



February 7, 2002

The Hartley County Harvester

**Hartley County FSA
District 1**
PO Box 177
Hartley, TX 79044-0177

Voice: (806) 365-4453
FAX: (806) 365-4446

Hours:
Monday-Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee:
Marvin Batenhorst
Joe Parker
Bud Snead

Minority Advisor:
Babette Spinhirne

Staff:
Glen Clugy, CED
Becky Brown, PT
Becky Voight, PT
Teresa Gates, PT

Regular Committee Meetings
held on the 3rd Wednesday of
each Month.

Dates to Remember

**March 29th -- Final date to
submit a request for
2002 EQIP Funds**
**April 1st -- Final date to
request a CCC loan or
LDP on 2001 Small
Grain Production**

Report Crop Damage

All producers are reminded that they should report any damage they discover in their growing crops within 15-days of discovering the damage to the crop. This notification applies to all crops including acres intended for forage (ie. haying and grazing) and native pastures.

With the recent snow and rain, the conditions of small grain pastures in the County may begin to improve, and if you:

- were unable to graze a portion or all of the acreage,
- had to reduce your stocking rate on the acreage, or
- had to supplemental feed the livestock above what you would normally feed,

your acreage may have been disaster affected and these conditions should be immediately reported to us if you haven't done so already. Failure to timely report the conditions could cause a loss of some FSA benefits.

Farm Reconstitutions

If you request or are required to divide or combine a farm, you must sign a new PFC contract within 30 days of written notification indicating the farm reconstitution has been completed. If a resulting farm is not enrolled by at least 1 producer within the 30-day timeframe, the contract base will be reduced to zero and the farm will no longer earn PFC payments.

Also, please note that non-participating and participating farms cannot be combined, and if 2002 PFC payments have been issued for a farm, it cannot be combined with another farm nor divided into separate farms.

2001 Small Grain Loans & LDPs

All producers are reminded that April 1st is the final date to request a CCC loan or LDP on their eligible 2001 wheat, oats, barley, canola, flaxseed, rapeseed, crambe, and sesame seed production.

Also, as of this date we have not received any authorization to issue loans or LDPs on wheat, oats, and barley production produced on a non-participating farm.

Spousal Signatures

Spouses are allowed to sign on behalf of each other unless written notification denying this privilege has been given to the office. Husbands and wives who have "official" joint ventures or partnerships must have a power of attorney on file to sign for the joint operation.

EQIP Signup

March 29th is the final date to submit a request for the 2002 Environmental Quality Incentive Program. EQIP is designed to address all the conservation concerns on your operation under one contract, and if you have some conservation measures you wish to perform on your farm or ranch, please contact this office or NRCS before the deadline.

Under the program, NRCS designs the plan and you determine when you can install the practices (EQIP contracts may be implemented over a 10-year period). When you complete a component, FSA can cost-share up to 75% of the installation cost.

CRP Extension Available

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants with contracts that expire on September 30, 2002, will have the opportunity to extend their contract for one additional year. Producers are afforded the option to extend all or part of the acreage, as long as the contract has not been in effect for more than 14 years as of September 30, 2002. The deadline to request a contract extension is May 31, 2002.

Please note that there is no general CRP signup scheduled for 2002, however, the Continuous CRP is available for landowners to enroll environmentally sensitive areas around intermittent and perennial waterbodies into filter strips or riparian buffers.

2001 Earning Statements

If you received an FSA program payment in 2001, you will receive a statement of payments from our data processing center.

County office personnel cannot provide tax advice to a producer regarding any payments issued from this office, however; if you are unable to reconcile the statement to your records, please contact us.

Foreign Landowners Take Note

The Agriculture Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires foreign investors who acquire or transfer any interest in agricultural land to report the land transaction to this office within 90 days of contract closings. This law states any foreign investor who fails to complete the required form could be assessed penalties up to 25% of the land's fair market value. This includes sales, purchases and vested interest in partnerships or other entities that are involved with land transactions.

On the World Wide Web:
USDA Washington Office
www.usda.gov
FSA Washington Office
www.fsa.usda.gov
Texas State FSA Office
www.fsa.usda.gov/tx
Hartley FSA
www.fsa.usda.gov/tx/tx205



**2002
AMTA
Contracts**

For the 2002 crop year, farmers can now update their Production Flexibility Contracts (PFC) and receive either two 50% payments or a single 100% payment for their farm. Payment shares must be updated before payments can be issued and a cash lease or owner signatures are required to be on file for rented land.

All producers sharing in contract payments on a farm whose payment shares have not been designated for a fiscal year must sign the contract designating their shares no later than August 1, 2002. If all producers have not signed the contract by August 1, no producers on the contract will be eligible for a payment on the farm.

**Planting
Flexibility**

Many farmers are evaluating their cropping options for the 2002-year. Producers enrolled in the 7-year AMTA farm program are reminded that any crop, except fruits and vegetables, may be planted in any quantity on contract acreage. Fruit or vegetable plantings of 2 acres or less may be planted as a garden for home consumption only on contract acres, and any crop, including fruits and vegetables may be planted on non-contract acres.

A planting violation occurs when fruits or vegetables are planted on contract acres and there is no established farm or producer history of planting fruits or vegetables or the fruit and vegetable double-cropping provisions have not been met.

Due to the severity of the penalties and/or payment reductions of planting fruits or vegetables on contract acres, we recommend that you check with this office before planting any fruit or vegetable crop on a farm participating in the AMTA program.

**Farming
Operation
Changes**

Any time you make a change in the farming operation, you should promptly report these changes to us. These changes include:

- adding or deleting farms which you have an interest in as an owner or operator,
- changes in your capital, equipment, land, labor, and management contributions,
- changing financial institutions,
- any address change including changes for the 911 system.

Promptly notifying us of any change in your farming operation helps us to serve you more effectively.

Holiday

This office will be closed on Monday, February 18th for President's Day.

If you have any questions about this newsletter or any FSA program, please come by this office or call us at (806) 365-4453 extension 2.