



March-April 2008

Tooele-Salt Lake County News

Tooele-Salt Lake County USDA Service Center

Tooele-Salt Lake County FSA Office
185 N. Main Street
Tooele, UT 84074

Phone

435-882-3018
888-592-4565

Fax

435-882-0429

Hours

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

County Committee

Clell Pete
Chairperson

Ronnie Jones
Vice-chairperson

Orson Johnson
Member

Rodney Grgich
Member

Siv Gillmor
Advisor

Staff

Keith Christensen
County Executive Director

Jennifer Hicks
Program Technician



Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

This program provides benefits to producers in designated disaster counties for their added costs of procuring livestock feed (i.e. those who suffered forage/grazing losses) during 2005, 2006, or 2007.

Producers choose one of these three years to receive benefits.

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) has been amended to include drought as an eligible grazing loss for the entire 2007 crop year for both Tooele and Salt Lake counties.

To be eligible for LCP,

- County must have been designated as a disaster county
- Producers must have owned the livestock on the beginning date of the applicable disaster period, which is January 1st of the applicable year
- Livestock must have been located in an eligible county on January 1st of the applicable year
- Livestock must have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation
- Producers must have suffered an eligible feed loss from produced or purchased forage

Sign-up for this program began on September 10, 2007 and no ending date has been announced.

But come in now to apply and learn more about the provisions of this program.

Salt Lake County was designated in 2005 for excessive moisture and 2007 for drought.

Tooele County was designated in

2005 for severe storms and excessive moisture; in 2006 for severe storms, wildfires, and excessive moisture; and **in 2007 for drought.**

Eligible livestock includes dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, swine, deer, and catfish.

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 (CDP).

You may be eligible if you suffered losses from natural disasters that occurred in 2005-2007.

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) has been amended to include all crops planted for the entire 2007 crop year. This will include all spring planted crops.

Producers must have suffered losses in excess of 35 percent of their expected production to qualify.

Sign-up for this program began on October 15, 2007 and no ending date has been announced.

But come in now to apply and learn more about the provisions of this program.

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.

Don't miss this opportunity to receive benefits for crop losses you may have suffered between 2005 and 2007.

Acreage Reporting

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

Failed acreage 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.

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

Farm Loan Assistance

Need temporary credit? Maybe we can help. FSA makes and guarantees loans to farmers and ranchers who are temporarily unable to obtain private commercial credit.

These may be beginning farmers who can't qualify for conventional loans because of insufficient net worth, or established farmers who have a lack of cash flow to meet bank standards.

These loans are tailored to a producer's needs and may be used for the following purposes:

- Farm Ownership (FO) Loans: used to buy, develop, or expand a farm
- Down Payment (FO) Loans: used to assist beginning farmers and ranchers to purchase a farm or ranch
- Participation Loans: used to assist farmers or ranchers to purchase a farm with the assistance of a lender or the seller

- Farm Operating Loans: used for operating expenses, family subsistence, machinery, livestock, permits, and to refinance debt
- Beginning Farmer Loans: used to help farmers start an operation
- Guaranteed Loans: local lenders ask for assistance from FSA to guarantee their loans for farm ownership or farm operating purposes

Everyone needs financial help sometime. Perhaps FSA can help you with our loan programs and services to meet your farming needs.

Applications for Assistance

Producers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications early. This will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible. In addition, due to budget constraints, farmers that wait until later in the year to apply, often run the risk of finding out that funding allocations have already been utilized. Contact Steven Bartholomew at 801-377-5296 for more information.

Faxing documents and forms to the County office

Form CCC-237 is no longer required to be on file for a producer to fax FSA documents to the county office. Call for more information.

Submission of Applications via E-Government

As required by the Freedom to E-File Act, eForms provides customers with the option to electronically access, fill out, and print paper forms, or obtain secure electronic access credentials for signing and transmitting forms and other documents electronically to their Service Center.

Change in Farming Operation or Address

Producers are reminded to notify this office to report a change in address or ownership. This is vital to assist this office in keeping records accurate.

