



February/March 2008

Rich County News

Rich County FSA
USDA Service Center

Rich County FSA
195 N. Main St.
Randolph, UT 84064
435-793-2465 (phone)
435-793-2745(fax)

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

County Committee
Clint Cornia, Chair
Stephen Huffaker, V. Chair
Kent Johnson, Member
Judy Stuart, Advisor

County Committee meets
March 19, 2008

Staff
Bill Cornia, CED
Debbie McKinnon, PT
Scott Bown, FLM
Marc Henrie, FLO

NOTICE:

Starting with this Issue, we are having a Vendor mail out our Newsletters .

**If you receive this Newsletter in error, please telephone our office so we can remove you from this Mailing list.
435-793-2465**



County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Kent Johnson on his recent election to the Rich County Committee. Kent will represent the Laketown-Garden City area.

We appreciate each of our committee members and their willingness to spend time and effort on behalf of the agricultural producers in Rich county.

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.

CDP Cont...

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

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

Livestock producers in Rich County who suffered forage losses due to drought in 2006 or 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 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 to, you will be required to provide sales documentation/or other documentation showing what happened to the animals.

Please call for an appointment.



Commodity Loans

Commodity Loans are available to all farmers growing eligible commodities. These loans provide capital to farmers enabling them to hold their crop off the market and benefit from price increases that may come after harvest.

Commodity Loans mature in 9 months. Loan rates are as follows:

- Hard Red Winter Wheat \$2.98 bu
- Oats \$1.40 bu
- Barley \$2.04 bu

Producers are reminded that they are responsible for maintaining the quality of commodities in farm storage. They will also be subject to penalties applicable to unauthorized removal or disposition if CCC Loan collateral is moved or disposed of without prior approval from the FSA county office.

Deadline for Insuring Spring Planted Crops

The FCIC sign up deadline for spring planted crops is March 15. This would include Barley and Oats.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act 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.

Foreign persons who 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 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.

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. If you want a crop loan, a power of attorney form will need to be completed for husband and wife, if both do not come into the office to sign the forms on the day the loan is disbursed.

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.

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 staff 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.

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other 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.

Appeal Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree.

Generally, program participants have three choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

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.

Applications for FSA Loans

Farmers and ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Filing early will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible so that planting decisions can be made. Failure to apply early can result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications that must be processed in date order. Contact your local FSA farm loan manager or officer for more details and assistance in applying.

Youth Loans

Remember FSA makes operating loans to individual rural youths age 10 through 20 to establish and operate income producing projects. These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, carried out by rural youths 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

Farm Loan Assistance

USDA streamlines forms and rules for farm loan programs

Bruce Richeson, State Executive Director of USDA's Farm Service Agency in Utah, reports that the forms and rules for the USDA's Farm Loan Programs will be modernized by January 1, 2008 to make it easier for America's farmers, ranchers and producers to apply for loans.

"This streamlining initiative is part of a historic transformation in agricultural farm lending programs," said Richeson. "By making our process simpler and more straightforward, we will more effectively serve America's farmers and ranchers. We incorporated about 1,500 comments from nearly 600 members of the public in making these changes."

Over the past few years, specific areas of the farm loan programs, such as the Guaranteed and Emergency Loan Programs, have been streamlined by revising the loan making and servicing requirements and procedures.

Direct Loan Programs streamlining includes:

- Reducing the number of pages in the Code of Federal Regulations necessary to administer the Farm Loan Programs by more than 80% 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.

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.



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.

Attention: Producers & Land-owners

- Do you intend to clear timber areas to create or to expand existing crop areas?
- Are you converting a pasture field into a crop field?
- Are there any areas on your farm(s) that you are considering cropping that have not been cropped in recent years?
- Is there a wet spot in a field that you want to drain to make cropping easier?
- Are you disturbing a wildlife habitat area of any type?
- Are you doing anything different on your farm(s) this year?

These are Highly Erodible and Wetlands provision questions that need to be considered each year by producers to assure that they may remain eligible for USDA benefits. If you have any questions or concerns that something you plan to do on your farm could jeopardize your eligibility for benefits, please contact your NRCS representative before you begin work.

Dates to Remember

Today	Report ANY changes in your farm operating plan or bank account
Today	Apply for disaster aid through CDP, LCP and LIP
Today	Report 2007 Production Report
March 19	COC Meeting
April 23	COC Meeting

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

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.



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