



PARK COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY
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Hours: M-F, 8-4:30 Closed Holidays

November 9, 2009

COUNTY COMMITTEE

John Hogg, Chairperson
 Bill Cox, Vice-chairperson
 Teddy Jones, Member
 Sandra Frost, Extension Service, Ex-officio 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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FARM LOAN PROGRAMS
"Lender of First Opportunity"

Farm Service Agency has farm loan programs that are designed to help farmers and ranchers get started and keep going! FSA farm loan programs provide assistance for eligible producers which include: Beginning farmers and ranchers, Rural Youths, Socially Disadvantaged producers, established farmers suffering setbacks and producers with Limited Resources. All loans must meet qualifying criteria to be eligible. Maximum loan amounts are \$300,000 for Direct Farm Ownership and Operating loans; \$1,112,000 for Guaranteed Farm Ownership and Operating loans. 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. 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. If you have questions regarding the Farm Loan Program or wish to make an appointment, please contact Kathy Palazzolo at 754-9411, Ext 2.



ATTENTION RANCHERS & SEED GROWERS NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - Disaster coverage for rangeland and other uninsurable crops

December 1, 2009 is the deadline to apply for Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2010 perennial crops such as perennial seed crops, rangeland and other non-insurable forage crops or fall seeded perennial crops that will produce a crop in 2010. NAP provides crop loss coverage for crops, pasture and rangeland for which Multi-peril or Catastrophic crop insurance (CAT) is not available. If you have an interest in any of these crops or grazing lands or will plant or have an interest in a perennial crop next year and that crop or grazing land will produce seed or forage in 2010, don't miss the Dec. 1 NAP deadline. Some NAP crops affected by this deadline are **grass seed crops, red clover, vetch, sainfoin, uninsurable hayland, rangeland and/or other grazing lands**. NAP coverage is available for most crops, hay and grazing lands that don't meet CAT insurability requirements and other non-insurable crops that are grown commercially. There is a \$250 per crop administrative fee not to exceed \$750 per producer per county and \$1875 per producer with multi-county interests. Coverage is based on 50% of yield and 55% of price.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The 2008 Farm Bill includes a new disaster program known as the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE). **To be eligible for the SURE program, you must have Multi-peril crop insurance for all insurable crops in the farming operation and you must have NAP coverage for all non-insurable crops!!** Failure to carry NAP coverage or failure to insure your crops will make you ineligible for SURE payments. A SURE calculator is available on the FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/fbapp?area=home&subject=landi ng&topic=landing>. The calculator is a tool to help with calculations and to help you determine whether to purchase the necessary insurance for SURE eligibility. It is not the approved software to compute and provide actual payment information. By using the calculator, you may begin familiarizing yourself with the SURE calculations which allows you to run various scenarios based on basic levels of insurance coverage versus buy up levels of insurance coverage. It is important to note that this calculator only addresses yield based crops and does not address value loss crops or those plans of insurance that are revenue based. It does not include calculations for situations such as prevented planting, first crop/second crop or other scenarios.

REPORTING PRODUCTION for NAP



BUYERS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Participants in the Non-insured Assistance Program need to submit crop production evidence in order for us to complete proven yield calculations. As you complete harvest and cleaning of NAP seed crops or sale of NAP crops, submit production evidence to this office so we can complete the proven yield calculations.



WOOL, MOHAIR & PELT LOANS or 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. Eligible producers of unshorn lamb pelts may also 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.



LOAN DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS



The 2008 Farm Bill makes loan deficiency payments (LDP) available to crops of barley, corn, oats, wheat, grain sorghum and oil seed crops that are mechanically harvested for grain, hay, silage or haylage. The payment rate is determined each day as the difference between the daily market price of the commodity and the USDA county loan rate for the respective crop. For crops that will be sold directly from the farm, you must sign the LDP request prior to harvesting the crop. For commodities that will be stored, you must also file an LDP request prior to losing beneficial interest in the commodity through feeding or selling the commodity. For crops sold directly from the field, the LDP rate is determined based on the date you lose beneficial interest in the crop. For stored crops, the rate is determined based on the date that you either "lock in" an LDP rate or on the date that you lose beneficial interest in the commodity, whichever is earlier. The filing of an application for LDP and the locking in of an LDP rate are two different required actions. If you share in the production of a crop that will be delivered directly from the field to the buyer, please contact us and sign a "field direct" LDP request prior to harvest. Any crop production that is delivered to the buyer before you sign the form is ineligible for an LDP. In addition, you must submit production evidence to this office for us to calculate your LDP payment.

