

Colfax County News

November 2007



Livestock Compensation Program

USDA's Farm Service Agency provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed losses or incurred additional feed costs directly resulting from natural disasters occurring between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007. Livestock producers may elect to receive compensation for losses in counties declared secretarial or presidential disaster areas. Eligible livestock are beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine sheep, goats, or swine that have been physically present in an eligible county have been maintained for commercial use as a part of a farming operation on the beginning date of the disaster. To be eligible producers must have owned or cash-leased eligible livestock for the applicable disaster period. Livestock Assistance Grant Program Payments received in 2006 will be deducted from your payments. Sign-up for LCP began September 10, 2007 and livestock producers must submit applications in their administrative county FSA office

County Committee Elections

Ballots for this year's county committee election were mailed to eligible voters on November 2, 2007. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 3, 2007. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 3, 2007. Ballots will be counted at the county committee meeting on December 10, 2007. The candidates in this year's election are Jose C. Torres and Alice M. Moore. **PLEASE CAST YOUR BALLOTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THESE PEOPLE ARE YOUR VOICE IN PROGRAMS AND ADMINISTRATION DECISIONS.**

NAP

NAP provides financial assistance to producers on noninsurable crops when low yield, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters. Crops must be noninsurable and grown for food, livestock consumption. Eligible disasters are drought freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive wind, flood, heat, disease or insect infestation. Producers must apply for coverage and pay the applicable fee. The service fee is \$100 per crop per county not to exceed \$300 per producer per county and not to exceed \$900 for multiple counties. Coverage begins 30 days after application coverage fees have been paid. A report of acreage must be filed to verify existence of the cropland and record the number of acres covered by the application. Acreage reports are combined with production reports to calculate approved yields. The approved yield is the average of you actual production history for a minimum of 4 years to a max of 10 years. When a natural disaster occurs, a Notice of Loss must be filed within 15 days. To receive benefits natural disasters must reduce production by more than 50%. **The last day to purchase coverage for native grass, mixed forage or alfalfa is January 31, 2008.**

Changing Financial Institutions

Farm Service Agency Payments are made electronically using direct deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been calculated that having a problem with payments is 20 times greater with checks than with direct deposit. Another benefit is that direct deposit to your account can be within 48 hours. To keep the system running smoothly, it's important to keep the county office up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions. If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure uninterrupted service.

Land Sales

If you're planning to sell farmland, there may be some program consequences of which you should be aware. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't want to continue the CRP contract, you might have to refund all of the payments you've received to date. Reviewing program implications with your Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.

Monthly County Committee Meetings

The December meeting will be held on Monday, December 10, 2007 at 1:00 PM in the Federal Building Room 206. The meeting has been changed from the second Tuesday to count ballots for the committee election.



Happy Thanksgiving



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To file a complaint, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC, 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5962 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

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