



May 1, 2003

The Hartley County Harvester

**Hartley County FSA
District 1**
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Hartley, TX 79044-0177

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

County Committee:
Joe Parker
Jason Schniederjan
Bud Snead

Minority Advisor:
Babette Spinhirne

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

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

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

Dates to Remember

**May 5th – Beginning of
CRP Signup**
**May 15th – Last Day to
Report 2003 Fall
Seeded Crop Acres**
**May 16th – Final Date to
Submit signed DCP
Based & Yield
Selection Documents**
**May 26th – Office Closed
for Memorial Day**
**May 30th – End of CRP
Signup**
**May 31st – Final Day to
Request a 2002 Feed
Grain LDP or Loan**
**June 2nd – Final Day to
Enroll a Farm into the
2002 or 2003 DCP
Farm Program**

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



CRP Sign-Up

A general Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) signup will be held from May 5 through May 30, 2003. This is the first general signup held since the enactment of the 2002 Farm Bill and the last general signup was conducted in early 2000.

CRP is a voluntary program available to agricultural producers to help them safeguard environmentally sensitive land. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control erosion, and enhance wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with annual rental payments and cost-share assistance. Depending on the covers planted, CRP contracts duration is between 10 and 15 years with the majority of Hartley County contracts being 10 years.

To be eligible, producers must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to the close of the signup, unless:

- a new owner acquired the land through inheritance,
- an ownership change occurred due to foreclosure where the owner exercised a timely right of redemption in accordance with state law, or
- the circumstances of the acquisition present adequate assurance to FSA that the new owner did not acquire the land for the purpose of placing it in CRP.

Land offered for placement in CRP must be cropland that is either planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity in 4 or the previous 6 crop years from 1996 to 2001 and which is physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity, or certain marginal pastureland that is enrolled in the Water Bank Program. Additionally, land which is currently enrolled in CRP and scheduled to expire on September 30, 2003 or September 30, 2004 may be eligible for re-enrollment during this signup period.

Offers for CRP made during this enrollment period will be ranked according to the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) achieved by the offer. Each eligible offer is ranked in comparison to all other offers made in the nation and selection of contract acceptance is made from this ranking. Only offers with a sufficient EBI score will be accepted into CRP, and the Secretary of Agriculture will announce the acceptable EBI score after the end of signup.

For more information on CRP, contact this office or visit FSA's CRP website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/crp.htm>.

LCP-II Signup

Did you miss the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) filing deadline last year? Applications are now being accepted for LCP-II for producers who were not paid for their eligible livestock during the previous LCP-I signup period.

As with LCP-I, producers who owned eligible livestock on June 1, 2002 can apply for this program. However; the livestock must have been owned for at least 90-days and the livestock must have weighed at least 500 pounds on June 1, 2001. Please note that this is not a new program and is only for livestock producers who did not receive benefits under last year's program.

For additional information or eligibility requirements, please contact this office or review the FSA LCP Fact Sheet at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/LCP03.htm>.

Please do not delay in making your application for this program with this office since the enrollment period is expected to end in early June 2003.

Fall Seeded Crop Acreage Reports

All producers who planted a fall seeded crop are reminded that the final date to report the acreage to this office is the earlier of 15-days prior to the onset of harvest (includes haying and grazing) or May 15th. Failure to accurately and timely report these acres could result in late-file penalties being applied.

Acreage reports are required of any producer who:

- Participates in DCP
- Requests an LDP or a commodity loan
- Participates in the 10 – 15 year Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Participates in NAP

If you are unsure of the correct acreage for each crop you plant, you may request that FSA measure the acres for a small fee. However; this measurement service request must be submitted by the May 15th deadline.

Know Your Plan!

Before you drop the plow in the ground, check your farm conservation plan established by NRCS. Make sure you know which fields on your farm are HEL (Highly Erodible Land). Remember that these fields call for a specific crop rotation and/or tillage requirement. If you have any questions about the plan, check with NRCS now. Failure to comply will cost you benefits.

