



FSA Newsletter

Moffat County

July 2009

USDA Farm Service Agency
145 Commerce Street
Craig, CO 81625
Phone: (970) 824-3476 Ext. 2
Fax: (970) 824-7055

Hours

Monday – Friday
7:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Closed on all Federal Holidays

County Office Staff

Valeen Jacobs, CED
Cheryl Martin, PT
Tia Alexander, PT

County Committee

Wayne Counts, Chair
Bret Grandbouche, Vice-Chair
Steve Andrew, Member
Tammy Cook, Advisor



“Let us never forget that the cultivation of the earth is the most important labor of man. When tillage begins, other arts follow. The farmers, therefore, are the founders of civilization.”

~Daniel Webster

Routt/Moffat Counties Welcome New CED

The Moffat County FSA Office and the combined FSA Office of Routt-Jackson-Grand-Summit Counties entered into a permanent shared management operation effective February 1, 2009. Valeen Jacobs began work as the County Executive Director for the Craig and Steamboat Springs Offices on March 30, 2009.

Valeen Jacobs was a Program Technician in the Steamboat Office for twenty years prior to entering into the Management Trainee Program in January of 2008. After completing a six month training program, which took her to several county offices throughout the state, Jacobs became CED for Las Animas and Huerfano Counties in Trinidad, Colorado

Jacobs says she is grateful for the opportunity to serve the agricultural producers in northwest Colorado. She is looking forward to renewing her working relationship with the producers in Routt, Jackson, Grand and Summit Counties as well as introducing herself to the Moffat County producers. Tentative CED office hours are: Craig Office (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday AM) and Steamboat Office (Wednesday PM, Thursday, Friday).

Full-Time Permanent Job Opportunity

Become part of the FSA, helping farmers conserve land and water resources, and helping farm operations recover from the effects of disaster. The Farm Service Agency relationship with farmers and ranchers dates back to the 1930's.

USDA Farm Service Agency in Steamboat Springs is accepting applications for one full-time, permanent Program Technician. This position has responsibilities for office and field activities pertaining to administration of FSA programs mandated in the Farm Bill. Applications will be accepted through July 20, 2009. Statements of Knowledge, Skills and Abilities (KSA's) are required. The complete job announcement and application packet may be picked up at the Routt County Farm Service Agency located upstairs in the Pine Grove Building, 1475 Pine Grove Rd, Suite 201A, Steamboat Springs. (970) 879-3225, Ext. 2. This job announcement (CO0900071) is also posted at <http://www.usajobs.gov/>.

USDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Acreage Reporting

Acreage reporting time is here! Please remember that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage is required annually if you want to be eligible for FSA programs.

The acreage reporting deadline has been extended to August 14, 2009, but no later than 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest if that is earlier than the extended acreage reporting date. Late-filed fees (minimum \$40.00 per farm) will apply for acreage reports filed after August 14th.

DCP/ACRE Signup

The deadline to sign-up for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) is near! Producers have until August 14, 2009 to sign their DCP/ACRE contracts.

The new ACRE program is an option available to those producers planting grain commodities. For more details on this program please contact the local FSA office.

If you have not signed up stop in or call the office today!

County Committee Nominations



FSA offices are accepting nominations for this year's county committee election through August 3, 2009. This year's elections will be in Local Administrative Areas 1 and 2. LAA 1 is the area located North of Hwy 40 and East of Hwy 13. LAA 2 is the area located North of Hwy 40 and West of Hwy 13. To determine which LAA you are located in please see the map on the back side of the nomination form that is enclosed or contact the county office for more information. Nominations from these areas are strongly encouraged. Nomination forms and fact sheets are also available in the county office or can be found on the web at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under the Newsroom tab.

2010 COC Election Schedule

- ◇ Aug 3, 2009 – Last day to file nomination forms
- ◇ Nov 6, 2009 – Ballots mailed to voters
- ◇ Dec 7, 2009 – Last day to return ballots to the county office
- ◇ Jan 1, 2009 – Newly elected committee members take office

The County Committee system is unique within the US government and it ensures that local inputs can be implemented in the administration of the Farm Bill programs. Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates.



Colorado Western Slope Grouse Conservation SAFE Program



The goal of the SAFE Program is to restore and enhance habitat for the Colorado state species of concern: Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, greater sage-grouse and Gunnison sage-grouse. This project targets the conservation of cropland to suitable grass, forb and shrub species and the enhancement and the maintenance of expired CRP land to support at-risk grouse species.

