

Texas/Dent County  
USDA Service Center

**Texas/Dent County FSA**

1-800-879-8894 toll free  
417-967-2028(phone)  
417-967-4059(fax)  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/mo](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo)

**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**County Committee**  
Shirley Best  
Jim Freeman  
Jerry Kiser  
Oran Naramore

County Committee  
meets the first Tuesday  
of each month at 9:00.

**Staff**  
Elvie Younger, CED  
Loretta Hinton, PT  
Lori Martens, PT  
Amy Peiter, FLM  
Kelly Arnold, FLOT  
Debi Huff, FLPT



## SURE Signup

Signup for the 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE) began on January 4, 2010. SURE 2008 is for those who suffered crop production losses during crop year 2008.

SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm. Total farm revenue takes into account the actual value of production on the farm as well as insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments. Producers with a farming interest physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Agriculture Secretary must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. Producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or NAP coverage, for all economically significant crops. For 2008 crops, producers had the opportunity to obtain a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through a buy-in provision. Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage. If there is no Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may also be eligible for SURE if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster. For SURE, a farm is defined as all crops in which a producer had an interest nationwide. For more information on the new SURE program, please visit the county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

## NAP Coverage Deadline

**March 15<sup>th</sup>** is the last day for producers to apply for Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage using Form CCC-471, Application for coverage and pay the service fee. To download the electronic “NAP Basic BP go to: [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/ccc\\_471\\_nap\\_bp.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/ccc_471_nap_bp.pdf).

The application and fee must be filed by **March 15<sup>th</sup>, the deadline date for 2010 spring planted crops which include: forage sorghum, oats, potatoes, soybeans, sunflowers and all spring planted specialty crops grown for food.**

The service fee is \$250 per crop, per county or \$750 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1875 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees. To qualify, a producer must be a landowner, tenant or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop.

## Kansas City Mails 1099-G

Producers receiving payments from FSA should also receive a CCC-1099-G from the Kansas City office. A 1099-G is a report to the Internal Revenue Service about FSA payments made to you during the previous calendar year. It is still the program participant’s responsibility to report income to the IRS. If you received a CCC-1099-G, we recommend that you check the amounts shown with those in your records to see that amounts are correct. Refunds will not be reported on the CCC-1099-G, but will be available online from the FSA Financial Inquiries (FSA-FI) web-based database. Program participants with eAuthentication user ID’s and passwords can access their refund information at FSA-FI and select “Inquiry Type 1099/Refund Reports”. The Debt Collection Improvement Act requires all Federal payments to be offset for all delinquent Federal debt. Beginning in Aug. 2009, all FSA payments were sent to the Department of Treasury. Therefore, if a producer’s ID number matched the delinquent Federal debt, the Treasury Dept. will make an offset of the FSA payment. Producers may still see \$1 or more payment from FSA when these offsets occur but a letter from Treasury should also be received.

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## County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Jerry Kiser! Jerry was re-elected to represent farmers from LAA 1 which is landowners East of Highway 63 on the county committee. Jerry was elected to his second consecutive term.

The minutes of each monthly meeting are posted in the office. The Committee meets the second Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. The meeting only changes in the case of unforeseen circumstances.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation. The committee members will hold their organizational meeting in January to determine who will serve as the county committee chairman and vice-chairman.

## Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA. All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

## 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.

## Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

## Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

## Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

## FSA Signature Policy

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA 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. There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, corporations or other similar entities. Individual signatures are required on certain programs.

## Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)

FSA is currently accepting applications from biomass facilities interested in participating in the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP). BCAP provides financial assistance to producers or entities that deliver eligible biomass material to designated biomass conversion facilities for use as heat, power, bio-based products or bio-fuels. Initial assistance will be for the collection, harvest, storage and Transportation (CHST) costs associated with the delivery of eligible materials. Once an agreement is signed between FSA and a facility allowing funding through the program to become available, the facilities can begin accepting materials.

