Farm Service Agency

June/July 2008

Washington/Clark Co. News

Washington / Clark Co. USDA Service Center

Washington/Clark County FSA Office

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St. George, UT
84770

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Hours

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

County Committee

David Hafen
Chairperson

John Wadsworth
Vice-chairperson

Glen D. Hardy
Member

John H. Bowler
Member

Shirlene Hall
Advisor

Staff

Steven C. Lawrence
County Executive Director

Karen C. Reber
Program Technician

Doug Hansen
Farm Loan Manager

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Acreage Reporting Time is Here!

Timely and accurate annual reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs.

ALL participating farms must report on all cropland to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP), marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP).

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Crop reports, form **FSA-578**, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted.

The deadline to report acreage for Washington & Clark counties is Monday, June 30, 2008.

Reports filed after that date will be required to pay a $46 late fee.

Prevented Planting needs be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

Reports of **Failed Acreage** must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

Also keep track of your planting dates. We will ask you for these dates when you file your acreage report.

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) Coming to a Close!

The LCP 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.

The LIP program provided benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths caused by eligible disaster designations in an eligible county.

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 Washington and Clark 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

Deadline Announced for LCP and LIP Friday, July 18, 2008

Come in now to apply!

Crop Disaster Program (CDP)

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

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.

Wool LDP's

All short-term extensions for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts and honey LDP's have expired. County Offices are not authorized to accept LCP requests for these commodities after May 23, 2008. Producers will be notified when provisions have been put in place and county offices will again be authorized to accept LDP requests. Producers are encouraged to keep all sale documents, settlement statements, etc. until submission of requests can be made.

Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

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 that you will have a loss.**

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. For 2007 covered acreage, the deadline is **June 30, 2008 for Washington & Clark Counties.**

REMINDER:

CROP REPORTS ARE DUE BY JUNE 30TH

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 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.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Critical Feed Use

The CRP is a voluntary program to cost-effectively assist producers in conserving and improving soil, water and wildlife resources by converting highly erodible and other environmentally-sensitive acreage to a long-term vegetative cover. CRP participants enroll land under contracts for 10 to 15 years in exchange for annual rental payments and financial assistance to install certain conservation practices and maintain vegetative or tree covers.

Modification to Contract for Critical Feed Use

CRP participants with certain established vegetative cover may voluntarily have their CRP contract modified by CCC to utilize certain land enrolled in CRP for critical feed use, including haying or grazing. The critical feed use modification to the CRP contract will limit the scope, frequency and duration of haying and grazing. To ensure protection of the resources, critical feed use is not authorized during the primary bird nesting or brood-rearing season. The more environmentally sensitive land will not be eligible for haying and grazing and must be left undisturbed. This modification for critical feed use is only available in 2008 after the primary nesting season ends through November 10, 2008.

Signup

CRP participants may request the voluntary modification to the CRP contract beginning June 2, 2008, at their local FSA Service Center.

Eligible Producer

CRP participants may utilize their CRP acreage for critical feed use or may lease the privilege to any other individual.

Eligible Acreage

Acreage eligible for critical feed use includes acreage that is fully established and devoted to certain CRP practices.

No more than 50 percent of the eligible CRP acreage may be used for haying. Grazing can be conducted at 75 percent of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recommended stocking rate on 100 percent of the eligible acres or at 100 percent of the stocking rate on 75 percent of the eligible acres.

Modifications to Contract and Conservation Plan

Participants who request a voluntary modification to the CRP contract to allow critical feed use must also obtain a modified conservation plan for haying and grazing management in accordance with NRCS Field Office Technical Guide haying and grazing standards. The modified plan will provide for haying or grazing in a manner that is consistent with the conservation goals of the CRP to reduce soil erosion and enhance water quality and wildlife habitat.

Administrative Fee

No payment reduction will be assessed on contracts being utilized for this critical feed use. Producers will be required to pay a fee of $75 for the modification of their CRP contract.

For more information about FSA programs, visit: ww.fsa.usda.gov

TV Converter Box Coupon Program

Do you have a TV in your home that works with the help of “rabbit ears” or rooftop antenna? If you receive free TV using an antenna and your TV is not digital, you need to take action before February 17, 2009 so you can continue to receive programs after that date.

The Digital Television Transition and Public Safety Act of 2005 requires TV stations to stop broadcasting in analog and to broadcast only in digital after February 17, 2009.

The Act created the TV Converter Box Coupon Program for households wishing to use their analog TVs after the transition. The Federal government is offering US households up to two $40 coupons to help pay for the cost of a certified converter box. TVs connected to cable, satellite, or other pay services do not need a converter box to receive programs after this date.

Coupon application forms are available at your USDA service center. Please come in for you copy or visit www.DTV2009.gov.

USDA Farm Bill Funding Available for Clean Energy through Rural Development

Farmers, ranchers and rural small businesses have new opportunities to install energy efficiency upgrades and new renewable energy systems.

Rural Development has announced $36 million in available funding in the clean energy grant and loan guarantee program.

For grants and loans, the application deadline is Monday, June 16, 2008.

Further information on the program including frequently asked questions, official application forms and templates, checklists, tips, case studies, application instructions and regulations can be found at www.farmenergy.org or by calling your local Rural Development office.

WASHINGTON /CLARK COUNTY FSA
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USDA United States Department of Agriculture

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County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the USDA.

Committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

Agricultural producers in Local Administrative Area 2, consisting of St. George, Santa Clara, Ivins and Washington and will be electing their representative to the WASH/CLARK County Committee.

Begin nominating on form FSA-669A on June 15th!

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	Wool LDP's: file CCC-633EZ Page 1 before shearing
Today	Apply for Farm Loans
June 15	Nominating period begins for 2008 COC Elections
June 17	COC Meeting
June 30	Deadline to file Acreage Report, without late file fee
July 4	Office Closed – Independence Day
July 18	Deadline to apply for LCP and LIP (livestock drought aid)

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