



May 20, 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

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

**Farm Loan Staff:**  
(Dalhart Office)  
Marc Lathem, FLM  
Barbara Koch, PT

Regular Committee Meetings  
held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of  
each Month.

## Farm Program Meetings

The Texas Agricultural Extension Service will be hosting a series of producer meetings across the Texas Panhandle to provide a general overview of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill) and its impact on your farming operation.

Two meetings for Hartley County producers will be held on Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The first meeting will be held in Dumas from 9:00 am to 11:25 am at the Moore County Community Building with the second meeting being held in Dalhart from 2:00 pm to 4:25 pm at the Rita Blanca Lake Coliseum.

We encourage every farmer and rancher to attend either of these meetings to get a general overview of the new Farm Bill. Additional meetings with more detailed specific information will be conducted by FSA once the Farm Bill regulations are published, but we hope that you will make plans to attend one these of meetings to get a better understanding of how the Farm Bill will affect you.

## 2002-2007 Farm Bill

With President Bush's signature, the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 has become law. Until USDA prepares the regulations regarding the implementation of the Act, this office will not have specific details regarding the program, however; you can obtain general information about the Bill on the internet at [www.usda.gov/farmbill/](http://www.usda.gov/farmbill/) or the full text of the Act can be obtained at <http://agriculture.house.gov/fbconf.txt.pdf>.

As additional information becomes available concerning the Farm Bill, we will keep you informed through this newsletter and producer meetings.

## NASS Reporting Helps You

USDA's National Agricultural Statistical Service will soon be asking farmers about their crops for the June Ag Survey. The survey collects acreage information on field corn, potatoes, small grains, and hay. This is a nationwide survey, but locally it helps provide crucial information about crop estimates, farm numbers and acreage. So if you receive a survey, please help NASS and complete the survey. And remember this information is kept strictly confidential and is exempt from requests under the Freedom of Information Act. The NASS report is separate from FSA acreage reporting requirements, but is equally important.

## Loan & LDP Deadline Approaching

May 31<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for requesting a commodity loan or LDP for 2001-year corn, sorghum, sunflower seed, and soybeans. Keep in mind the Posted County Price (PCP) is applied to any commodity loans you may have outstanding. If the PCP is below the loan rate, the difference is your loan repayment rate.

## Report Crop Losses

We encourage all producers to report any damage they discover in their growing crops to this office within 15-days of discovering the damage. To maintain maximum benefits, you must also report any discovered loss within 15-days to your FCIC agent if you have FCIC insurance on the crop or to this office if you have purchased a NAP policy for the crop.

## USDA Seeks Public Comment on Conservation Programs

Through June 30<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is seeking constructive comments on the Conservation Reserve program (CRP) and Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

Written comments can be sent to CRP PEIS, PO Box 6830, Falls Church, VA 22040-6830, emailed to [CRP@mangi.com](mailto:CRP@mangi.com), or telephoned in by calling 1-877-271-3842.

## FSA to Assist Crop Insurance

The Ag Risk Protection Act requires FSA to assist the Risk Management Agency (RMA) improve the integrity of the crop insurance program. We have been asked to monitor the program, report problems to RMA and assist RMA and insurance providers when auditing certain claims. FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to RMA. You are encouraged to report suspected cases of fraud or abuse to our office. We are not involved with the decision making process. We are merely assisting RMA by gathering facts and reporting observations as they pertain to weather and crop plantings, maintenance and harvest.

## Holiday

This office will be closed on Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup> for the Memorial Day Holiday. We hope you have a safe and happy Memorial Day.

### Dates to Remember

- May 23<sup>rd</sup> -- TAES Farm Bill Producer Meetings in Dumas and Dalhart
- May 27<sup>th</sup> -- Office Closed for Memorial Day
- June 1<sup>st</sup> -- Final Date to request a Farm Reconstitution
- July 15<sup>th</sup> -- Final Date to Report your Spring Seeded Crops & CRP

**On the World Wide Web:**  
USDA Washington Office  
[www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)  
FSA Washington Office  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)  
Texas State FSA Office  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/tx](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/tx)  
Hartley FSA  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/tx/tx205](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/tx/tx205)



***Farm Update  
Reminder***

Have you sold a portion of your farm or have you made changes to your farming operation? In some cases this may require a farm reconstitution. It is important to update your farm records before you request your PFC payment. Contact this office with any changes so we can update our records and prevent any delays in payments. The last day to request a reconstitution effective for the 2002 crop year is June 1<sup>st</sup>.

***Spring Seeded  
Crop & CRP  
Certifications***

Even though July 15<sup>th</sup> is the final date to report your spring seeded crops and CRP, we encourage you to report your planted acreage to us as soon as you plant them. With the implementation of the Farm Bill, reporting your acreage early may save you time by not having to wait. Also, before coming in to report you acreage, please call for an appointment time so that we may serve you more effectively.

***Texas FSA  
Launches  
New Web Site***

For more information regarding Farm Service Agency programs and services available to you, please visit our NEW Texas FSA Web Site. Log onto the Texas web site at [www.fsa.usda.gov/tx](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/tx). Feel free to submit constructive comments and suggestions via the email option on the state web page. This web page was designed to compliment the national web site by offering more Texas-specific content. Stay tuned for more web activity from Texas FSA as we roll out our district and county-level web sites in upcoming months.

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.