



April-May 2008

Washington/Clark County FSA News

Washington/Clark
USDA Service Center

[Washington/Clark
FSA Office](#)
196 E. Tabernacle
St. George, UT
84770
435-673-2381
(phone)
435-673-0312 (fax)

[Hours](#)
Monday - Friday
7:00 a.m. - 4:30
p.m.

[County Committee](#)
David Hafen
John Wadsworth
Glen Hardy
John H. Bowler
Shirlene Hall, Advisor

[Staff](#)
Steve Lawrence, CED
Karen Reber, PT
Doug Hansen, FLM



ACREAGE REPORTING

We are now accepting 2008 acreage reports. Please remember that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses (**this includes rangeland and pastureland for our livestock producers**) can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Farmers who plan on planting spring crops need to wait until all planting is completed before filing an acreage report. The planting date for all reported crops is also required as part of the acreage report.

Acreage reports need to be completed and certified by June 30, 2008. Acreage reports filed after the deadline will be required to pay a \$46 late filing fee.

Please call for an appointment so we can better serve you and have your paperwork reviewed prior to your arrival. That way, we can determine if you need to bring in current BLM or Forest Service or State permits, etc.



If you are participating in **ANY** of our programs, you **MUST** file a 2008 Acreage Report before June 30th, 2008.

Reminder Postcards were sent out earlier to all participants.!!

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.

LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM (LCP)

Livestock producers in Washington and Clark counties 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 spotcheck 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.

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 Doug Hansen @ 435-586-7274, Ext. 15 for more details.

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. Unreported changes could result in the loss of program payments.

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.

A spouse may be considered a "separate person" for payment limitation purposes if the determination is requested and determined eligible.

AGRABILITY AND THE AGING FARMER BY TERRY HAWKS

Millions of Americans earn their living in agriculture. For most of them, it's not just a livelihood; it's a way of life. But something is happening to these farmers and ranchers. They are growing older and there is not a younger population replacing them. The average age of ranchers and farmers is also on the rise in Utah.

The average age of a farmer in Utah is 55.3 years of age and 26.2% of these farmers and ranchers in Utah are over 65 years of age. The risk of injury and disability increases with age.

The AgrAbility Project is part of a National program in the U S Department of Agriculture. The project focuses on promoting independence for members of the ag community who have disabilities resulting from injury, illness or aging. The AgrAbility Projects is a partnership between Utah State University, Extension Services, and Centers for Disability in Utah.

If you would like to receive a complimentary list of "Safety Tips" that are recommended for, and can be used by farmers and ranchers due to limitations brought on by aging, contact Terry Hawks, 435-619-5067 or TDHawks@sisna.com

For more information about the AgrAbility of Utah Project, contact USU at 1-800-225-1860 or agrability@usu.edu.

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 April 2008 is 3.25% and Farm Ownership is 4.875%. 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.

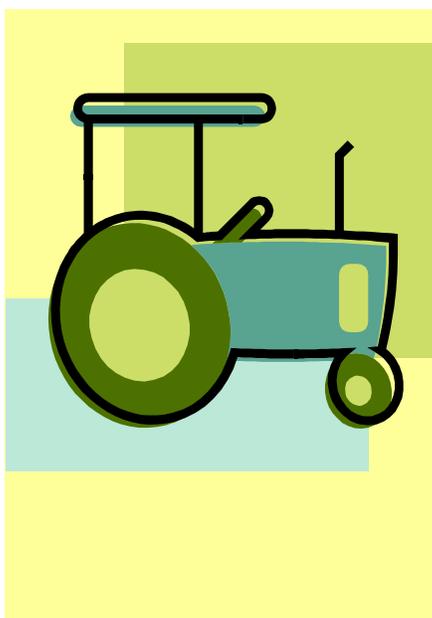
FSA's loan programs are designed to help family farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. FSA also provides credit to beginning farmers, most do not have sufficient net worth to qualify for commercial credit. In other cases, they are farmers who have suffered financial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

Contact Doug Hansen at 435-586-7274, Ext. 15 for more information.

NON INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

We would like to remind all participants in the NAP Program that Notice 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.

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 you decided 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 Washington and Clark Counties, this would be June 30th.



**REMEMBER !
Crop reports
are due
June 30th.**

**Call for an
Appointment
now!!**

| Dates to Remember | |
|------------------------|--|
| April 22 And May 20 | County Committee Meeting Dates |
| May 26 | Memorial Day- Office Closed |
| June 30 | Final day to file your 2008 Acreage Report - \$46 Late File Fee will apply af- ter this date!!!! |

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 Washington County/Clark County NV meetings/events/functions should contact Steven Lawrence, CED, at (435) 673-2381 ext. 18 (Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339), or at: steven.lawrence@ut.usda.gov.