conversion facilities and those who own, chip and transport biomass material to these facilities.

Chippers and producers with conversion facilities contracts to prepare and deliver materials can apply for matching payments under the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) component of BCAP. Once an agreement is signed between FSA and a biomass conversion facility and funding is provided, the facilities can begin accepting materials under this program.

The matching CHST payments are paid at a rate of \$1 for \$1 per dry-ton equivalent received by a qualified biomass conversion facility, not to exceed \$45 per dry-ton equivalent. A biomass owner is eligible to receive payments for two years. The purpose of the matching payments is to assist biomass handlers with the CHST cost of delivering biomass to a qualified biomass conversion facility. Once a facility becomes qualified, eligible material owners or producers who deliver biomass to that facility may be eligible to receive CHST payments.

Eligible material owners or producers, who market eligible material to a qualified biomass conversion facility, may apply for the matching CHST payment at their FSA county office. An application must be submitted and approved before the eligible material is sold or delivered to a qualified biomass conversion facility. After the product is delivered, a material handler must provide FSA with documentation of product quantity, quality and payment rate. County offices will validate payment requests with information in the county office and information provided under the terms of MOUs with the qualified biomass conversion facilities. CHST payments will not be authorized until appropriate environmental analysis is completed. Contact your FSA state office or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) for more information.

## Conservation Stewardship Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will begin continuous sign-up for the new Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) on August 10 in Wyoming. The first cutoff for ranking purposes is scheduled for Sept. 30, 2009.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers CSP, a voluntary conservation program that encourages agricultural and forestry producers to maintain existing conservation activities and adopt additional ones on their operations.

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) authorizes CSP. Congress renamed and implemented major changes to the former Conservation Security Program to improve its availability and appeal to agricultural and forestry producers.

Eligible lands include privately owned cropland, grassland, pastureland, rangeland, non-industrial private forestland, and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe.

Agricultural and forestry producers must submit their applications by Sept. 30 to be considered for funding in the first ranking period.

Individual producers, legal entities and Indian tribes must meet several requirements to obtain a Conservation Stewardship Program contract. They must be listed as the operator in the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) farm records management system for the operation being offered for enrollment. They must document that they control the land for the term of the contract and include all eligible land in their entire operation in that contract. They must comply with highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions and comply with Adjusted Gross Income provisions.

Wyoming has designated five CSP geographic areas. Applications will be ranked within each geographic area (not statewide or nationwide) as follows: Central (Albany, Carbon, Converse, and Natrona counties); Northeast (Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Sheridan, and Weston counties); Northwest (Big Horn, Fremont, Hot Springs, Park, and Washakie counties); Southeast (Goshen, Laramie, Niobrara, and Platte counties); and Southwest (Lincoln, Sublette, Sweetwater, Teton, and Uinta counties).

If you are interested in this program, please contact your local NRCS office and request a packet of information. This packet will provide preliminary information about the program and help you determine eligibility. If you wish to continue after reviewing this information, please notify the local office and set up a time to delineate your operation and answer the required questions for the Conservation Measurement Tool.

The contact information for the Converse County NRCS office located at 911 So. Windriver Dr in Douglas WY is (307) 358-3050 ext. 3 and the Natrona County NRCS office located at 5880 Enterprise Dr, Suite 100 in Casper WY is (307) 261-5436 ext. 3.

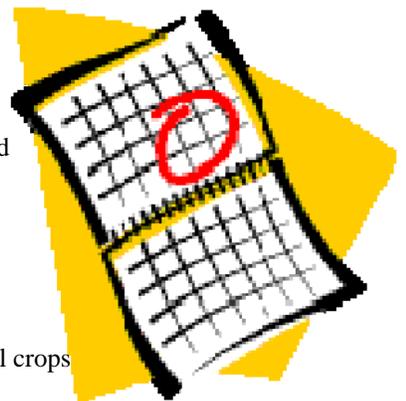
For additional information about CSP, including eligibility requirements and the interim final rule, please visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov/new\\_csp](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/new_csp).

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
Natrona/Converse CO FSA  
5880 Enterprise Dr. Ste 100  
Casper, WY 82609

Return Service Requested

### ***IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER***

- Sept 13 –** Livestock Indemnity Program Sign-up Deadline for losses incurred from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 through July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009
- Oct 12 -** Office Closed (Columbus Day Holiday)
- Nov 11 -** Office Closed (Veterans Day)
- Dec 1 -** Deadline to purchase Noninsured Disaster Assistance for perennial crops



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Special Accommodations will be made for the physically handicapped, vision- or hearing-impaired person upon request. If accommodations are required, please call James Neill, CED at (307)261-5436.