



November 12, 2003

# The Hartley County Harvester

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

Voice: (806) 365-4453  
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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 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each Month.

***Dates to Remember***

- November 21<sup>st</sup>** – Final Day to Enroll in LAP
- November 27<sup>th</sup>** – Office Closed for Thanksgiving
- December 1<sup>st</sup>** – Final Day to Purchase or Renew 2004 Grass NAP Coverage
- December 1<sup>st</sup>** – Final Day to return Ballots for the 2003 COC Election

**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)
- FSA Outreach  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/outreach](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/outreach)
- 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)



## LAP Sign-Up Extended to November 21st

November 21, 2003 is the final date to apply for the Livestock Assistance Program (LAP). The program provides relief to livestock producers who suffered grazing and pasture losses due to drought, severe weather and related causes that occurred in either 2001 or 2002. Hurry in or contact our office for details. Please note that there are no late-filing provisions, so don't miss the November 21<sup>st</sup> sign-up date.

## 2003 DCP Final Direct Payments

Starting on October 1<sup>st</sup>, this office began issuing the 2003 final direct payments. Final payments represent the second half of the 2003 direct DCP payments. If an advance DCP direct payment was not issued, the total amount earned will be issued in the final payment.

The 2003 Direct payment rates are:

	Total Rate	Advance Rate	Final Rate
Wheat	\$.52/bu	\$.26/bu	\$.26/bu
Barley	\$.24/bu	\$.12/bu	\$.12/bu
Oats	\$.24/bu	\$.12/bu	\$.12/bu
Corn	\$.28/bu	\$.14/bu	\$.14/bu
Sorghum	\$.35/bu	\$.175/bu	\$.175/bu
Soybeans	\$.44/bu	\$.22/bu	\$.22/bu
Oilseeds	\$.008/lb	\$.004/bu	\$.004/bu

## 2003 Counter-Cyclical Payments

Secretary Veneman has announced the projected counter-cyclical payment rates for selected 2003 crops. The announced rates are:

	Total Rate	35% Advance Rate
Wheat	\$.09/bu	\$.26/bu
Corn	\$.22/bu	\$.077/bu
Sorghum	\$.04/bu	\$.014/bu
Cotton	\$.0573/lb	\$.0201/lb
Peanuts	\$.052/lb	\$.0182/lb

If requested when your farm was enrolled into the 2003 DCP, a 35 percent advance payment was issued in October 2003, and if applicable, a second 35 percent advance will be issued in February 2004. Final counter-cyclical payments will be issued in July 2004 for wheat and oats and October 2004 for corn, sorghum, and soybeans.

## Holiday

This office will be closed on Thursday, November 27<sup>th</sup> for Thanksgiving, and will reopen on Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. Have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving Holiday.

## 2004 DCP Sign-Up

Sign-up for the 2004 DCP began Oct. 1, 2003, and to serve you better, we ask that you contact this office to schedule an appointment to enroll your farm prior to coming in.

When updating the 2004 contract, you may elect to receive your advance direct payments any time from December 2003 through September 2004, and other program information that you need to be aware of are:

- Farm Changes – report any farming operation changes so that we can keep your records current. This includes changes in landownership, tenants or crop share arrangements.
- Plan to update your payment limitation documents and other program eligibility records starting in October 2004
- Reconstitutions – changes that require farm reconstitutions should be reported as soon as possible so we can update your records prior to 2004 DCP sign up.

## 2001-2002 Crop Disaster Program

This office continues to accept applications under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP). A final application date has not been announced, but don't wait. Come in and apply today.

To be eligible, a unit must have suffered a production loss of at least 35 percent in either 2001 or 2002. The program also includes compensation for quality losses. To be eligible for a quality adjustment, a unit must have at least a 20 percent loss in quality on the affected crop in either 2001 or 2002.

## Finding It Difficult to Make Ends Meet?

Call Farm Loan Manager Marc Lathem at FSA's Dalhart Office and maybe he can help. Direct and guaranteed operating loans provide money to purchase feed, pay bills, and refinance debt.

Ask about a guaranteed loan with interest assistance. This option allows FSA to reimburse the lender 4% of the interest rate. Current guaranteed borrowers should check with their lenders to see if this option is available on their loans.

Borrowers can also request servicing which may include reamortizing, restructuring or rescheduling loans, deferments, balloon payments, installment set-aside, and partial releases and subordinations.

Loan funds may be tight for the 2004 crop year. We encourage you to start thinking about next year's credit needs today!

## ***Loans For Socially Disadvantaged Applicants***

The Farm Service Agency can make direct and guaranteed loans to socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family-size farms and ranches. Funds for these loans are reserved each year.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Direct loans may be made to applicants by FSA for both farm operating and farm ownership loans. Guaranteed farm loans also may be made for ownership or operating purposes, and may be made by any lending institution subject to federal or state supervision (e.g., banks and units of the Farm Credit System) and guaranteed by FSA. FSA typically guarantees up to 90 percent of a loan against any loss that might be incurred if the loan fails. Although not typical, certain situations may warrant increased guarantees up to 95 percent.

Persons who are primarily and directly engaged in farming and ranching on family-size operations may apply. Socially disadvantaged loan applicants do not receive automatic approval. Individual applicants under this program must meet all requirements for FSA's regular farm loan program assistance.

For more information, contact Marc Lathem at the Dalhart USDA Service Center.

## ***National FSA Office Launches New Outreach Website***

This new Website serves to provide information to farmers and ranchers about FSA and our programs in an ongoing effort to increase participation by underserved customers including limited resource producers, socially disadvantaged producers and (racial) minority producers.

The Outreach Website can be accessed at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/outreach>.

## ***Spousal Signatures***

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule. Spouses may not sign FSA-211s on behalf of each other or sign on behalf of the other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Spouses must have a power of attorney on file or sign personally for claim settlements, such as promissory notes, and on security documents for price support loans.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

A spouse's authority to sign documents on behalf of the other spouse does not entitle the spouse to review or receive agency records of the other spouse.

## ***Report Changes in Your Farming Operation***

Any time you make changes in your farming operation, you need to keep your local FSA office up to date. Many changes you may take for granted could affect your eligibility for payments. Your farm operating plan, certified by you on form CCC-502, will need to be updated any time you:

- add or drop farms
- make changes in lease arrangements
- change the way labor and/or management are contributed to the operation.

Other significant changes that need to be reported to us are:

- changes in membership of a partnership or joint operation
- changes in stockholder interest or shares in an entity
- death of a producer
- establishment or settlement of an estate
- transfer of land, capital or equipment to a limited partnership
- forming new entities for estate planning purposes.

If your farming operation changes in any way, it is better to discuss it with your local FSA office ahead of time than to wait until the change becomes apparent during an audit of your records. If you are not certain whether a change needs to be reported, call and ask and we will be glad to discuss it with you.

## ***2003 COC Election***

Producers in LAA #1 (western portion of the county) are reminded that they will soon be receiving a ballot for the 2003 County Committee Election in the mail. If you do not receive a ballot and you think you should have, please come by this office and pick one up. We encourage each producer to vote in this election and return their ballots to this office by the December 1, 2003 voting deadline.

## ***NAP Deadline Approaching***

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) can soften financial losses caused by natural disasters, but only if you've timely applied for coverage and paid the application fee. The deadline to purchase or renew Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on your 2004 native and improved grass acreage is December 1, 2003.



We wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving.

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.