

Last Chance for 2004 Direct and Counter-Cyclical (DCP) Program

If you are one of the few producers who did not sign up for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), you still have time. **September 30, 2004 is the final date to apply** for the 2004 program; however it will cost you \$100 per farm. We may now issue advance DCP payments to farmers who signed cash lease certifications indicating they were renting cropland from a landowner from whom they previously rented. Final DCP payments will be issued in October. **Producers enrolled in DCP who transfer the land to another producer within the current fiscal year (Oct. 1 through Sept. 30) must notify our office of the change immediately.** A contract update is also required for a change of shares, or if a new producer is being added to or removed from a contract. All producers affected by the contract revision must sign form CCC-509 and agree to the requirements of the contract. **Failure to report changes may result in ineligibility for DCP payments for the appropriate year. If a change in interest occurs requiring a succession to the CCC-509, but the CCC-509 is not revised and signed by the successors by September 30th, NEITHER the predecessors nor the successors are eligible for the current year DCP payments on the farm.** If a succession-in-interest occurs and the parent farm was timely enrolled and the succession-in-interest is reported and all required signatures and supporting documentation is received by September 30th, then the late-filed fees do NOT apply. **Keep in mind that the CCC-509 CAN NOT be approved for a succession-in-interest until payments issued on the farm for the applicable year have been refunded by the predecessor(s) and all required signatures and documentation have been filed by the successor(s).** Payments cannot be issued to any producer on the farm until the refund of the overpayment due to a succession is received. DCP participants are required to control water and wind erosion and weeds including noxious weeds on ALL DCP base acres. Weeds are not an acceptable cover. Failure to control weeds or limit erosion on contract acres will cost you \$45.00/acre. Program benefits will be lost if the County Committee determines you failed to demonstrate a good faith effort to control weeds and/or erosion. Producers need to contact the county office prior to planting any fruits and/or vegetables on their contract base acreage. In Colorado County, fruits and vegetables can only be planted on non-contract base acreage.

Conservation Reserve Program Sign Up 29 and Public Comment Sought

Conservation Reserve Program general sign up 29 will begin Aug. 30 and run through Sept. 24. Landowners and operators may submit offers to enroll acreage into the program. Successful offers will become effective Oct. 1, 2005, or Oct. 1, 2006, at the producer's discretion. Land is eligible for sign-up if: 1) Land is currently enrolled in CRP and with contracts expiring September 30, 2004 or September 30, 2005, 2) New land that is NOT currently enrolled in CRP. Acreage currently enrolled in CRP that is scheduled to expire AFTER September 30, 2005 is NOT eligible for sign-up 29. A limited number of acres will be accepted for enrollment, and we will use the Environmental Benefits Index to rank the acreage offered. The index is based on

costs and five other factors: soil erosion, water quality, enduring benefits, air quality and wildlife enhancement. Landowners are encouraged to work with their county Farm Service Agency offices to maximize the environmental benefits of their Conservation Reserve Program offers. Additional conservation initiatives will be forthcoming including the Bobwhite Quail Habitat initiative scheduled to begin October 1, 2004 as well as an expanded Wetland Program to include playa lakes. Information and procedure to offer early re-enrollments and extensions of CRP contracts due to expire in 2007 and 2008 will be released following a required 120 public comment period. Further CRP information will be issued in future newsletters. In 2007, 16 million acres under CRP contract will expire. Another 6 million acres will follow in 2008, 4 million in 2009 and 2 million in 2010. President Bush's directive to offer early re-enrollment and extensions of existing contracts to current CRP participants underscores a commitment to full enrollment of CRP up to 39.2 million acres. A request for public comment on various aspects of CRP will be published in the Federal Register in early August 2004. Among other issues, USDA is seeking public comment on the following: 1) how to manage the large acreage set to expire from CRP; 2) how to manage future CRP sign-ups and acreage; 3) how to evaluate the program's environmental effectiveness; 4) how to better utilize information technology such as Geographic Information Systems that evaluate acreage for enrollment; and 5) how to improve CRP, including the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, through partnerships that better address local environmental issues. The Federal Register notice seeking public comment on CRP is available on FSA's Web site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> and also will be available soon at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>. Comments on the issues must be received in writing by 120 days after the date published in the Federal Register. Comments may be submitted in writing or electronically via the means provided in the notice.

2004 Loan Rates

The 2004 loan rates for the following crops in Colorado County are as follows:

Wheat – HRW	\$ 2.95	Bu.
Corn	\$ 2.12	Bu.
Grain Sorghum	\$ 3.70	Cwt.
Soybeans	\$ 5.02	Bu.
Rice - Farm Stored – Long Grain	\$ 6.98	Cwt.
Rice Whse Long Grain Whole Kernel	\$10.61	Cwt.
Rice Whse Long Grain Broken Kernel	\$ 5.31	Cwt.
Upland Cotton (Galveston)	\$0.5190	Lb.
Upland Cotton (Corpus Christi)	\$0.5170	Lb.

