

Lincoln County Newsletter

October 2009



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2010 NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

December 1, 2009 is the application deadline for the Non-Insurable Assistance Program for forage crops, fall seeded grain crops and grazing land for the 2010 crop year. Coverage for spring-seeded small grain hay and non-irrigated oats, intended for grain is available through **April 1, 2010**. The application service fee for NAP is \$250.00 per crop per county, with a county maximum of \$750.00. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1,875.00 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

Producers must cover all crops of economic significance in all counties where they have an interest to qualify for the new disaster programs. For the Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) program that was enacted by the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, there are specific requirements for the 2010 crop year. To participate in the SURE program, producers must purchase insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act for all insurable crops planted on all farms they have an interest in. In addition, if insurance is not available on a crop, producers must have NAP coverage for all uninsured crops of economic significance planted on all farms

they have an interest to be eligible for SURE.

Producers who already have coverage on 2009 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2010, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops. Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee. Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

Farm Record Changes

In order for us to accurately administer farm programs it is very important that we have current records of all owners and operators. If you have bought, sold or are renting different land, make sure you report those changes to this office, as soon as possible after they occur. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and fines.

2009 NAP Production Records

All 2009 NAP producers, now is the time to submit production evidence for your 2009 crops. Submitting production evidence for harvested crops, such as bale counts and weights are necessary to maintain accurate yields for coverage.

Did you suffer grazing losses in 2008?

The Livestock Forage Program (LFP) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses because of qualifying drought or fire. For drought, the losses must have occurred because of a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county on land that is native or improved pastureland. For fire, LFP provides payments for grazing losses on rangeland managed by a Federal agency if the eligible livestock producer is prohibited by the Federal agency from grazing the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland because of a qualifying fire.

Qualifying drought losses must occur on land that is:

- native or improved pastureland
- planted to crops specifically for the purpose of grazing
- physically located in a county that is rated by the US Drought Monitor as having a qualifying drought rating of D2, D3, or D4 during the normal grazing period
- covered by a policy or plan of insurance under FCIA or filed the necessary paperwork and paid the fee for NAP coverage

Lincoln County was in a D2 drought rating for the necessary 8 consecutive weeks in 2008 during the normal grazing period. This is the trigger that qualifies eligible producers to apply for benefits. Eligible livestock producers will be eligible to receive a payment equal to one monthly payment rate.

The monthly payment rate will be equal to 60 percent of the lesser of:

- the monthly feed cost for all covered livestock, using a feed grain equivalent (for example, the feed grain equivalent for an adult beef cow is 15.7 pounds of corn per day)
- the monthly feed cost calculated by using the normal carrying capacity for the grazing land.

The application deadline for 2008 losses is **December 10, 2009**.

Attention all 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 you are required to place the lien holders name on the check, as well as, that of the seller. 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) 777-7378.

NRCS Program Information

The deadline to apply for project funding for 2010 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and other programs is November 1, 2009. Applications are available at NRCS offices. Additional info may be found on the WY NRCS website: <http://www.wy.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/eqip.html>

Examples of eligible projects: irrigation structures or systems, livestock water, upgrade existing fence to wildlife friendly, forest health, stream and water quality, brucellosis herd plans, etc.

2010 funding for Conservation Stewardship Program will be available early in the year. Signups will be accepted for this round until approximately January 8th. This program provides an annual payment for agriculture producers to maintain a basic level of conservation and add one or more enhancements.

The local work group meeting is scheduled for November 12th at 10 a.m. at the Cokeville Town Hall. This meeting is now open to the public. The local work group provides input and suggestions to NRCS regarding how EQIP funds should be used in the county.

2009 County Committee Election

This year's County Committee Election is being held for the Cokeville/Kemmerer/LaBarge Administrative Area, where Kenneth Cook is currently serving as the representative to the county committee.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters on November 6th. Instructions for voting will be included. Completed ballots must be returned to the county office or postmarked by December 7th. Ballots will be counted on December 10th. Please take time to vote and select your representative on the County Committee. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office January 1, 2010.

Annual DCP and CRP Payments

Payments associated with 2009 DCP and CRP contracts should be getting deposited in your bank accounts in October. Payments are initiated at the national level, transaction statements will still be mailed to you, however the county office will not be receiving a transaction statement. Please call the office if you have not received a payment, or if you have questions about a received payment. The description on the bank statement will be reading "FSA TREAS 310".

All FSA payments are now being processed through the Treasury Offset Program (TOP), so that any delinquent Federal debt can be offset. If a federal debt results in an offset to a payment, the payee may call the TOP Call Center at 1-800-304-3107.

Commodity Loans Available for 2009 Commodities in Storage

Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) provide financing and marketing assistance for wheat, feed grains (barley, corn, oats), honey, wool and mohair. This assistance is available to eligible producers beginning with harvest season and extending through the program year.

The 2009 Lincoln County loan rate for each commodity is as follows: HRS Wheat \$3.36/bu, HRW Wheat \$2.58/bu, Barley \$1.95/bu, Oats \$1.35/bu.

Farm Stored Loan: An applicant can request either a paid for measured loan or certify the quantity. In either case, a loan for up to 100% production can be made. The commodity must be stored in a structure that can be safely measured and inspected, and be structurally sound. It is the borrower's responsibility to assure the commodity is in good condition and continues to remain so.

Warehouse Loan: A warehouse grain loan can be obtained through a CCC approved warehouse. The elevator will issue warehouse receipts to the producer, who in turn, gives them over to CCC (FSA) for keeping as security through the life of the loan. The information on the warehouse receipts will be the basis for the loan quantity and loan rate. FSA required the warehouse to provide documentation that the producer has provided for storage charges through the loan maturity date.

Loan Maturity Date: Loans will mature on the last day of the 9th month following application.

Loan Service Fees: Fees are the smaller of ½ of 1% times the gross loan amount, or \$45/loan plus \$3.00 for each bin.

Interest Rates: Commodity loans will carry the interest rate of the month in which the loan is disbursed through December 31st, of each year, at which time the rate will change to the January rate.

Liens: If any liens on the commodity exist, we require that the lien holder complete a lien waiver form before the loan is issued. CCC requires first lien on any commodity put under loan.

Repayments: Repayments can be made any time after the loan is disbursed. On farm-stored loans, any quantity can be paid off; however, on warehouse loans, a whole warehouse receipt must be paid off. At the time of repayment, the borrower will pay the lesser of (1) principal plus accrued interest, or (2) the applicable day's Posted County Price (PCP) times the loan quantity. The PCP will be the lower of the average market price of the last 30-days, or the average market price of the last 5-days. If the PCP is used for repayment, it is referred to as a Market Loan Repayment (MLR) and is only available through the maturity date of the loan.

The final date to request a commodity loan for barley, oats, and wheat is March 31, 2010. If you plan on holding your crop for awhile and need some operating money until the commodity is sold, a MAL might just be a good option to look at.

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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Within 15 days of noticing a loss file CCC - 576 NAP Notice of Loss

November 1	-----	EQIP signup deadline with NRCS
November 11	-----	Office closed – Veterans Day
November 12	-----	NRCS work group meeting
November 26	-----	Office closed – Thanksgiving Day
December 1	-----	2010 NAP coverage deadline
December 7	-----	Last day to return COC ballots
December 10	-----	2008 LFP application deadline
Any Time	-----	Continuous CRP
Any Time	-----	Farm storage facility loan program

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited based apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication or 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 USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.