Payment Limitation and Eligibility

USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. Once completed, documents and forms to determine eligibility are reviewed on an annual basis. It is the producer's responsibility to report changes in the farming operation that may affect payment eligibility and payment limitation. The limitation for payments is \$40,000 per "person" per fiscal year for payments subject to limitation. Gains from marketing loans and loan deficiency payments are subject to \$150,000 annual limitation. Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is annually limited to \$50,000 per person. Entities such as corporations, limited partnerships, trusts and estates are required to provide names, addresses and identification numbers of their members. These entities should also inform every member of the requirements for designating permitted entities if the member receives payment under more than one entity. A spouse may be considered a "separate person" for payment limitation purposes if the determination is requested and determined eligible.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance may 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.

Gross Revenue

Many disaster programs state that a “person,” as determined by payment limitation definition, shall not be eligible to receive certain payments and benefits if their gross revenue exceeds \$2 million or \$2.5 million.

Reasonable Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact this office.

Monitoring Efforts to Prevent Fraud

FSA will be assisting the Risk Management Agency (RMA) and insurance providers to reduce fraud, waste, and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program (FCI). FSA will monitor crop conditions throughout the growing season; report suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse; and assist FMA with auditing claims.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of United States agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. FSA administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties up to 25% 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.

Civil Rights Discrimination Process

As a participant or applicant for programs or activities operated or sponsored by USDA, you have a right to be treated fairly. If you believe you have been discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, disability, or marital or familial status, you may file a discrimination complaint.

The complaint should be filed with the USDA Office of Civil Rights within 180 days of the date you became aware the alleged discrimination occurred. To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 326W, Whitten Building, Stop 9410, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD).

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance

All participants in USDA programs are required to have a conservation system in place on all the highly erodible land (HEL) that they operate. Several areas where problems can arise with complying with a conservation system are: renting new cropland, purchasing new land, breaking out additional cropland, planting different crops, and changing or removing existing conservation practices. It is very important that you contact FSA before doing any of the above. Also, it is very important that you contact our office before modifying – tiling, draining, dredging, filling or leveling – any wetland or drainage ditch.

Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in loss of all Federal payments and eligibility.

Non Insured Crop Disaster 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.

As a general rule of thumb, the latest a 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 Tooele County, this would be June 30th. (The same deadline as acreage reporting.)

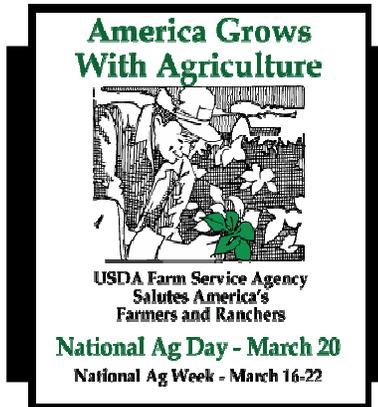
**Sign-up for the
 2008 Wool LDP year now!**

Before you begin shearing this year, it is extremely important that you have a completed and signed CCC-633EZ Page 1 on file with this office.

This indicates your intention to receive LDP benefits and maintains your eligibility to participate in the program.

Once the form is signed, you can submit a LDP request for payment at any time during the loan availability period. You will need to bring your wool receipts with you when applying for payment.

If you lose beneficial interest in the wool before your signed CCC-633 EZ Page 1 is on file with this office, you will lose your eligibility to participate in this program.



Dates to Remember

Today	Report ANY changes in your farm operating plan or bank account
Today	Apply for disaster (drought) aid through CDP & LCP
Today	For wool LDP's: Sign CCC-633EZ Page 1 before you begin shearing
Today	Apply for Farm Loans
Today	Check with NRCS to make sure you're compliant with HEL and WC conservation practices for your ground
April 14-15	FSA participating in Farm Field Days
April 22	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, audiotape, 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.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in Tooele-Salt Lake County FSA meetings/events/functions should contact Keith Christensen, CED, on 435-882-3018 (Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339), or at: keith.christensen@ut.usda.gov.