

Wyoming Crop Update



March 2012

Volume 2, No. 2

CDL Driving Regulations Change For Over 100 miles radius or Interstate

New Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration regulations go into effect on June 30, 2012 for those with CDL licenses who drive interstate or over a 100 miles radius. Local service, short haul operations (within a 100 mile radius) may not be impacted by the new regulations.

There are new regulations concerning restart intervals, rest breaks, on-duty time, penalties, and oil field exemptions.

Find more information at the FMCSA website:

<http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/rules-regulations/topics/hos/index.htm>

Wyoming Certified Seed Highlights

The Wyoming Crop Improvement Association approved several items at its annual meeting in February 2012. The Wyoming Seed Certification Service will send small sample bags to each alfalfa seed grower so that harvest samples can be retained for future reference. The Bean committee changed the nightshade tolerance for Foundation class beans from one nightshade plant per acre to two plants per acre. The Other Crop committee changed the isolation distance for small grains to the AOSCA minimum standard of "10 feet between different varieties". This standard will be effective for this inspection season, so please keep it in mind as you are planting.

Next Farm Bill

The next Farm Bill may be drafted in 2012 or 2013 according to Dr. Vince Smith, Montana State University Agriculture Economist who spoke about **Ag Policy in 2013 & Beyond** for the *Ag in Uncertain Times* webinar on March 14, 2012.

Smith cited the policy atmosphere in Washington D.C. as challenging for agriculture and nutrition. Smith reported only 33 congressmen have 5,000 or more farms in their districts. By far, the Farm Bill is a nutrition bill more than a producer bill.

Smith discussed how large the cuts to the Farm Bill are predicted to be. He foresees a cut of \$23 billion over 10 years. Programs that will probably end include: direct payment, SURE disaster aid, ACRE program, counter-cyclical payments. Smith believes CRP will be cut to 25 million acres. Smith believes the nutrition programs will receive a small percentage cut. He predicts EQIP and the Loan Rate programs will remain. Research and development support are unknown.

Low Cost Energy Audits for your farm/ranch

Wyoming offers to cover 75% of the cost of an energy audit of your farm or ranch. Eligible applicants include small businesses, ag producers, rural electric cooperatives, and non-profits. Residences are not eligible.

Applications are evaluated and funded on a first-come/first-served basis until funding is exhausted. Assessments are completed by Manufacturing-Works field engineers. Assessment may also include proposed renewable energy projects.

For applications contact Energy Audit Applications, State Energy Office, 307-777-2824, www.wyomingbusiness.org/energy/. Or Renewable Energy Development Assistance Applications, University of Wyoming Extension, 307-766-3002, www.wyomingrenewables.org

#

For further information contact UW CES Educator, Sandra Frost, at 307-754-8836 or sfrost1@uwyo.edu.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Glen Whipple, Director, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming 82071.

Persons seeking admission, employment, or access to programs of the University of Wyoming shall be considered without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, political belief, veteran status, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication or program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact their local UW CES Office. To file a complaint, write the UW Employment Practices/Affirmative Action Office, University of Wyoming, Dept. 3434, 1000 E. Univ. Ave., Laramie, Wyoming 82071.