



January 2008

Glenn County News

**Glenn County
USDA Service Center**

Glenn County FSA
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Hours
Monday - Friday
7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Peter Knight, Chair
Peter Cecon Jr
Eric Larrabee

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**
Donald Perez
FARM LOAN MANAGER
Michele Larrick

Staff
Michele Clark
Gerri Edwards
Elaine Gallegos
Cynthia Jones
Mary O'Brien
Ray Philp
Judy Richter

WE ARE TAKING APPOINTMENTS FOR ALL DISASTER PROGRAMS

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (CDP)

The County Office is currently accepting appointments for the CDP Program. CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses from natural disasters and related conditions that occurred in 2005 and 2006 and for 2007 crops.

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

In order to be eligible for assistance under the CDP program, producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent. The payment rate is set at 42 percent of the established price. If you suffered a quality loss you could be eligible, please call for an appointment.

We are not currently taking applications on quality losses. FSA offices may accept information from producers about quality losses when producers submit their applications for quantity losses. However, FSA will only consider quality loss applications complete after FSA announces the quality loss sign-up date and all other information necessary to determine eligibility is received by FSA.

Payment Limitations:

The maximum CDP benefits a person may receive is \$80,000. Producers eligible for CDP can also receive benefits under the Livestock Compensation Program 2005-2007. A partici-

pant may receive benefits for crop losses for only one of the 2005, 2006 or 2007 crop years.

DAIRY DISASTER AID PROGRAM (DDAP-III)

Eligible dairy producers can sign up for the Dairy Disaster Assistance Program (DDAP III).

DDAP-III will help dairy producers recover production losses resulting from adverse weather conditions. The program provides assistance to dairy producers for production losses that occurred between Jan. 1, 2005 and Feb. 28, 2007 caused by eligible natural disasters.

To be eligible for DDAP-III, dairy producers must have suffered losses in a primary or contiguous counties declared or designated a natural disaster.

Under the proposed rules, USDA will calculate payments to eligible producers by multiplying the eligible pounds by the average price received for commercial milk production in the affected areas. If the total amount of funding is insufficient to compensate eligible producers for losses, then USDA will pay losses at two levels in an effort to more equitably distribute funds and maximize the effectiveness of the program.

LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM (LCP):

LCP provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed losses or incurred additional feed costs directly resulting from natural disasters occurring between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007.

Eligible grazing types of feed are non-irrigated pasture/native grasses. Pasture must have been owned or leased on a cash or fixed amount basis to be eligible. Eligible livestock under that announcement are: adult or non-adult dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, swine, deer, cat-fish and other livestock the Secretary may designate.

LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM (LIP):

LIP provides benefits for livestock losses that occurred between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007 which were a direct result of a declared disaster. Glenn County had a disaster declared due to excessive heat.

The disaster period ran from July 1, 2006 thru July 31, 2006. Livestock which died within 60 days of the end of that disaster period may be included. Only losses directly related to excessive heat may be included. Incidental losses should not be included. Drought is not an eligible cause of loss under this program.

To be eligible under LIP, the livestock must have been owned by an eligible livestock owner on the day the livestock died and have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the day the livestock died. Eligible livestock include adult/non-adult beef cattle, adult/non-beef dairy cattle, adult/non-adult beefalo or buffalo, sheep, goats, swine, equine animals, deer, catfish, crawfish, poultry and reindeer. Livestock maintained for reasons other than commercial use are not eligible.

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) is available to cover livestock deaths caused by a natural disaster or related condition that occurred in 2005, 2006 or 2007.

2008 NEW FARM BILL?

Many of you have asked what changes the new farm bill will bring. At this time, the County Office does not have any definite information about the new farm bill.

NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP):

The non-insured Crop Disaster Insurance Program (NAP) is 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.

NAP is available for commercial crops or agricultural commodities except livestock for which federal crop insurance is not available. Producers with NAP coverage must complete the following in order to qualify for benefits:

Timely file accurate acreage reports and keep a record of harvested production using acceptable methods.

File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of the disaster event, or as soon as a loss is apparent, due to natural disaster condition.

Timely file production records no later than the next year's subsequent acreage reporting date.

Report any changes to your farming operation or gross income, as they occur.

Annually pay the administrative fee in the county for the crops that you wish to receive NAP coverage.

The fee required to apply for NAP is \$100 per crop per county. There is however a maximum fee of \$300 per county with a limit of \$900 for all crops in all counties.

AGRICULTURAL FOREIGN INVESTMENT DISCLOSURE ACT:

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture.

Foreign investors, who buy, sell or hold a direct or indirect interest in U.S. agricultural land must report their holdings and transactions to the Farm Service Agency within 90 days of the closing. It requires any foreign

person who:

- acquires or transfers any interest other than a security interest in agricultural land to submit a completed FSA-153 to the Secretary of Agriculture not later than 90 calendar days after the date of acquisition or transfer, or
- held any interest, other than a security interest, in agricultural land on February 1, 1979, to have submitted a report to the Secretary not later than August 1, 1979.

Failure to timely file or foreign persons who knowingly submitted a report that was incomplete, misleading, false or an inaccurate report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25% of the fair market value of the agricultural land on the date the penalty is assessed. County government offices, realtors, attorneys, and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

SIGNATURE AUTHORITY /POWER OF ATTORNEY

Farm Service Agency contracts, applications and forms must have correct signatures and appropriate signature authority on file before it is considered complete. All entities, including revocable and irrevocable trusts, corporations, partnerships, estates, etc., must provide evidence of signature authority stipulating those individuals who are authorized to represent the entity.

FSA cannot accept signatures without appropriate documentation on file. Examples of acceptable documentation include trust agreements, corporate charters or resolutions, partnership agreements and court orders of appointment.

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse. Any person who signs USDA documentation on behalf of another person must have a completed Power of Attorney (FSA-211) on file. Please check with the county office staff for more details

BANK ACCOUNT CHANGES:

As of January 1, 1999, all payments issued by the county FSA office are supposed to be by direct deposit (electronic funds transfer) to a pre-designated checking or savings account with your financial institution.

In order for FSA to make timely payments, you need to notify the FSA Office if you change or close your bank account, or if your bank is purchased by another financial institution. Payments can be delayed if we are not aware of changes to account or bank routing numbers.

USDA FARM STORAGE LOANS:

The Farm Service Agency offers seven-year, low-interest loans to grain producers to build new or upgrade existing storage facilities and related essential, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment. Loan opportunities include, but are not limited to:

New conventional-type cribs or bins, oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures, and flat-type storage structures designed for whole grain storage, Perforated floors, safety equipment, quality improvement equipment, electrical equipment and concrete components considered essential for a fully functional storage facility, Remodeling existing storage facilities to increase storage capacity.

Farm storage facility loans must be approved prior to site preparation, equipment purchase or construction, and must be secured by a promissory note and security agreement. Special provisions apply for loans exceeding \$50,000. The maximum loan amount will be 85 percent of the net cost of the applicant's needed storage or handling equipment, not to exceed \$100,000 per borrower. A minimum down payment to the supplier or contractor is required to bridge the gap between the net cost of the storage facility and the loan amount.

Fixed interest rates on farm storage facility loans are equivalent to the rate of interest charged on U.S. Treasury Securities of comparable maturity on the date the loan is approved.

Dates to Remember	
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Grasslands Reserve Program
Continues	MILC Program
Continues	Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands

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