



October/November 2007

Carbon / Emery County News

USDA Service Center

Emery County FSA
1090 N. DesBee Dove
Road
P.O. Box 758
Castle Dale, UT 84513

435-381-2300
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Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

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COUNTY COMMITTEE

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Chairperson

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Kent Peterson
Member

Eugene Winder
Member

William Butcher
Member

Ronnie Sorensen
Advisor



Crop Insurance

Buying a crop insurance policy is one valuable risk management option. Producers should always carefully consider how a policy will work in conjunction with their other risk management strategies to ensure the best possible outcome each crop year.

Make sure your crop and pasture acreage has sufficient 2008 insurance coverage. Sign-ups are in full swing with deadlines approaching quickly!

These programs (private insurance policies and NAP) can soften financial losses caused by natural disasters, but only if you have applied for coverage and paid the applicable fees by the established deadlines.

Crop insurance policies are available from private insurance agents. A list of agents is available at this office or at <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents>

Producer Certification for Insurance Companies

Private insurance agents are now required to provide a signed statement from the insured individual specifying the crop year and the related documents the producer wants copied for the insurance agency.

The insurance agent will then be charged for these documents at the rate of \$0.20 per page/side for copies of the FSA-578, Report of Acreage, and \$1.00 per copy for map photo copies.

If the statement by the producer is not provided and payment received, the documents will not be released to the insurance agent or representative.

Loss adjusters working loss claims and related compliance activities shall use form FSA-426 to request copies of

FSA-578s and corresponding maps at no charge. Requests for information will not be honored unless a crop claim of loss has been filed by the insured individual.

Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is a federally funded program that provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occurs as a result of natural disasters. NAP also provides coverage for crops for which crop insurance is not available.

If your crop is not eligible for crop insurance, then you can purchase NAP coverage for your crops through the Farm Service Agency (FSA). It is \$100 per crop, not to exceed \$300 per producer per county, or not to exceed \$900 for a multi-county producer.

December 1, 2007 is the final day to sign up for 2008 NAP coverage.

Just like filing a claim, producers who have a NAP contract on file with this office need to file a Notice of Loss when it becomes apparent that a covered crop or pasture has been damaged by drought, frost, insects, etc. This Notice of Loss should be filed within 15 days of when the damage is apparent – no matter how significant the loss may seem at the time.

Additionally, you will need to submit production evidence to the FSA Office for your crops, even if you did not have a loss on your covered crops. This is required to establish an APH (actual production history) for each year. This is used to calculate your production yield, and consequently, will effect your NAP payment now and in the future.

Make sure to 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.

Each crop insurance program has the same producer obligations. Producers must:

- Report acreage accurately,
- Meet policy deadlines,
- Pay premiums when due, and
- Report losses immediately.

The 2007 Census of Agriculture

America's farmers and ranchers will soon have the opportunity to make their voices heard and help shape the future of agriculture for years to come.

This opportunity will come to your mailbox in the form of the 2007 Census of Agriculture.

Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Census is a complete count of the nation's farms and ranches and the people who operate them. The census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other topics. It provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation.

"The Census of Agriculture provides information that is not available anywhere else – information that benefits agricultural producers and their communities in many ways," said Rick Kestle, Director of the Utah Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

"For instance, policy-makers factor Census data into decisions concerning agricultural and rural programs. Community planners use Census to target needed

services to rural residents. Companies rely on Census data when determining where to locate their operations. And farmers themselves can use Census data to help make critical decisions about their businesses," he explained.

NASS will mail out Census forms on December 28, 2007 to collect data for the 2007 calendar year. Completed forms are due by February 4, 2008. Producers can return their forms by mail or, for the first time, they have the convenient option of filling out the Census online via a secure web site.

"We're committed to making this Census the best count ever. It's about the future of agriculture and rural communities in our state," Kestle said. "Regardless of how large or small their operation is or what kinds of products they produce, Utah farmers and ranchers will help themselves and their communities by filling out the Census of Agriculture and returning it promptly," he added.

"We want farmers and ranchers to know: The Census of Agriculture is their voice, their future and their responsibility."

For more information about the 2007 Census of Agriculture, contact the NASS Utah Field Office at 800-747-8522 or visit www.agcensus.usda.gov.

Disaster Set-Aside Program

If you have a direct loan with FSA, and if you have money problems caused by a natural disaster, you may wish to request help under the FSA Disaster Set-Aside Program (DSA).

Under the DSA program, you can delay any or all of your FSA loan payments due this year or next year.

The final date to apply for DSA due to the disaster declaration

is on or before April 21, 2008.

If you would like more information regarding the DSA program please contact our office at 435-381-2300 ex. 114.

EMERY / CARBON / GRAND COUNTIES ELIGIBLE FOR USDA EMERGENCY LOANS

On August 21, 2007, President Bush declared a major disaster in Utah. As a result of the major disaster, agriculture producers are eligible for Farm Service Agency emergency loans due to physical and production losses. These losses were a result of multiple disasters, including severe drought, insect infestations, killing frosts, hot dry winds, below normal runoff, wildfires, and flash floods, that occurred January 1, 2007 and continuing.