Producers who sell these materials can apply for matching payments under the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) component of BCAP. A biomass material producer is eligible to receive payments for two years. The purpose of the matching payments is to assist biomass producers with the CHST cost of delivering biomass to a qualified biomass conversion facility. Once a facility becomes qualified, eligible material owners or producers who deliver biomass to that facility may be eligible to receive CHST payments.

Eligible material owners or producers, who market eligible material to a qualified biomass conversion facility, may apply for the matching CHST payment at their FSA county office. An application must be submitted before the eligible material is sold and delivered to a qualified biomass conversion facility. After the product is delivered, a producer must provide FSA with documentation of product quantity, quality and payment rate. County offices will validate payment requests with information in the county office and information provided under the terms of MOUs with the qualified biomass conversion facilities.

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## AGI and Actively Engaged

USDA has finalized a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to USDA. This agreement will ensure that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs. Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules **must annually certify their eligibility to receive benefits** by either submitting a statement from a certified public accountant or an attorney, or by completing form CCC-926. This form may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainervlet>.

USDA has amended the rules that govern the requirements to be 'actively engaged' in farming.

Every stockholder or member of a legal entity, such as a corporation, does not have to contribute labor or management if both of the following apply:

- at least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management that altogether qualifies as a significant contribution to the farming operation;
- the total direct payments received, both directly and indirectly, by the legal entity and each of the members does not exceed \$40,000.

## LDP Deadline on Unshorn Lamb Pelts

Eligible producers have until February 1, 2010, to apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for unshorn pelts produced during the 2009 crop year. Eligible producers must have beneficial interest in the pelts, owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. Producers must also comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands on which they operate or have interest.

To qualify for payment, pelts must have been produced by an eligible producer from live unshorn lambs of domestic origin in the United States.

## Livestock Indemnity Program

Due to the current and impending weather conditions, livestock producers need to be aware of the application process for the Livestock Indemnity Program for livestock losses incurred during the 2010 calendar year.

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from disaster. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold. Eligible losses must **have** occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2010 and before December 31, 2010.

This program will provide livestock producers with a vital safety net to help them overcome the damaging financial impact of natural disasters.

Eligible ranchers and livestock producers must file a notice of loss within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent and an application for payment no later than January 30, 2011. Livestock deaths due to eligible adverse weather events must have occurred no later than 60 calendar days from the ending date of the adverse weather event.

Eligible livestock for owners under LIP includes Adult/non-adult dairy cattle, Adult/non-adult beef cattle, Adult/non-adult buffalo and beefalo, Equine as part of the farming operation, Elk, Deer, Sheep, Goats, Alpacas, Llamas, Emus, Poultry, and Swine.

Animals born at normal full-term or near full-term shall qualify if both the death was the direct result of an eligible adverse weather event and the birth produced a fully developed carcass that normally would have survived under normal weather conditions. Feedlot cattle will be eligible under LIP if all other eligibility criteria are met.

When application is submitted, participants must provide documentation of livestock deaths by either verifiable documentation or producer records, pictures with date really help, in conjunction with verifiable beginning and ending inventory records. Contact the county office for examples of documenting both normal death losses and losses due to adverse weather.

**ARMS: AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SURVEY**

ARMS is the USDA's primary source of information on the production practices, resource use, and economic well-being of America's farm households.

**Your participation in ARMS ensures that decisions affecting you, your family, your business, and your community are based on the facts, straight from the source.**

**CONSIDER:** Just about every Federal policy and program that affects U.S. farmers and farm families is based on this information.

For more information visit [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov) or call (800) 727-9540

**BETTER DATA = BETTER DECISIONS**

Selected Interest Rates for January 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.875%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.75%
Limited Resource Loans	5.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer, Rancher or Socially Disadvantaged	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7-yr.	2.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 10-yr.	3.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 12-yr.	3.750%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.375%

Dates to Remember	
February 2	County Committee meets @ 9
February 15	Closed. President's Day
March 15	NAP Sales Closing Date - Forage & Spring-seeded Crops
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

Visit our website at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/mo](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo)

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