



**March/April 2008**

# **Box Elder County News**

**Box Elder County  
USDA Service  
Center**

Box Elder County  
FSA  
85 S 100 E  
Tremonton, UT  
84337

**Phone**  
435-257-5402  
**Fax**  
435-257-1930

**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30  
p.m.

**County Committee**  
Kent McMurdie  
Chairperson  
Laurie Munns  
Vice Chairperson  
Curtis Marble  
Member

**Advisor**  
Tamara Wood

**Staff**  
James Hall CED  
Scott Bown FLM  
Marc Henrie FLO  
Julie Richins PT  
Marilyn Pali PT  
Barbie Madsen PT  
Sherry Funk PT

## **Crop Disaster Program (CDP)**

Farmers who suffered crop losses because of natural disasters may be eligible to receive benefits through the new Crop Disaster Program.

You may be eligible if you suffered losses from natural disasters that occurred in 2005, 2006 or 2007. The Crop Disaster Program has been amended to include all crops planted for the 2007 crop year. This would include all spring planted crops. Producers who filed a 2005 or 2006 Crop Disaster application may want to re-evaluate their 2007 losses to make sure maximum benefits are received under this program. Producers must have suffered losses in excess of 35 percent of their expected production to qualify.

Note: Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of the loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.

Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year for which to receive benefits. They may receive benefits for multiple crop losses if all were in the same crop year.

Eligible damaging conditions would include drought, excessive moisture, hail, excessive wind and freeze.

Don't miss this opportunity to receive benefits for crop losses you may have suffered in 2005, 2006, or 2007. Please call ahead for an appointment.

## **Rural Youth Loans**

Remember FSA makes operating loans to individual rural youth age 10 through 20 to establish and operate an income producing, agriculture related, and educational project. These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, carried out by rural youth participating in 4-H Clubs, FFA, or a similar organization or with a vocational teacher or county extension agent. The project must be an organized and supervised program of work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. Contact your local FSA office for more details.

## **Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)**

Livestock producers in Box Elder County who suffered forage losses due to the designated disaster in 2007 may be eligible for benefits under this program.

The program has been amended to include 2007. Producers must choose only one year for which to receive benefits. Producers who have already signed up for the 2006 year program, but who had more animal numbers in 2007, may want to come into the office and re-evaluate their application so that maximum benefits are received.

Eligible livestock include beef cattle, equine, elk, sheep and goats. To be eligible, livestock must have been located in an eligible county on January 1 of the applicable year and must have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation.

Please provide our office with the following information when you come in to apply:

- Animal numbers on January 1, 2007 of the applicable year.
- Producers who run on BLM, Forest Service or State Lands must bring in their billing statements for the applicable year so that we can determine how many AUM's you paid for during the grazing season.

Note: Animal numbers need to be very accurate. If you are selected for spot-check and are currently running fewer animals than certified, you will be required to provide sales documentation/ or other documentation showing what happened to the animals.

## **Value Added Agricultural Market Development Grant Program (VAPG)**

The Notice of Solicitation of Applications (NOSA) for the above referenced program for FY 2008 has been issued. There is 18.4 million dollars available in this program nationwide for fiscal year 2008. This is a nationwide competitive program.

The purpose of this program is to increase value-added profit margins to producers of agricultural commodities. Grant funds can be used to develop business plans and develop strategies for creating marketing opportunities. Grant funds may also be used for feasibility studies and to provide capital to establish alliances or business ventures that allow value added agricultural product producers to better compete in domestic and international markets.

Grant funds cannot be used for planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of a building or a facility (including a processing facility), or for the purchase, rental, or installation of fixed equipment.

Independent producers, eligible agricultural producer groups, farmer or rancher cooperatives or majority controlled producer based business ventures are eligible to apply.

The maximum award per grant is \$100,000 for planning grants and \$300,000 for working capital grants and matching funds are required.

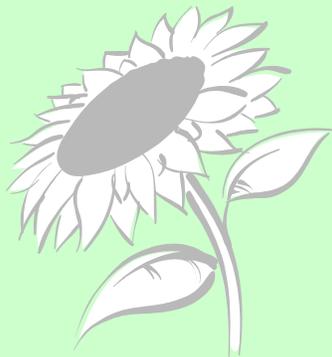
If you have any questions please contact Lynn Sagers in Rural Development

## **Acres Reporting**

Acres reporting time will soon be here. Please remember that filing an accurate acres report for all crops and land uses, including failed acres and prevented planting acres, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acres must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acres reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. Acres reports are to be certified by the June 30, 2008, deadline for all crops.



## **Loans for Socially Disadvantaged**

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) can make and guarantee loans to socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family size farms and ranches. Funds specifically for these loans are reserved each year. A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, and Asians and Pacific Islanders. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager or Officer for more details and assistance in applying.

## **Low Interest Loans Available from FSA**

FSA may be able to assist your farming operation with an operating or ownership loan. The rate for operating loans approved in March 2008 is 3.75 percent and Farm Ownership is 4.875 percent

It is the time of year where farmers begin thinking of our spring planting needs. Whether you need loan funds to finance your spring needs for fertilizer, seed, or you need to upgrade your equipment line with a new tractor, planter, baler or perhaps you have been thinking about expanding your operation or need credit to increase your production, FSA may be able to help.

FSA's loan programs are designed to help family farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. FSA also provides credit to beginning farmers, who may not have sufficient net worth to qualify for commercial credit. In other cases, they are farmers who have suffered financial setbacks from natural and economic disasters, or who have limited resources with which to establish and maintain profitable farming operations.