The program sign-up will take place in the Routt and Moffat County FSA Offices and it will run on a continuous basis until the program acreage goal is met. To be eligible for this practice the land must be located in the SAFE designated area (see map). In addition, the land must meet the basic CRP eligibility requirements. Eligible cropland includes cropland that is both of the following: planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity during 4 of the 6 crop years from 1996 through 2001 and be physically capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity, as determined by COC.



If you are interested in the program and have land in the SAFE designated area please contact the local FSA office for more information. Or you can find a program fact sheet at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/co>.

ATTENTION NAP PARTICIPANTS

- Must report **acreage** by August 14th.
- Must report 2008 hay and/or alfalfa **production** by July 15th, 2008. Acceptable records include: calendars, diaries, spreadsheets, etc.
- Must provide the county office with a copy of all current **lease agreements**.
- Notice of loss must be filed within **15 days of the loss** becoming apparent.
- Must request a loss adjustment (**appraisal**) for all abandoned crops.
- Final date to **purchase 2010 NAP coverage** for all crops is Dec. 1, 2009
- More information is available in the NAP Basic Provisions found at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/cc_471_nap_bp.pdf or in the office.

Limited Resource Producer Provisions

The administrative service fee requirement for NAP coverage is waived for limited resource producers. A limited resource producer is a producer with both of the following:

- Direct or indirect Gross Farm Sales less than or equal to \$155,200 per year in both of the previous 2 years. (See IRS Form 1040, Schedule F, in Farm Income Section).
- A total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of 4, or less than 50% of county median household income in both of the previous 2 years. (AGI on IRS Form 1040).
 - Moffat County: \$25,840.65
- An online tool to help determine eligibility is located at: <http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/tool.asp>

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

LIP is available to eligible livestock producers on farms that have incurred livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather events on or after Jan. 1 2008, as determined by the Secretary during the calendar year, including losses because of floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold. Producers should begin gathering related loss documentation in accordance with FSA's LIP provisions. Adequate documentation must prove the death of eligible livestock occurred as a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event in the calendar year for which benefits are being requested. If adequate verifiable proof of death records documentation is not available, a livestock producer may provide reliable records, along with verifiable beginning and ending inventory, as proof of death. Certifications of livestock deaths by third parties may be accepted only if verifiable proof of death records or reliable proof of death records along with verifiable beginning and ending inventory records are not available. Contact the office for a list of acceptable proof of death records or view the fact sheet at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/lip08.pdf.

Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)

The purpose of this program is:

- Support the establishment and production of eligible crops for the conversion to bioenergy
- Assist agricultural and forest land owners and operators with the collection, harvest, storage, and transportation of eligible material for use in biomass conversion facilities.

Payment rates are:

- \$1 per dry ton not to exceed \$45 per dry ton.

More information is available at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=ener&topic=bcap>

2008 – current crop year applications are not yet available for these programs or other new disaster programs announced in the Farm Bill. Further details of all programs, including signup information, will be provided at a later date (announcements will be made via newspaper articles and radio broadcasts).

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U.S. Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency
Moffat County Office
145 Commerce Street
Craig, CO 81625-3636



HAVE A SAFE HARVEST SEASON!



CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

Maintaining CRP Cover:

CRP cover maintenance is the participant's responsibility and must be done according to the conservation plan. All CRP maintenance activity, such as mowing, burning and spraying must be conducted outside of the primary nesting season for wildlife. The ending date for the primary nesting season in Colorado is July 15. Please be aware that random spot checks will be conducted throughout the county to check for compliance.

Expiring CRP Acres:

Before beginning any land preparations, you must first make a request at the FSA Office and develop a conservation plan.

- Crop bases will be restored on expiring CRP contracts to the extent they were reduced and may earn DCP payments even if left in permanent cover.
- Expiring CRP is a priority for enrollment in the Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP). Grazing plans are required and rates are greatly reduced from CRP rental rates.

Check with the County Office for options for your expiring CRP contracts.

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our meetings/events/functions, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

Preventing Fraud

The Farm Service Agency has joined with the Risk Management Agency to prevent fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to RMA. Producers can report suspected cases to the county office staff, RMA office, or the Office of the Inspector General.

The US 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 program. (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 Adjudication and Compliance, 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.