

## PARK COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY

1017 Highway 14A

POWELL, WY 82435

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Hours: M-F, 8-4:30 Closed Holidays

May 15, 2009

### COUNTY COMMITTEE

John Hogg, Chairperson  
Bill Cox, Vice-chairperson  
Teddy Jones, Member

### OFFICE STAFF

Lee Craig, County Executive Director  
Kathleen Palazzolo, Farm Loan Officer  
Marjorie Parker, Program Technician  
Marcia Shuler, Program Technician  
Lorrie Tate, Program Technician

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### EXTENSION OF DISASTER BUY-IN DEADLINE

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 including Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP) and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). You 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 insurable crops, excluding grazing land, agree to obtain a policy or plan of insurance for the next insurance year for which crop insurance is available,
- In the case of non-insurable crops, 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.

### DCP SIGN-UP EXTENSION

Sign-up for crop year 2009 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) has been extended to August 14, 2009. Payments under DCP are based on the acreage base of the program crops on the farm and are paid whether or not you plant the respective crop. We encourage producers to enroll their farms in the DCP program as soon as possible.

### CROP REPORTING DEADLINE

The deadline to file your FSA acreage reports is July 1. If you are a sugar beet grower, participate in the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP), participate in the Conservation Reserve Program, purchase multi-peril or catastrophic crop insurance or if you participate in other USDA farm programs, you must file an acreage report to remain eligible for benefits. Crop reports are also used in calculating benefits if you suffer a crop loss on a noninsurable crop and apply for benefits under the Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP). You must also file an acreage report of fruits and vegetables for farms that are enrolled in DCP. Dry beans are considered a vegetable under the DCP rules. Appointment reminders are being mailed to known agriculture producers. However, you may begin filing your acreage reports as soon as you have completed planting, even if you have not yet received an appointment. If you believe you need to file an acreage report and have not received an appointment reminder, please feel free to call for an appointment or come in to the FSA office at any time and file your acreage report. Late fees will apply to acreage reports that are filed after the July 1 deadline. **FAILURE TO FILE AN ACREAGE REPORT WILL RESULT IN THE LOSS OF USDA BENEFITS!!**

### THE ACRE PROGRAM

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a new program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill that begins in crop year 2009. Through ACRE, Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers producers an alternative to counter-cyclical payments. ACRE payments are made when both state and farm revenues are below historic levels. ACRE participants elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments in lieu of ACRE payments. They also elect to receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates. The 2009 sign-up period for ACRE runs through August 14, 2009. A decision to enroll a farm in ACRE binds the farm to the ACRE program from the program year elected by the producer through the end of the farm bill which is 2012. Please contact this office for additional information.

### 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 by June 15, 2009. 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.

## REPORTING CROP LOSSES for NAP

Producers who purchased crop loss coverage under the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) are reminded that if you suffer a crop loss, you must complete a notice of loss form with this office no later than 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence or no later than 15 days from the date that damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent. Notice of loss must be provided for each weather-related event or adverse natural occurrence that causes damage to or loss of the specific crop or commodity. Failure to report crop damage or loss in a timely manner will result in ineligibility for NAP payment.

## FSA LOAN PROGRAMS

FSA makes direct and guaranteed loans to qualified applicants for farm operating and farm ownership purposes. Whether it's a young or beginning farmer or a socially disadvantaged farmer, loan funds may be available for operating money or to help them buy their first farm. All loans must meet qualifying criteria to be eligible. Maximum loan amounts are: \$300,000 for Direct Farm Ownership or Operating type loans; \$1,049,000 for Guaranteed Farm Ownership or Operating. Each fiscal year the Agency targets a portion of its direct and guaranteed loan funds to beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers. A beginning farmer is someone who has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years. A socially disadvantaged applicant is someone who is one of a group whose members have been subject to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice. Youth Loans are available for up to \$5,000 to individual youths to establish and operate income producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H Clubs, FFA and similar organizations.

## BUYERS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

It is required that buyers of agricultural products check or register with the Secretary of State's Office to determine if there are liens against the seller of the product. If a lien is found, the buyer is required to place both the lien holder's and seller's names on the check. Ag products include but are not limited to: livestock (including horses), crops used for feed (hay, silage, oats, etc...), machinery, equipment and all other crops. **Failure to place the lien holder's name on the check may result in civil legal action being taken against the Buyer of the product. Protect yourself as a Buyer!** You may contact the Secretary of State's Office at (307)777-7311.

## FARM RECONSTITUTIONS

At FSA, farms are "constituted" to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution may be necessary. A reconstitution is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. To be effective for the current year, a request for reconstitution must be completed by August 1.

## OFFICE CLOSED

The Park County FSA Office will be closed May 25 for Memorial Day.

## CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWS SHOSHONE/CLARKS FORK CRM MEETING

Russian olive and Saltcedar infestations are continuing to impact the Shoshone River Watershed. A Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) plan is being implemented to address this issue in Park County. The Powell/Clarks Fork Conservation District, Park County Weed and Pest and Park County NRCS staff will hold a meeting May 20, 2008 at 7:00 PM at the U. W. Research Center in Powell. The purpose of the meeting is to review funding opportunities and projects for Russian olive and Saltcedar control and/or eradication. Please plan to attend this meeting to continue the work of addressing the very serious problems of Russian olive and Saltcedar infestation in Park County. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact:

Park County Weed and Pest	Mary McKinney	527-8885
Powell Clarks Fork CD	Ann Trosper	754-9301 x 112
NRCS – Powell	Dicksie Michael	754-9301
NRCS – Cody	Robin Moser	587-6763
Wyoming Game and Fish	Amy Anderson	347-2456 X 108

## WOOL AND MOHAIR LOANS AND LDP'S

Wool and Mohair producers who shear wool and/or mohair can either request a 9 month marketing assistance loan or agree to forego the loan for a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP). Producers are reminded that they must sign up for their LDP prior to losing beneficial interest in the commodity. If you sell your wool or mohair at shearing, you must sign the application for LDP prior to shearing and prior to losing beneficial interest in the wool. If you store your wool or mohair, you must sign up for the LDP before you lose beneficial interest in the commodity.



## PELT LOAN DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS

The Farm Bill allows eligible producers of unshorn lamb pelts to apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP). An unshorn pelt is defined as the removed skin and attached wool from a slaughtered lamb that has never been shorn. To be eligible for an LDP for unshorn pelts, producers must have owned the unshorn lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter or slaughter the unshorn lamb for personal use. Immediate slaughter is considered slaughter of the lamb within a 7 to 10 day period after the loss of beneficial interest. Eligible producers are considered to have lost beneficial interest on the date of delivery or the date of the receipt of payment, whichever comes earliest. **Producers must sign an application for the unshorn lamb pelt Loan Deficiency Payment prior to losing beneficial interest in the lamb.** Applicants are now required to submit production evidence that clearly indicates that the lambs were unshorn and the number of head sold.

## COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the 2009 Park County FSA committee election will be accepted through August 3. FSA county committees are elected by local agriculture producers to administer USDA farm programs at the county level. There are three Local Administrative Areas (LAA) in Park County with one LAA holding an election each year to elect a person to a three-year term. Park County's LAA's consist of Powell/Clarksfork, Cody/Heart Mountain and Meeteetse. The committee election for this year will be held for Local Administrative Area 1, the Powell LAA, which currently is represented by Bill Cox. A list of persons who are eligible to run for the county committee is available from this office. If you wish to run or want to nominate a fellow producer for the county committee, please contact this office for a nominating petition. If no nominations are received, the Secretary of Agriculture will complete the slate of nominees.

## NRCS SOIL SURVEY

Since 1935, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly known as the Soil Conservation Service) has provided leadership in a partnership effort to help America's private land owners and managers conserve soil, water and other natural resources. NRCS employees provide technical assistance based on sound science that is suited to a customer's specific needs and provide financial assistance for many conservation activities. An NRCS soil survey team will be out this summer working on private land in Park County. Soil scientists observe and describe soil characteristics such as color, texture, slope, and pH, depth to water table, calcium carbonates and rock fragment percentage. The information is used to interpret suitability for roads, houses, septic systems, etc. You may receive a phone call from one of the NRCS soil scientists asking for permission to describe the soil on your property. If you have any questions you can contact Cory Cole at 307-754-9301, extension 109.



## PLANTING OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES (Dry Beans) ON FARMS ENROLLED IN DCP

For farms that are enrolled in the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) and the ACRE program, don't forget the regulations concerning the number of acres of Fruits and Vegetables (FAV's), including **dry beans**, that may be grown without penalty or payment reduction. To avoid a payment reduction, liquidated damages penalty or contract termination, FAV acres may not exceed the non-contract acres for the farm. Depending on the farm or producer's FAV history, the penalty that is assessed can range from an acre for acre DCP payment reduction to severe cash penalties and possible termination of the DCP contract. A farm or producer will have a dry bean FAV history if dry beans were grown on the farm or were grown by the producer on any farm, at least once during the years of 1991 through 1995 or 1998 through 2001. An acreage report showing the dry bean acres grown must be on file in this office for the respective year(s). Following are some examples using a farm with the following information:

Cropland acres:	80
Barley DCP Contract Acres:	35
Corn DCP Contract Acres:	5
Non-contract Acres:	40