Some farmers obtain their credit needs through the use of loan guarantees. Under a guaranteed loan, a local agricultural lender makes and services the loan, and FSA guarantees it against loss; in most cases this is a 90 percent guarantee of loss. In certain limited circumstances, a 95-percent guarantee is available.

Contact your FSA County Office for more information

## Flexible or Cash Lease

Producers should be careful to differentiate between flexible leases and cash leases when reporting to the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Flexible leases, in which the producer pays a base rent, and offers a bonus on yield and/or price increase to a landowner, are considered by the Farm Service Agency as share leases. Cash leases specifying a fixed amount, not subject to changes from yield or price are common and the norm across the country. Flexible or hybrid leases are now coming to the attention of FSA.

Each year FSA participants complete form CCC-502 farm operating plan for Leased or Owned Land which are subject to spot check. Paying more than what the original lease specifies may violate a producer's CCC-502, if not completed correctly. A violation could make an operator ineligible for Direct and Counter-cyclical Payments (DCP).

Example: A lease that is for \$100 acre plus an additional \$40 per acre if the crop exceeds \$4/bushel or 170 bushels corn/acre or \$7/bushel or 40 bushels of soybeans per acre is by FSA procedure a share lease. FSA procedure states that, a lease is a share lease if the lease bases the amount of rent on the quantity of crop produced or the proceeds from the crop, or the interest a producer would have if the crop had been produced.



## Payment Limitation

Each time you make a change in your operation, whether it is change in the ground that you operate, you change crop share percentages, members within the entity change, or shares within the entity change, you need to contact the FSA office and let them know. If you have changed your operation and have not let them know then you will not be able to receive your payment. Please help your FSA office out and let them know of the changes made.

## CRP Managed Haying & Grazing

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is holding a meeting April 2, 2008 at 10:00 AM on the proposed changes to managed haying and grazing on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Land. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will hold the meeting at the Hampton Inn, In Tremonton. FSA is proposing rule changes to the frequency that managed haying and grazing is allowed on land that is enrolled in CRP. Public comments can be accepted at the meeting and the public may also comment on the changes to primary nesting season dates, during which managed haying and grazing are not permitted.

Public comments can be submitted both electronically and by regular mail. They must be received by the close of business on April 2, 2008. Direct Comments to: MHG EAs, Geo-Marine Incorporated, 2713 Magruder Blvd., Suite D Hampton, VA. 23666-1572 or send them to this Web site: <http://public.geo-marine.com>

## Non Insured Assistance Program (NAP)

We would like to remind all participants in the NAP Program that Notices of Loss must be filed timely. You must file a Notice of Loss in writing on Form CCC-576 within 15 days of when the loss occurred or when it became apparent to you. We had several producers in 2007 that had Notices of Loss disapproved because they were not filed timely. As a general rule of thumb, the latest that Notices of Loss will be accepted will be within 15 days of the final harvest on crops and before the first snowfall on acreage intended for grazing.

Please remember that NAP coverage is based on intended use of the crop. If you report a crop with an intended use of forage or seed and decide to change the use of the crop including destruction of the crop without harvest or grazing, you must notify our office and request that the crop be appraised. Failure to do so may result in a loss of payment or a reduced payment. If your production will be fed or disposed of without a verifiable record, it would be a good idea to request an appraisal so your production can be documented in an acceptable manner. Failure to provide adequate documentation of production may reduce your actual production history (APH) yield in a future year. Production information is due by the final reporting date of the succeeding year in which the crop was produced. In most cases for Box Elder County, this would be June 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Date to Remove Livestock on Acreage Intended for Seed

The County Committee has set a policy that any acreage reported with an intended use of seed must have livestock removed from it by April 1<sup>st</sup>. This will give the plants the best chance to produce seed for the season. Spot checks will be performed on participants who reported seed the previous year to make sure that proper management is carried out on this acreage.

### Get out of the car!!

An elderly lady from the community did her shopping and, upon returning to her car, found 4 males in the act of leaving with her vehicle. She dropped her shopping bags and drew her handgun, proceeding to scream at the top of her lungs, "I have a gun and I know how to use it! Get out of the car!" The four men didn't wait for a second threat. They got out and ran like mad. The lady, somewhat shaken, then proceeded to load her shopping bags into the back of the car and got into the drivers seat. She was so shaken that she could not get her keys into the ignition. She tried and tried until she realized why. It was for the same reason she had wondered

why there was a football, a Frisbee and 2 12-packs of beer in the front seat. A few minutes later, she found her car parked 5 spaces further down. She loaded her bags into the car and drove to the police station to report the mistake. The sergeant to whom she told her story couldn't stop laughing. He pointed down the counter, where 4 pale men were reporting a car jacking by a mad, elderly woman described as white, less than 5 feet tall, glasses, curly white hair, and carrying a handgun. No charges were filed.

Moral of the story:  
If you're going to have a senior moment... Make it memorable.

### Dates to Remember

March 31	Value Added Agricultural Market Development Grant Program Deadline
April 1	Remove livestock on acreage intended for seed
April 2	10:00 AM CRP Managed Haying & Grazing Meeting
April 3	County Committee Meeting
May 1	County Committee Meeting
May 26	Office Closed Memorial Day
June 5	County Committee Meeting
June 30	Crop Reporting Deadline

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in Box Elder FSA meetings/events/functions should contact James R Hall, CED, on (435) 257-5402 (Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339), or at: [james.hall@ut.usda.gov](mailto:james.hall@ut.usda.gov).