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.

2010 DCP SIGN-UP

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2010. DCP Program payments are calculated using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2010, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment. 2010 Advance direct payments will be issued beginning Dec. 1, 2009. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price. The effective price is the higher of the national average market price received during the 12-month marketing year for each covered commodity and the national average loan rate for a marketing assistance loan for the covered commodity.

The ACRE OPTION

The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. For 2010, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2008 and 2009 crop years. An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The payment is based on 83.3 percent (85 percent in 2012) of the farm's planted acres times the difference between the State ACRE guarantee and the state revenue times the ratio of the farm's yield divided by the state expected yield. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. In exchange for participating in ACRE and in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent. The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year. June 1, 2010 is the deadline to elect the ACRE option for a farm.



OFFICE CLOSED



This office will be closed November 11 in observance of Veteran's Day and November 26 in observance of Thanksgiving Day.



COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

Ballots for the 2009 Park County FSA committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on November 6, 2009. The final date to return your election ballot is Monday, December 7, 2009. The committee election this year is for Local Administrative Area (LAA) #1, the Powell community. Tammy Jones is the candidate for a 3 year term to serve as your representative for the LAA. If you farm, ranch or own agricultural land in this community and do not receive an election ballot, please contact this office.



NEW FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN RULES

New regulations for the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program have made changes to the program. Loans are now available for grain storage structures and for hay and other forages. Rules concerning loan terms have also been expanded and vary depending on the amount of money that is being borrowed. If you are interested in a low interest loan for building a storage facility for grain crops, hay crops or other forage crops such as silage, contact this office to see whether the program will work for you. For more information, contact Kathy at 754-9411.

COMMODITY LOAN AVAILABILITY

Producers may request a price support loan for program crops of Wheat, Barley, Oats or Corn. Commodity loans give you an opportunity to obtain funds, using the stored crop as collateral, and have use of the borrowed funds until you are able to market the crop or until loan maturity. Commodity loans are nine month non-recourse loans which may be repaid at either the principal plus interest or the CCC determined value, whichever is less. Upon loan maturity, you must settle the loan either by repaying it or by delivering the commodity to an approved warehouse. The November interest rate for commodity loans is 1.375%. Commodity loan rates are as follows: Barley - \$1.85; Corn - \$2.16, Oats - \$1.25; and Hard Red Spring Wheat - \$3.31/bu.



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, Establishment of Permanent Salt Tolerant Vegetative Cover and Riparian Buffers.

REPORTING CROP LOSSES FOR NAP

Producers are reminded that they must report losses on NAP crops no later than 15 days after the date of a disaster occurrence or date that damage to the crops is apparent. Notices of loss that are filed after 15 days (late-filed) can still be approved by the county committee if verification of the specific crop and acreage can be made and if it can be determined that the cause of loss is due to an eligible disaster condition. If a positive verification of both of the above requirements cannot be made, the late filed Notice of Loss will be disapproved and the producer will not be eligible for a loss payment.

DIRECT DEPOSIT OF PROGRAM PAYMENTS

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 have had a bank account change, you must notify us of these changes for your payment to be properly deposited.

- Nov 11 Office Closed, Veteran's Day Holiday
- Nov. 26 Office Closed, Thanksgiving Day Holiday
- Dec. 1 Deadline to purchase NAP for perennial crops
- Dec. 7 County Committee Election deadline
- Dec. 25 Office Closed, Christmas Day Holiday
- Jan. 1 Office Closed, New Years Day Holiday
- As Soon As Possible Provide production evidence for NAP crops
- 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 CRP

DON'T MISS OUT
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READ ALL ABOUT IT!!



Farm Loan Program Opportunities
Non-insured Assistance Program deadline nears
Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) requirements
Loan Deficiency Payment Availability
Protect yourself as a buyer of Agriculture Products
2010 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) sign-up
The ACRE Option
FSA County Committee Election
Commodity Loan Availability
And much, much more. . .