### Example 1: Farm has an FAV history of dry beans

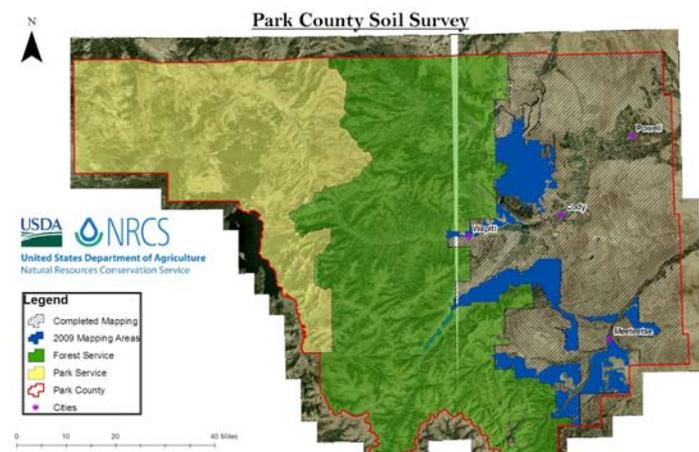
40 Acres of dry beans may be grown without payment reduction. If more than 40 acres are grown, an acre for acre payment reduction is applied.

### Example 2: Neither the farm nor the grower has an FAV history of dry beans

40 acres of dry beans may be grown without payment reduction or penalty. If more than 40 acres of dry beans are grown, liquidated damages and possible contract termination will apply.

### Example 3: Farm has no FAV history of dry beans, but grower has 10 acres of dry bean history

40 acres of dry beans may be grown without payment reduction or penalty. An additional 10 acres of dry beans may be grown with an acre for acre DCP payment reduction applied to those 10 acres. If more than 50 acres of dry beans are grown, liquidated damages and possible contract termination will apply.



## FARM CHANGES

In order for us to properly and accurately administer farm programs, it is very important that we have current records of the owners and operators of farms. Farm owners and operators are asked to report changes in their farming or ranching operations to us. This may include the purchase or sale of a farm or the rental of a farm which you did not have - an interest in last year. Please report these changes so that we can process applications for program participation in a timely manner and so we can keep you informed of programs.

We will be happy to review the cropping history of your farms and your personal FAV history and show you what your options are regarding the FAV provisions. **Don't forget the FAV provisions before finalizing your crop year 2009 planting plans.**



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Under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) continuous sign-up, eligible agriculture producers may apply to enroll small acreages of eligible cropland or marginal pastureland in CRP. Participants agree to establish approved conservation practices on eligible land and remove the land from agricultural production in return for annual rental payments for the term of the CRP contract, which can run from 10 to 15 years. A 50% cost-share payment is available to help with the cost of completing approved conservation practices. There is an additional 40% cost-share incentive payment for certain practices. Along with the cost-share and annual rental payments, there is a sign-up incentive payment and an annual maintenance payment. Some eligible practices that can be completed on land enrolled under continuous CRP are: Field Windbreaks, Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife, Shelterbelt Establishment, Filter Strips and Riparian Buffers.

**LOW INTEREST GRAIN BIN LOAN PROGRAM**

Commodity Credit Corporation, acting through Farm Service Agency, has reauthorized the farm storage facility loan program. Basic provisions of this loan program are:

- o Loans may be made for grain storage structures, grain handling equipment and drying equipment
- o Loans will be for new storage or expansion or upgrades of existing storage
- o The term of approved loans is 7 years.
- o The interest rate is equivalent to the rate of interest charged on Treasury Securities of comparable maturity.
- o The April 2009 interest rate is 2.375%.
- o Participants are required to carry Multi-peril crop insurance on crops of economic significance.

**SOYBEAN REFERENDUM, May 4 – May 29**

USDA has announced that it will offer soybean producers the opportunity to request a referendum on the Soybean Promotion and Research Order. 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. May 29 is the deadline for producers to vote in the referendum. For more information, contact your local FSA office.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- May 18** – Last day for 2008 NAP “Buy-in”
- May 20** – County Committee Meeting, 10 AM
- May 25** - Office Closed, Memorial Day
- May 29** – Deadline to vote in soybean referendum
- June 15** - Submit production evidence for NAP proven yields
- July 1** - Deadline to complete proven yields for NAP
- July 1** - Deadline for Acreage Reporting

- July 4** - Office Closed, Independence Day
- August 14** – DCP sign-up deadline
- August 14** – ACRE sign-up deadline
- Prior to selling wool – Sign up for Wool LDP
- Prior to selling unshorn lambs – Sign up for Lamb Pelt LDP
- Prior to selling or feeding crop -Sign up for farm stored LDP
- Anytime -**Continuous Conservation**