



## PLATTE COUNTY NEWSLETTER



**Platte County FSA**  
1502 Progress Court  
Wheatland, WY 82201  
307-322-4050 phone  
307-322-4109 fax  
www.fsa.usda.gov/WY

**Hours**  
Monday-Friday  
8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

**County Committee**  
David Hinman  
E. John Watson  
Britt Wilson  
Ruth Cundall, advisor

**Staff**  
Mike Hoffland, DD  
Rick Carroll CED  
Dixie Mount FLO  
Mitzi Mudgett PT  
Joni Reyes PT  
Pammie Rapp PT

### FEBRUARY 2011

#### SURE Signup

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) began **Jan. 10, 2011 and runs through July 29, 2011. Please call for an appointment.** SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. For SURE, all crops must be covered by crop insurance, NAP or be eligible for waivers.

A farm enrolled in SURE is eligible when either:

- a portion of the farm is located in a county covered by a qualifying natural disaster declaration (USDA Secretarial Declarations only) or a contiguous county; or,
- the actual production is less than 50% of the normal production.

Sure is available to eligible producers on:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties that have incurred crop production losses and/or crop quality losses during the crop year. (Platte County is eligible for the 2009 crop year as Laramie County, WY received a Disaster Designation).
- Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50% or less than the normal production of the farm.

At a minimum, to be eligible for the Sure Program, the producer must have purchased or be enrolled in the following for the 2009 crop year:

- A plan of crop insurance of at least catastrophic (CAT) level for all insurable crops on all farms.
- And/or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for all non-insurable crops on the farms.

Note: RMA crop Insurance or NAP coverage on grazing land does not have to be purchased in order to be eligible for SURE. Sure does not pay for losses on crops intended for grazing.

In order to receive payments, the farm must suffer at least a 10% eligible production loss on at least one crop of economic significance. Producers with qualifying losses are eligible to receive 60% of the difference between the Sure Disaster Program Guarantee and the actual farm income.

The Disaster Program Guarantee is determined by totaling the calculated guarantee for each crop. For insured crops, the guarantee is based on the level of coverage the producer has elected.

The Total Farm Revenue calculation includes estimated crop value, Crop Insurance Indemnities, NAP payments, Marketing Assistance Loans/LDP, other disaster payments, and DCP payments (15% of Direct Payments plus Counter-cyclical payments and ACRE payments).

## **Sorghum Checkoff Referendum Scheduled**

USDA will conduct a referendum on the Sorghum Checkoff Program Feb. 1-28, 2011, at local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices. Ballots may be obtained in person, by mail or facsimile at county FSA offices, or via the Internet at [www.ams.usda.gov/sorghumpage](http://www.ams.usda.gov/sorghumpage).

Any eligible person engaged in the production or importation of sorghum from July 1, 2008, to December 31, 2010, is eligible to participate. Individuals are required to provide documentation such as a sales receipt or remittance form that shows they engaged in the production or importation of sorghum.

Sorghum Checkoff is a national, coordinated, self-help marketing program designed to strengthen the position of sorghum in the market place, maintain and expand existing domestic and foreign markets and uses for sorghum, and develop new markets and uses for sorghum.

## **Adjusted Gross Income**

USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent for the IRS to verify AGI compliance will be required from each producer or payment recipient. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to USDA.

*The agreement ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.*

*Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service by June 15. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet>*

## **IRS Form 1099-G**

Producers annually receive CCC-1099-Gs detailing payments producers have received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on CCC-1099-Gs is a service intended to help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producers' responsibilities to report income to 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.

## **2011 DCP/ACRE Signup**

Are you planning to participate in the 2011 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program/ACRE? If so, contact the nearest FSA county office to sign a 2011 DCP/ACRE contract (CCC-509). Sign-up begins Oct 1, 2010, and must be completed before June 1, 2011. *Final payments for DCP will be issued in the month of October, 2011.*

## **Payment Eligibility**

Before producers can receive payments, each person must satisfy all other program or payment eligibility requirements including, but not limited to, filing a new farm operation plan or certify to no changes on form CCC-902 E for an entity or form CCC-902 I for an individual, adjusted gross income certification form CCC-926 and an AD-1026 certifying the farm is following an approved conservation system.

