



United States Department of Agriculture
 Farm Service Agency
 Washakie-Hot Springs FSA Newsletter
 October 2007

208 Shiloh Road
 Worland, WY 82401
 Telephone (307) 347-2456
 Fax (307) 347-8806

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Monday – Friday	Closed on Federal Holidays
--------------------------------------	-----------------	----------------------------

Washakie-Hot Springs

Committee:

Nick Geis
 Kathy Propp
 Dan Rice
 Matt Brown
 Bruce Thurgood

Office Staff:

Bill Morrison – Farm Loan Manager
 Claire Lewallen – Program Technician
 Sue Willey – County Executive Director
 Darla Rhodes – Program Technician

FSA Home Page:
www.fsa.usda.gov

USDA Home Page:
www.usda.gov

2009 County Committee Elections

The Washakie/Hot Springs County election for the 2009 year covers LAA #1 and LAA #5. LAA #1 is in Washakie County and includes everything west of the Big Horn River, and LAA #5 is in Hot Springs County and includes everything east of the Big Horn River, plus those west of the river that get their irrigation water from the river. Nick Geis and Bruce Thurgood are the current representatives for these LAA's. Nick has reached his term limits, so is unable to run for this position again. Steven Snyder will be the LAA#1 candidate and Bruce Thurgood will again be a candidate for LAA #5. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters November 6th. Instructions for voting will be included. December 7th is the last day to return voted ballots to the county office, or for them to be postmarked. Ballots will be counted on Monday, December 14th at 2 pm. Please take time to vote and select your representative to be on the County Committee. Newly elected committee members will take office January 1st, 2010.

No one can be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

Livestock Indemnity Program

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from disaster. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after January 1st, 2008, and before October 1, 2011.

Loss applications should be filed in your administrative county and can be started with just a phone call to this office. Notice of loss **must** be filed within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock was apparent to the participant. The following table provides the final dates to file a notice of loss and/or application for payment for either 2008 or 2009 livestock losses.

Livestock Death	Final Date to File a Notice of Loss	Final Date to Submit and Application
Calendar Year 2008	Sept. 13, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009
Jan. 1, 2009 to July 12, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009	Jan. 30, 2010
July 13, 2009 to Dec 31, 2009	30 days after death is apparent	Jan. 30, 2010

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. Producers who contract with conversion facilities to prepare and deliver materials can apply for matching payments under the collection, harvest, storage, and transportation (CHST) component of BCAP.

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 the facility may be eligible to receive CHST payments by applying 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 office 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.

Noninsured Assistance Program

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occurred when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop. The application deadline for the 2010 NAP coverage on fall seeded and perennial crops for haying and grazing is December 1st, 2009.

NAP Production Reporting

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production such as weight tickets, bale counts, etc.
- File a "notice of loss" on Form CCC-576 within 15 days of when the loss was apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. We recommend producers submit 2009 production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All 2009 production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date of July 1st, 2010.**

FSA Farm Loans For Family Sized Farmers

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for eligible farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. These programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,094,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For detailed information on loan eligibility or the available loan programs, contact this county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

New Farm Storage Facility Loan Regulations

We have received the new regulations for the Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL). These new regulations have made major changes to this program. If you are interested in constructing a facility for your grains and now even your hay, please stop by or call this office for further details.

Wyoming Game and Fish Offers Matching Funds for New CCRP Sign-Ups

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program, or CCRP, is a program that the FSA offers to assist landowners in designing protection for riparian (stream corridor) areas throughout the Big Horn Basin. The benefits reaped, particularly after removing Russian olive and salt cedar, are many, from stabilizing stream banks which will help prevent erosion, to improving water quality, and most importantly to aid in the re-establishment of native trees and shrubs. The contracts require grazing deferment for the life of the projects which are generally either 10 or 15 year projects. At the end of this time period, the constructed fences offer landowners the ability to manage grazing in the riparian pasture as part of their overall grazing rotation.

The CCRP program offers landowners 90% cost share on all practices planned as part of the project whether it be off-site water developments such as spring developments, wells, tanks, or pipelines, riparian fencing, tree and shrub plantings, weed management, or a variety of other practices. The landowner also receives a \$100/acre sign-up incentive, annual rental payments for deferring grazing and maintenance payments on every acre enrolled in the program.

Currently, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department is offering the WyWHIP (Wyoming Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program) to match the \$100/acre sign up incentive with landowners within wildlife habitat priority areas, and particularly in areas where Russian olive and salt cedar control has been initiated in order to allow for the re-establishment of native trees and shrubs, and to help stabilize stream banks.

