



USDA
Alabama
FSA State Office

June/July 2006
Alabama News

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Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Danny F. Crawford
State Executive Director

**USDA 2005 Hurricane Assistance Programs Available –
Sign-up Began May 17, 2006**

Sign-up began May 17, 2006, for four crop and livestock assistance programs that will provide aid to producers affected by the destructive 2005 hurricanes. The programs will be administered through USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), and producers may apply at their local FSA office. To be eligible for this assistance, a producer's loss must have occurred in one of 261 counties that received a primary presidential or secretarial disaster designation due to 2005 Hurricanes Dennis, Katrina, Ophelia, Rita or Wilma. Assistance is unavailable for losses in contiguous counties. **Eligible counties in Alabama are: Autauga, Baldwin, Bibb, Butler, Chambers, Choctaw, Clarke, Clay, Cleburne, Coffee, Colbert, Conecuh, Covington, Crenshaw, Cullman, Dallas, Escambia, Geneva, Greene, Hale, Henry, Houston, Jefferson, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Marion, Mobile, Monroe, Perry, Pickens, Pike, Randolph, Sumter, Tuscaloosa, Washington, Wilcox, and Winston.** The four programs are:

- **The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** -- provides payments to eligible livestock owners and contract growers who incurred the death of livestock due to the hurricanes.
- **The Feed Indemnity Program (FIP)** -- provides payments to eligible livestock owners and cash lessees who suffered feed losses or increased feed costs due to the hurricanes.
- **The Hurricane Indemnity Program (HIP)** -- provides payments to eligible producers who suffered crop losses and received either a Federal Crop Insurance Corporation crop insurance indemnity or an FSA Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) payment.
- **The Tree Indemnity Program (TIP)** -- provides payments to eligible owners of commercially grown fruit trees, nut trees, bushes and vines that produce an annual crop and were lost or damaged due to the hurricanes.

More information on these programs is available at your local FSA Office and in the online fact sheets at: www.fsa.usda.gov. A sign-up ending date has not been announced.

FSA is Accepting Nominations for Local County Committee Members

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting nomination forms for eligible candidates to serve on local Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committees. **The nomination period is June 15, 2006, through August 1, 2006.** A nomination form (FSA-669A) signed by the nominee is needed to nominate a candidate for the County Committee Election. Individuals may nominate themselves or others. **All nomination forms must be received in the County FSA Office or postmarked by August 1, 2006.** Actual voting takes place from November 3 through December 4, 2006.

Producers should have already received, or will soon receive, a copy of a County Committee Elections Newsletter outlining the election process, along with a copy of form FSA-669A, Nomination Form for County FSA Committee Election. Nomination forms and fact sheets regarding the election are available at local FSA offices and online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections/>.

Producer Meetings -- FSA will conduct **informational meetings** regarding the 2006 County Committee (COC) Election process. Producers are encouraged to attend the meeting held in their county and get involved in the FSA 2006 COC Election. **Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact their local FSA Service Center Office, or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.**

Reminders:

July 14, 2006
--Final date to certify planted cotton acres for the Boll Weevil Eradication Program, and pay the assessment fee of \$3.75 per acre.

July 17, 2006
--Final date to report crop acreages
--Final date to report NAP acreage (except value loss and specialty crops)
-- Final date to report 2005 NAP production.

August 1, 2006
--Final date to request a reconstitution for 2006 DCP enrolled farm.

Boll Weevil Eradication will hold a Referendum

A grower referendum will be held for producers/owners who have an interest in or are growing cotton in 2006 and intend to grow cotton in 2007. Producers should vote, between June 14 and July 14, 2006, in their local FSA office on whether or not you would like to see the Boll Weevil Eradication program continued in Alabama.

Crop Year 2006 Loan/LDP Provisions

Marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments (LDP) are available for 2006 crop wheat, oats, corn, soybeans, grain sorghum, upland cotton, wool, mohair, honey, peanuts, barley, other oilseeds, crambe, sunflowers, and triticale. Hay and silage derived from the above commodities and unshorn pelts are eligible for LDP, but not for marketing assistance loans. To be eligible for loans and LDPs, producers must annually: (1) comply with Highly Erodible Land Conservation/Wetland Conservation Provisions (HELC/WC), (2) certify planted acreage reports for all crops and must account for all cropland, and (3) not violate controlled substance provisions.

For a commodity to be eligible for a loan, a producer must have beneficial interest in the commodity. Beneficial interest means the producer has complete control of the commodity, risk of loss in the commodity, and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan and LDP, even if beneficial interest is regained. For LDPs, producers must maintain beneficial interest through the date the LDP is requested. For loans, producers must maintain the beneficial interest through the date the commodity is redeemed from loan, or CCC takes title to the commodity.

Loans --All commodities pledged for Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loan must be free and clear of all liens, judgments, and other encumbrances. If not, lien waivers must be provided. Commodities pledged for CCC loan must be stored in approved on-farm storage or in warehouses approved by CCC for the storage of the particular commodity. Producers are responsible for maintaining the storability and quality of commodities stored on the farm. **Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs)** -- LDPs are payments made to producers who, although eligible to obtain a CCC loan, agree to forgo the loan in return for a payment on the eligible quantity. LDPs are only available when the "CCC-determined value" falls below the loan rate. LDPs may be obtained in the County Office or electronically on the internet.

A \$75,000 limitation exists for gains received on 2005 crop honey, wool, mohair, or peanut loans and LDPs. For all other commodities combined, there is an additional \$75,000 per year payment limitation. Loan rates and interest rates are available upon request at any County FSA Office or on the internet at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/psd/LoanRate.htm>. **For more information regarding loan and LDP provisions, please contact your local FSA Office.**

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