Farmers/Ranchers in Emery/Carbon/Grand counties can apply for an emergency loan to cover part of their actual losses and must apply by April 21, 2008. To be eligible, producers must have suffered a 30% loss of normal production, be able to repay the loan and other existing debt, be unable to get credit elsewhere, have adequate security, and must have obtained multi-peril crop insurance or have signed an insurance waiver. Each application will be considered on its own merit.

Applications can be picked up at the Emery/Carbon County FSA office, 1090 N Des-Bee Dove Road, Castle Dale, UT. Or contact us at 435-381-2300 ex.114

Fact sheet and Power Point presentation

A joint education campaign sponsored by FSA and NRCS about wetland determination identifiers on FSA maps is available on the internet at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/factsheets>. The title is "Wetland Determination Identifiers".

DISASTER PROGRAMS

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) 2005

Livestock producers in both Carbon and Emery Counties who suffered forage losses due to excessive moisture in 2005 may be eligible for benefits under this program. Eligible livestock include beef cattle, equine, elk, sheep and goats. To be eligible, livestock must have been located in an eligible county on January 1, 2005 and must have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation. Please provide our office with the following information when you come in to apply:

- Number of animals on January 1, 2005 that have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation.
- Producers who run on BLM, Forest Service or State Lands must bring in their billing statements for 2005 so that we can determine how many AUM's you paid for during the 2005 grazing season.

Note: Animal counts need to be very accurate. If you are selected for spot check and are currently running fewer animals than certified to in 2005, you will be required to provide sales documentation/or other documentation showing what happened to the animals. Please call for an appointment.

Crop Disaster Program (CDP)

Signup for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) started October 15, 2007. The CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered losses to the 2005 – 2007 crops from natural disasters and related conditions so long as the actual crop lost was planted or prevented from being planted before February 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only

one year for which to receive benefits.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for DCP benefits.

A producer may be eligible for CDP if the crop losses resulted from any of the following: damaging weather, such as drought, excessive moisture, hail, freeze, etc.

To receive CDP benefits for quantity losses, the FSA county committee must determine that, because of eligible damaging weather, the producer was prevented from planting a crop or sustained a loss in excess of 35% of the expected production of a crop.

For more information on these programs, contact the Emery County FSA Office.

Attention Producers:

Following are some of the annual reminders of FSA policy:

Direct Deposit Account

The Debt Collection Act of 1996 mandates that payments from FSA be directly deposited into a producer's checking or savings bank account. It is important that any change in the producer's account such as type of account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

Delinquent Debtors Barred

Under the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (DCIA), producers owing a delinquent non-tax debt to the federal government are ineligible for federal financial assistance, including marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments. DCIA also bars this

person from receiving direct loans (other than disaster) or loan insurance or guarantee.

Reasonable Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact our office.

Not-Actively Engaged Determinations

Any producers determined to be "Not Actively Engaged in Farming" will be ineligible for most all USDA payments. This includes DCP, gains from marketing loans and loan deficiency payments, CRP annual rental payments, disaster assistance or emergency payments, and any payment or benefit requiring a determination of "actively engaged in farming."

Off-setting Payments Made by FSA

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 does NOT exempt any program payments from being credited toward any FSA delinquent debt owed by the producer.

Power of Attorney

If you're too busy getting work done around the farm to come into your local FSA office to conduct business and complete your paperwork, here's a solution. Retain an agent to act on your behalf for programs and transactions authorized under the 2002 Farm Bill and most other FSA administered programs. This can be done by completing an FSA-211, Power of Attorney. The form is available at your local USDA Service Center or on-line at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Forms obtained and completed outside USDA Service Center offices must be notarized.

County Committee Elections

The Carbon/Emery County Committee Election process is moving forward. It is crucial that every eligible producer take part in this election because county committees are a direct link between the farm community and USDA.

Agriculture producers in LAA 1 (Huntington, Lawrence, Cleveland, Elmo area) will be electing their representative on the county committee.

Eligible producers will receive their ballots in the mail around November 2, 2007.

You have until December 3rd to return voted ballots to the FSA office.

Please vote for only one candidate and **don't forget to sign your name on the back of your ballot.**



Dates to Remember

Today	Report farm operating changes
Nov. 2	County Committee election ballots mailed to voters
Nov. 12	Office closed in observance of Veteran's day
Nov. 22	Office closed in observance of Thanksgiving Day
Dec. 1	Last day to sign-up for 2008 NAP coverage
Dec. 3	Last day to return voted county committee ballots
Dec. 6	County Committee Meeting
Dec. 25	Office closed in observance of Christmas Day

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 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 USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in Emery County FSA meetings/events/functions should contact Kent Jorgensen, CED, at 435-381-2300 Ext. 104 or at: kent.jorgensen@ut.usda.gov.