

Texas/Dent County FSA
USDA Service Center

Texas/Dent County
6726 Highway 63
Houston, MO 65483

417-967-2028 (phone)
417-967-4059 (fax)
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.

Staff:

Elvie Younger, CED
Loretta Hinton, PT
Lori Martens, PT

Amy Peiter, FLM
Kelly Arnold, FLOT
Debi Huff, FL PT



2010 County Committee Elections

The election for county committee members will be this fall. It is important that every eligible producer participate in the elections because FSA county committees (COC) are a link between the community and USDA. COC members are a critical component of FSA operations. The nomination period ended August 2, 2010. Ballots will be mailed out to eligible voters on Nov. 5, 2010. The last day to return voted ballots will be Dec. 6. The newly elected committee members will take office on January 1, 2011. Elections will be held for LAA2, landowners East of Hwy 63 in Texas county and LAA 4, landowners West of Highway 19 and Highway 68 in Dent county.

SURE Sign-up Ends Sept. 30.

The deadline to submit 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) program payment applications is close of business on September 30, 2010. Contact the county office to schedule an appointment. SURE provides financial assistance for 2008 crop production and or quality losses caused by natural disasters.

ACRE Yield Data Deadline Extended

The deadline for 2009 production certification to comply with ACRE was extended until Sept 1, 2010. The extension is for completing both the farm benchmark yield (2004 through 2008) and the actual farm yield (2009). Participants in the 2009 ACRE program must certify their yields by Sept 1, 2010 to remain eligible for ACRE benefits.

NAP Closing Dates

The 2011 NAP coverage purchase deadline for the following crops are:

- Value loss crops such as nurseries: 9/01/10
- Small grain grazing acreages: 9/30/10
- Small grain acreages that will be harvested as forage: 9/30/10
- Small grain inter-seeded in perennial grasses: 9/30/10

The final date to purchase NAP coverage on perennial crops such as native improved grasses is March 15, 2011.

NOTE: NAP coverage is a requirement for all non-insurable crops in order to qualify for benefits received under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) program.

Eligibility for LFP, ELAP and SURE may also be maintained by purchasing **Pasture Rangeland, Forage Index (PRF) pilot insurance program. PRF is administered by Risk Management Agency and policies are sold by crop insurance agents.** Policies for 2011 coverage may only be purchased from September 1 through September 30, 2010. More information can be found at <http://www.rma.gov> or visit your crop insurance agent. If you do not have an agent, you can find one online using the RMA agent locator at <http://www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agent.html>.

REMINDER: Risk Management Purchase Requirement (RMPR): NAP or PRF coverage is a requirement in order to qualify for benefits received under the Livestock Forage Program (LFP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) and Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) program.

DROUGHT 2010?

In the 2008 Farm Bill, Congress wrote into law a permanent disaster law. In this law, Congress stated that a livestock producer needed to share in the risk by purchasing NAP (Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) insurance. This program was a USDA program which covered all crops not insured by private insurance companies. Before 2008, NAP insurance premiums were \$100.00 per crop. After 2008, the NAP insurance premiums were \$250.00 per crop and a producer had to have a 50 percent loss to qualify and would be paid for the percent of loss over 50 percent. The pasture loss is based on a producer's hay loss. If you do not have at least a 50 percent loss of hay, then you will not be eligible for pasture loss.

The advantages of having NAP insurance is that you have to have it to qualify for payment in the event there is a disaster.

Private insurance companies now sell Rangeland and Forage Insurance. This insurance is based on rainfall and/or the percentage of rainfall coverage that you choose. This private insurance will also qualify you for USDA benefits. For more information on this program, you will need to call a private insurance agent who sells this type of insurance. Farm Credit Service (FCS) formerly known as Production Credit Association (PCA) offers this type of insurance. The CLOSING DATE for this type of insurance is **SEPTEMBER 30, 2010**, for the 2011 crop year.

Remember if a drought occurs, you will need either NAP grazing or Rangeland and Forage Insurance for your pasture to qualify for the Livestock Feed Program. The deadline for purchasing NAP insurance through USDA is March 15, 2011.

WHO DETERMINES DATE OF DROUGHT (Out of Handbook 1-LDAP Par. 171 B)

The National Office personnel will monitor the U.S. Drought Monitor and will notify applicable State and County Offices on a weekly basis of those counties eligible for LFP (Livestock Feed Program) because of a qualifying drought. The National Office will determine the beginning date of a qualifying drought by pasture type and will notify applicable State and County Offices of the beginning date of a D2, D3, or D4 drought intensity rating. The COC will use the beginning date of each qualifying drought to determine the eligibility of covered livestock.

Actively Engaged

FSA wants to remind producers about the rules that govern the requirements to be 'actively engaged' in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by FSA.

Normally the stockholder or a member of a legal entity **must** make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management. The contributions are to be performed on regular basis, must be identifiable, and separate from the contributions of others. The exception to this rule for a stockholder or member of a legal entity only occurs 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; and
- Total direct payments received directly and indirectly, by the legal entity and each of the members can't exceed \$40,000.

Electronic Services Available

If a producer has Internet access, program participants can access many services from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive approval and payment by direct deposit.

To participate in these services, you must meet all program eligibility requirements. Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private information.

To utilize electronic services a producer needs an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires an e-mail address and filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification. If you have more questions, or would like assistance establishing your account, just contact your local USDA Service Center and talk with our trained FSA personnel.

Wetland Compliance

Producers renting or purchasing land that may have a converted wetland status need to check with the county office to learn if there are restrictions.

Farm Bill regulations provide that, unless exempt, persons are ineligible for benefits under certain programs administered by USDA if they:

- plant an agricultural commodity on wetland that was converted after December 23, 1985
- convert a wetland after November 28, 1990

FSA may not approve any loan or loan guarantee to drain, dredge, fill, level or otherwise manipulate a wetland, or to engage in any activity that results in impairing or reducing the flow, circulation or reach of water except in the case of activity related to the maintenance of previously converted wetlands.

Continued from Wetland Compliance

The following provides permitted uses and restrictions of certain wetlands for compliance with wetland compliance provisions:

- wetlands can be farmed under natural conditions, but not converted
- wetlands converted before November 28, 1990, cannot be planted to an agricultural commodity and retain eligibility for benefits
- wetlands converted after Nov. 28, 1990, must either be restored to wetland status or mitigated to regain eligibility for program benefits.
- wetlands that can be farmed under natural conditions cannot be manipulated in any way, unless the Natural Resources Conservation Service determines the work would have a minimal effect on the wetland values
- wetlands converted before December 23, 1985, can be farmed and maintained

Continuous CRP Available

Environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the Continuous CRP will be eligible for annual rental payments and cost-share of up to 50 percent on approved practices. These programs will remain funded, and continue to provide heightened environmental benefits on select areas.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available. If you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan, ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner. Emergency loans are available only as direct loans from FSA with a maximum of \$500,000. These loans assist farmers who have suffered physical or production losses in disaster designated areas. In order to qualify, a farmer must have suffered a 30 % loss in production or an actual physical loss that was essential to the successful operation of the farm. Emergency loans for actual losses are made at an interest rate of 3.75% to those eligible applicants unable to obtain the actual credit needed from another source.

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median farm acreage

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit

www.fsa.usda.gov

Loans for Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of socially disadvantaged applicants. 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. If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Preventing Fraud

The Farm Service Agency supports the Risk Management Agency in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will continue to refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA. Producers can report suspected cases to the FSA office, RMA, or the Office of the Inspector General.

Visit our website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

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