**DCP
Update**

April 1 has come and gone. That means the deadline has passed to update bases and yields unless you started the update process before April 1st. If you started the process, you are required to submit all necessary signatures and documents to the office by May 16! Farms that don't meet this date will receive their PFC base and yield plus eligible oilseeds. Farms that were not enrolled in PFC will not have a base or yield, making them ineligible for DCP.

Farmers that participated in PFC and did not update their farm's bases and yields will have their farm records rolled over for DCP. Due to software limitations, it will take some time to get these records transferred over to DCP. We will complete this "default" method by May 16, 2003. Also, please note that June 2, 2003 is the deadline to apply for 2002 and 2003 DCP. Advance payments are now being issued so don't delay in getting your farms enrolled.

Under the DCP Farm Program, producers renting ground under a cash agreement with the landowner are required to provide the office a copy of the lease agreement to prove they are in control of the acreage for the crop year. In lieu of a written lease, the landowner may sign the DCP contract for zero shares. Advance DCP payments will be issued on rented property as long as a lease agreement is on file in our office. Farmers that cash-leased a farm last year, had it enrolled in PFC, and are working the ground again this year may sign a "cash-lease certification" form. This form fulfills the landowner signature requirement, but payments under this option can not be issued until July 1.

Only individuals with an interest in the crops being grown on the farm are eligible for DCP payments. Landowners that cash lease their entire farm are not entitled to DCP payments.

**Popcorn
Counts**

Did you plant popcorn between 1998-2001? If so, those acres can now be counted as corn acreage for DCP purposes. Contact the office now for details.

**Loan
Deficiency
and Price
Support
Loans
Available**

As you make your marketing plans for your 2003 crop production, don't forget that Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) and 9-month non-recourse CCC loans are available to you on your eligible production.

An LDP can be requested for eligible crop production that is grazed, hayed, or grained provided that a request is filed before you lose title, risk, and control (ie. beneficial interest) of the production. Producers who intend to harvest their crops, deliver the production immediately to a facility, and will lose beneficial interest in the production at delivery should make a request for their LDP prior to beginning harvest. This policy applies to all production delivered to feedlots and most grain production covered by a delivery contract unless the contract is worded properly. The best test for determining if beneficial interest is maintained is to ask yourself the question, "Would the facility that I delivered the commodity to allow me to have it back?" If no, you have probably lost control of the commodity and have also lost beneficial interest in the production.

LDPs are calculated on the difference between the commodity's loan rate and its Posted County Price in effect on the day of your LDP request (or delivery date if beneficial interest is lost at delivery). Currently, the Posted County Price for all commodities in the County have been above each crop's loan rate, therefore; LDP payments are not in affect. However; if prices fall, LDPs payments will be allowed, so protect your interests and check with this office on whether you should file a request.

9-month Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loans are also available through this office. Under this program, producers pledge their eligible commodity as collateral for a low-interest CCC loan and during the loan period, the loan can be repaid at the smaller of the loan principle plus interest or the crop's Posted Count Price on the day of the repayment. Additionally, at the end of the loan period, the loan collateral can also be forfeited to CCC in settlement of the loan.

The 2003 Hartley County Loan Rates are:

Wheat (bu.)	\$ 2.76	Corn (bu.)	\$ 2.27	Soybeans (bu)	\$ 4.66
Oats (bu)	\$ 1.44	Sorghum (cwt)	\$ 3.74	Sunflowers (cwt)	\$ 9.41
Barley (bu.)	\$ 1.90				

Through May 31st, LDPs and CCC Commodity loans can still be requested on 2002 corn, sorghum, soybeans, and sunflower production.

**Commod-
ity Loan
Borrowers**

2003 Commodity Loans will begin maturing soon. When moving grain and before repaying the loan, remember to request a CCC-681-1, Marketing Loan Authorization from the office. Loans mature on the first of the month.

**Crop
Disaster
Program**

Applications for 2001 or 2002 crops adversely affected by weather will be accepted starting June 6. Watch future newsletters for details or visit the national FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> for details concerning this program.

Holiday

This office will be closed on Monday, May 26th for the Memorial Day Holiday. We wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday and asked that you remember all those who have provided us our freedom by serving in our Armed Forces.

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.