## Loans for Social Disadvantaged Persons

A socially disadvantaged (SDA) farmer, rancher, or agricultural producer is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a member of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. SDA groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA reserves direct and guaranteed loan funds for SDA persons. Non-reserved funds also can be used by SDA persons. Direct farm ownership loans (FO) and farm operating loans (OL) are made by FSA to approved applicants

## Livestock Indemnity Program

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from a natural disaster. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011. The losses must be a direct result of an adverse weather condition, including but not limited to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold, & lightning. Note that drought is not a qualifying event. Eligible livestock are adult/non-adult cattle, buffalo and beefalo, equine, sheep, alpacas, emus, swine, goats, llamas, poultry and domestic elk, deer and reindeer. Ineligible livestock include animals that dies as a result of disease not related to adverse weather, malnutrition or poor handling practices. Payment rates are per head by livestock kind/type and weight range. This program **requires records to show Beginning Dates of livestock on hand at the beginning of the adverse weather condition. In the case of losses depending on type of livestock inventory shall be documented with reliable and verifiable documentation. Producers need to start documentation on the dates of the storms. Calving record books are good use of documentation. They have the dates and days that a producer can document in their inventories. Producers need to contact the county office within 30 days of their losses.** The losses must be documented also with reliable and verifiable documentation to include but not limited to: Veterinary records, calving book, third party verification. Dates and numbers must be documented for beginning inventory and losses during the storms. **Contact the Platte County FSA office for further information at: 307-322-4050.**

## Farming Operation Changes

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

## Dates for CRP General Signup Announced

Casper, WY, Jan. 28, 2011- Gregor Goertz, Executive Director of USDA's Farm Service Agency in WY today announced Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has set general signup for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to begin on March 14, 2011, and continue through April 15, 2011. During the signup period, farmers and ranchers may offer eligible land for CRP's competitive general signup at their county Farm Service Agency (FSA) office.

"Over the past 25 years, CRP's benefits have continued to grow — cleaner water, improved air quality, better habitat for wildlife and a huge reduction in soil erosion," said Goertz. "Today's announcement reinforces this administration's dedication to help farmers and ranchers conserve natural resources on their land."

Land currently not enrolled in CRP may be offered in this signup provided all eligibility requirements are met. Additionally, current CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall may make new contract offers. Contracts awarded under this signup are scheduled to become effective Oct. 1, 2011.

To help ensure that interested farmers and ranchers are aware of the signup period, USDA has signed partnership agreements with several conservation and wildlife organizations that will all play an active role in USDA's 2011 CRP outreach efforts. As administrator of the Conservation Reserve Program, FSA will evaluate and rank eligible CRP offers using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) that assists in calculating the environmental benefits to be gained from the contract. The EBI consists of five environmental factors (wildlife, water, soil, air and enduring benefits). Cost factors are also entered into the equation.

In addition to the general sign-up, FSA's CRP Continuous Sign-up Program is ongoing. Continuous acres represent the most environmentally desirable and sensitive land. For more information, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) and view *Conservation Programs*.

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

January 10, 2011	Supplemental Revenue (SURE) Program SURE Sign up begins 01/10/2011/Ends July 29, 2011
February 21 <sup>st</sup>	Presidents Day Office Closed 02/21/2011
March 14 <sup>th</sup> ,	CRP Sign-up Starts March 14, 2011 through April 15, 2011
April 1 <sup>st</sup> 2011	Last Day to sign all other crops for NAP, Not Biennial or Perennial
May 30, 2011	May 30, 2011 Labor Day, Office Closed
June 1 <sup>st</sup> 2011	June 1 <sup>st</sup> . 2011 Last Day for DCP/ACRE Signup
July 1 <sup>st</sup> 2011	Last Day to Report NAP Production For 2010 crop year.
July 1 <sup>st</sup> 2011	Last Day to Report Crop Acreage
Continues	Continuous CRP sign up
Continues	Farm Stored Facility Loan Program

**Visit our Web site <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>**

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