**THANK YOU
FOR CALLING AND
MAKING APPOINTMENTS!!!
979-732-8306, EXT 2**

**New Ewe Lamb Program
Still on Hold**

USDA has announced an \$18 million program to enhance the competitiveness of the domestic lamb and sheep industry and re-establish producers' purchasing power. The Ewe Lamb Replacement and Retention Program will pay producers \$18 per head for ewe lambs purchased or retained between Aug. 1, 2003, and July 31, 2004. **At this time, FSA has not yet received application forms and related provisions for this program, but we will notify you as soon as we do receive them and begin accepting applications.**

**FSA Accepting Emergency Loan Applications
Deadline October 12, 2004**

This is to remind producers that Colorado County was declared eligible for Farm Service Agency disaster emergency loans on February 10, 2004. Generally that means that farmers who have lost at least 30 percent of their production due to damages and losses caused by excessive rain that occurred from January 1, 2003, and continuing, are eligible for FSA loans. Proceeds from crop insurance are taken into account when determining eligibility. FSA Farm Loan Manager, Tim Respondek, is urging farmers who are interest in receiving an emergency loan to get their applications into FSA as soon as possible. Mr. Respondek said that he hoped farmers would get their applications in early rather than waiting until near the deadline which is October 12, 2004. Mr. Respondek indicated that the longer the wait, the more chance there is for long delays. If the applications come in early, we could avoid backlogs and speed up the process. Mr. Respondek can be reached at the Austin County FSA Office in Bellville at 979-865-3138.

**Approved CCC Warehouse
Terminated**

The Hungerford Grain Company, Inc, Hungerford, Wharton County, Texas has been removed as an approved warehouse for storing grain for Commodity Credit Corporation. This termination has been requested by the warehouse operator. This includes warehouse locations at Wharton (Wharton County) and Beasley (Fort Bend County).

**REMEMBER
NEW OFFICE HOURS
FOR COLORADO COUNTY FSA
Closed Wednesdays from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm
Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
8:00 am to 4:30 pm
Wednesdays
8:00 am to 12:30 pm**

Important Dates

Today	Farm Record Changes, Address Changes, Direct Deposit Financial Institution Changes, All Changes
Ongoing	Maintenance Requirements for DCP Contract Acreages, Fruit and Vegetable Violations on DCP Contracts, Sign-up for the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP), the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL), FSA Outreach Program
NAP Disaster	Active NAP participants – Contact the county office immediately but within 15 days of any disaster occurrence
Continuing	Accepting Emergency Loan Applications
Prior to Harvest	File 2004 Direct LDP Agreement – CCC-709 if beneficial interest is lost at harvest
September	Late-Filing of 2004 DCP Contracts Continues, Issue 2003 Final Rice, Cotton, Peanut Counter-Cyclical Payments, if applicable
September 1	NAP application closing date all small grains for grain and hay, including annual ryegrass for hay, Acreage reporting deadline for crop year 2005 (10/01/04 to 09/30/05) for aquaculture, turf grass, honey, ornamental nursery, full-season wheat, oats, and barley for grazing, fall/winter wheat, oats, barley for grazing, annual ryegrass, or any other winter type crop, small grain or grasses grazed
September 3	Last day to file nomination forms for COC election
September 6	Closed for Labor Day
September 24	Deadline for CRP Signup 29
September 30	Deadline to obtain late-filed missing signature and supporting documentation for DCP contracts, File 2004 CCC-502's - Farm Operating Plans for DCP, File 2004 AD-1026's –HELIC for DCP, Deadline for all Successions-in-Interest to 2004 DCP Contracts
October 1	2005 DCP Sign-up Begins, Issue Payments or Establish Receivables for 2003 Final Corn, Grain Sorghum, and Soybean Counter-Cyclical Payments, Issuing 2004 Final Direct Payments, Begin issuing 1 st Advance Counter-Cyclical Payments for 2004, if authorized
October 12	Deadline to Apply for Emergency Loan

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Colorado County Farm Service Agency

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Customer Statement **A New FSA Web-Based Tool**

The Farm Service Agency has launched a new Web tool to help producers track their participation in farm programs. The new Customer Statement allows producers to view participation and application status for conservation programs, program payments, farm loan information, and more. Access to the Customer Statement is available to all USDA customers. In order to insure privacy and security, a producer must first register on line for a USDA ID. The online process creates a user ID and password confirming an email address. The ID will be an important identifier as USDA begins to link more customer data from agencies across the department. To view a Customer Statement, visit <http://www.usda.gov> and click on the ***Customer Statement button***. Please call us if we can be of assistance in utilizing this new tool.

HTTP://WWW.FSA.USDA.GOV

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