For more information on the CCRP Program, or to inquire about the details of the WyWHIP Program, please contact Amy Anderson, Wyoming Game and Fish Habitat Extension Biologist at 307-347-2456 x 108.

NRCS NEWS

CSP Conservation Stewardship Program

Overview

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) encourages agricultural and forestry producers to maintain existing conservation activities and adopt additional ones on their operations. CSP is a new voluntary conservation program that provides financial and technical assistance to conserve and enhance priority resource concerns on your land as identified by Wyoming NRCS, including: 1) Soil Quality, 2) Water Quality, 3) Water Quantity, 4) Plants, 5) Animals. To be eligible for CSP, applicants must meet at least one resource concern for each land use at the time of the application and meet at least one additional priority resource concern for each land use by the end of the stewardship contract. CSP provides opportunities to both recognize excellent stewards and deliver valuable new conservation.

Eligibility

CSP is available on Tribal and private agricultural lands, as well as nonindustrial private forest lands. Individual producers, legal entities, corporations, and Indian Tribes may be eligible for the program. Eligible lands in Wyoming include cropland, grassland, pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest land, and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe. Applicants 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 (AGI) provisions.

Land enrolled in the Conservation Security Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Grasslands Reserve Program, and Wetlands Reserve Program are ineligible for the new Conservation Stewardship Program.

How CSP Works

Producers interested in CSP are encouraged to begin the application process by completing a producer self-screening checklist. The self-screening checklist helps potential applicants decide for themselves whether CSP is the right program for them. The level of environmental benefit to be achieved will be estimated to determine eligibility, rank applications, and establish payments.

For a pre-approved applicant, NRCS will request the applicant's conservation activity records and conduct on-site field verification to ensure that information provided by the applicant was accurate prior to contract approval. Once information is verified, NRCS and the applicant proceed to develop the contract. Contracts will be for a period of 5 years.

More Information

Applications will be taken year around, but to be included in the first batching period, applications need to be submitted by **September 30, 2009**. For more information on CSP, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/new_csp or contact your local NRCS field office or USDA Service Center to get a packet of information.

EQIP Environmental Quality Incentive Program

Just to let you know that the batching period for 2010 EQIP funding ends on November 1st, 2009. So if you are thinking of doing a project and would like to be considered for financial assistance, please submit your application to the NRCS office by **November 1, 2009**. Call our office at 307-347-2456 or come in to get an application.

Succession in Interest

If you have made any changes that affect your interest in base acres since you signed your last Direct and Counter-cyclical Program contract, you must report these *successions-in-interest* to the county committee by Sept. 30, so that a final determination can be made on who is eligible for the program on the farm.

Changes that qualify as a succession-in-interest include: a sale of land; a change of operator or producer, including an increase or decrease in the number of partners; a foreclosure, bankruptcy or involuntary loss of the farm; or a change in producer shares to reflect changes in the producer's share of the crop(s) that were originally approved on the contract.

If a succession-in-interest has taken place, you, as the "predecessor," are required to refund any advance DCP payments you received for the affected base acres before a payment can be made to the "successor."

Not reporting a succession-in-interest can result in contract termination and a loss of program benefits for all producers involved.

Payments Subject to Offset for Delinquent Federal Debt

Beginning August 3, 2009, FSA/CCC payments made by direct deposit will be transmitted by Kansas City to Treasury. This allows FSA to be compliant with the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (DCIA), which requires that Federal payments be processed through the Treasury Offset Program (TOP), so that any delinquent Federal debt can be offset. All FSA payments will be matched against debt referred to Treasury, including payments made by Treasury check. Payments to assignees will be subject to TOP offset if the assignee has a delinquent Federal debt in TOP. Treasury will notify the payment recipient of any offsets taken for debts due other agencies. FSA will **not** receive notification of the offset. If there are questions about a TOP offset, the payee may call the TOP Call Center at 1-800-304-3107 to obtain the contact information for the offsetting agency.

As a result of this processing change, direct deposit payments will be credited to the recipient's account 1 day later than under the previous payment schedule. Currently, the description on the payee's bank statement reads, "USDA-FSAKCMOCDSP". After August 3, 2009, the description on the bank statement will read, "FSA TREAS 310" for all payments that are disbursed by Treasury.

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."
Special Accommodations will be made for the physically handicapped, vision- or hearing-impaired person upon request. If accommodations are required, please call Sue Willey, CED at (307) 347-2456.