



January 27, 2004

The Hartley County Harvester

Hartley County FSA District 1
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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

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

January 30th - Final Day to enroll in the 2001/2002 Crop Disaster Program
February 16th - Office Closed for President's Day

On the World Wide Web:

USDA Washington Office
www.usda.gov

FSA Washington Office
www.fsa.usda.gov

FSA Outreach
www.fsa.usda.gov/outreach

Texas State FSA Office
www.fsa.usda.gov/tx

Hartley FSA
www.fsa.usda.gov/tx/tx205



2001-2002 Crop Disaster Program (CDP)

January 30th is the final date for producers to file an application for the 2001/2002 Crop Disaster Program. Producers not filing an application by this date will not be eligible for the program.

To qualify, you must have incurred a 35% production loss or 20% quality loss due to damaging weather or related conditions for the 2001 or 2002 crop years.

CDP includes insured crops, uninsured crops and non-insurable crops. A payment limitation of \$80,000 is in effect.

2004 DCP Sign-Up Underway

Producers can now enroll their farms into the 2004 Direct & Counter-Cyclical Farm Program. Unlike previous years, producers are reminded that they have to enroll their farms each year if they wish to participate in the program for the year, however; producers can now also elect not to participate in 2004 and then enroll the farm again in future years.

Farmers who want to enroll and update their contracts for 2004 need to address the following land and business issues.

- Will you continue to rent the same property you rented last year? If not, notify the office so we can update your farm records or perform a reconstitution to remove land from your farming operation.
- If the land in your operation won't change, do you have a signed lease from the landowner? A signed rental agreement indicating you have land cash leased for 2004 is required to receive an advance payment.
- A cash-rent certification may be used if you rented the land last year, however, an advance payment cannot be issued for the farm until June 1, 2004.
- Are you changing the structure of your operation? For example, is the farm converting from an individual to a partnership or Limited Liability Corporation (LLC)? Are you changing shares within the business or is one of the shareholders leaving the business? These questions need to be answered prior to sign-up.

All farmers who share in the risk of producing a crop on the base acres are entitled to and must share in the DCP payment regardless of the crop planted. Landowners who do not have an interest in the crop or share in the risk of producing a crop are not eligible to receive a DCP payment.

Please contact this office to arrange an appointment to get your farms enrolled.

2004 Advance DCP Payments

We can now issue 2004 direct payments under the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program. Update your DCP contract and put the advance payment to work for your farm today. The advance rates are:

Commodity	50 % Direct Advance
Wheat	\$.26 per bushel
Oats	\$.012 per bushel
Barley	\$.12 per bushel
Cotton	\$.03335 per pound
Corn	\$.14 per bushel
Sorghum	\$.175 per bushel
Soybeans	\$.22 per bushel
Oilseeds	\$.004 per pound
Peanuts	\$ 18.00 per ton

Commodity Prices Rise

Producers who requested and accepted 2003 crop year advance counter-cyclical payments run the risk of having to refund those payments if market prices end up substantially higher than originally projected.

In the case of cotton prices, a review of current market information provided by a non-USDA source indicates the trend could result in a smaller than projected counter-cyclical payment. Given this information, producers who accepted a first advance payment might consider the possibility that they'll have to refund part of the payment in the future.

Sometime in February, USDA will announce its revised projection for the 2003 counter-cyclical payments. If it's significantly lower than first projected, there may not be a second advance. If there is a second advance--and producers still expect the price to remain high--then they may opt to decline the second advance. Keep in mind that there will not be any counter-cyclical payments for a crop if the 12-month average price is equal to or greater than the following.

Commodity	Max 12-Month Price	1 st Advance Based On
Wheat (bu.)	\$ 3.40	\$ 3.31
Cotton (lb.)	\$.6573	\$.60
Corn (bu.)	\$ 2.35	\$ 2.13
Sorghum (bu.)	\$ 2.22	\$ 2.18
Peanuts (ton)	\$ 459.00	\$ 355.00

Holiday

This office will be closed on Monday, February 16th for President's Day.





Texas FSA Receives Prestigious Partnership Award

Texas Cooperative Extension recognized Texas FSA for their efficient, effective and proactive response to the demands of the 2002 Farm Bill and their willingness to forge a successful, mutually beneficial partnership with Extension at both the State and County levels. Together,

Extension and FSA co-sponsored more than 200 regional and county-level producer meetings enabling Texas producers to make informed, educated decisions regarding the complex 2002 Farm Bill legislation.

Texas FSA would like to thank Texas Cooperative Extension for recognizing the merits of our long-standing partnership.

Foreign Landowner Notifications

Foreign investors, who buy, sell or hold a direct or indirect interest in U.S. agricultural land must report their holdings and transactions to the Secretary of Agriculture through the FSA. Failure to timely file an accurate report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land. Contact your local FSA office to file the appropriate report.

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of one another as individuals 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 staff by either spouse.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities including vision or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the FSA office and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are needed.



FSA Launches National Web Site for Kids

Parents, teachers and kids - visit the newly developed FSA Web Site for kids and experience educational fun and interactive games pertaining to agriculture. The web Site can be accessed at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/fsakids>. Coloring books, cook books and other fun materials can be downloaded and printed at school or home. FSA is developing a similar web site for Teens to be launched in the near future - stay tuned.

FAXED Signatures

Certain FSA program applications may be accepted by facsimile (fax) machine if Form FSA-237 - Facsimile Signature Authorization and Verification, is on file. This authorization form should be completed, signed and witnessed by the FSA office staff, or notarized and must be on file prior to the office accepting a faxed signature. Please note, not all programs offered by the agency can accept application via fax.

Record Changes

If you have purchased, sold or are renting different land, make sure you report the changes to the FSA office as soon as they occur. For farm ownership changes you must provide a recorded deed or recorded land contract. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land in which you have an interest can lead to possible program ineligibility, loss of program payments and fines if you are participating in FSA programs.

It is also your responsibility to notify FSA of ANY changes in your farming operation or entity status throughout the year. Changes that could affect a determination include, but are not limited to a change in contract shares which may reflect change of land lease from cash rent to share rent or from share rent to cash rent; modification of a variable/fixed bushel rent arrangement; a change in the size of the producer's farming operation by the addition or deletion of a farm; a change in the structure of the farming operation, including any change in the member's shares; a change in the contributions of farm inputs of capital, equipment, active personal labor, or active personal management; and a change of farming interest not previously disclosed on CCC-502 or update, including the farming interests of a spouse or minor child.

Conservation Compliance

All participants in USDA programs are required to have a conservation system in place on all highly erodible land (HEL). Several areas where compliance problems can arise include: renting new cropland, purchasing new land, breaking out additional cropland, changing cropping rotations, and changing or removing existing conservation practices. It is very important that you contact the FSA and/or NRCS office before doing any of the above. Also, it is very important that you contact our office before modifying - tiling, draining, dredging, filling or leveling - any wetland or drainage ditch. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these actions may result in loss of all Federal payments and eligibility.

Direct Deposit is Mandatory

As of January 1, 1999, all payments issued by the county FSA office will be by direct deposit (electronic funds transfer) to a pre-designated checking or savings account with your financial institution. Forms are available at the FSA office to sign up for direct deposit. For those already signed up, it is important that we are notified anytime there is a change in your account number or financial institution. If we aren't notified, future payments can be delayed or lost for a period of time.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium poppies and other drug producing plants. Additional controlled substance requirements for certain USDA programs could include violations for possession and distribution.

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.