Farm Service Agency

January/February 2008

Beaver FSA News

Beaver County
USDA Service Center

Beaver County FSA
PO Box 910
Beaver, UT 84713
435-438-5088 (phone)
435-438-2168 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/ut

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

County Committee
Lynn Harris, Chair
Shauna Mayer, Vice Chair
Jennifer Marshall, Member

COC Meeting Dates:
9:30 am
January 29, 2008
February 26, 2008

Staff
Kathy Hendricks, CED
Janet Bradshaw, PT
Rita Dean, PT
Kenneth Ure, FLO

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Crop Disaster Program (CDP)

Farmers who suffered crop losses because of natural disasters may be eligible to receive benefits through the 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 losses 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 between 2005-2007. Please call ahead for an appointment.

Deadline for Insuring Spring Planted Crops

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

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

Livestock producers in Beaver County who suffered forage losses due to fire in 2006 or 2007 may be eligible for benefits under this program.

Eligible livestock include beef cattle, equine, elk, sheep and goats. To be eligible, livestock must have been located in an eligible county on January 1st 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 1st.
- 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.

Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Shauna Mayer for her re-election to the County Committee. Shauna will represent LAA-3, which is the Milford area.

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

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.

USDA Streamlines Forms and Rules for Farm Loan Programs

Bruce Richeson, Executive Director of USDA's Farm Service Agency in Utah reports that the forms and rules for USDA's Farm Loan Programs will be modernized by Jan. 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 agriculture farm lending programs," said Richeson. "By making our processes 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, USDA's Farm Se vice Agency has streamlined specific areas of its farm loan programs, such as the Guaranteed and Emergency Loan Programs, by revising loan making and servicing requirements and procedures to better serve applicants and borrowers.

Direct Loans 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 percent;
- Modifying requirements to more closely conform to those used by other lenders;
- Ensuring all forms are available on-line;
- Cutting nearly in half the number of forms required; and
- Making guidance more manageable by replacing nearly 40 instruction manuals with 6 handbooks.

The program rules and forms will -

loan forms & rules cont...

officially change on Dec. 31, 2007. This will allow employees of the Farm Service Agency (FSA), which administers the program, time for nationwide training on the new forms and rules. Until then, FSA will follow current procedures.

The streamlining rule, which incorporated inputs from more than 1,500 members of the public during its proposed stage, can be viewed via the *Federal Register* at http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/frcont07.html.

More information about FSA can be found by contacting a local FSA office or online at http://www.fsa.usda.gov; click on "Farm Loan Programs" for more information

Beaver County Eligible for USDA Emergency Loans

On August 21, 2007, President Bush declared a major disaster in Utah. As a result of the major disaster, agriculture producers are eligible for Farm Service Agency emergency loans due to physical and production losses. These losses were a result of multiple disasters, including severe drought, insect infestations, killing frosts, hot dry winds, below normal runoff, wildfires, and flash floods, that occurred January 1, 2007 and continuing.

Farmers/Ranchers in Beaver County can apply for an emergency loan to cover part of their actual losses and must apply by April 21, 2008. To be eligible, producers must have suffered a 30% loss of normal production, be able to repay the loan and other existing debt, be unable to get credit elsewhere, have adequate security, and must have obtained multi-peril crop insurance or have signed an insurance waiver. Each application will be considered on its own merit.

Applications can be picked up at the Beaver County FSA Office, 620 N Main, Beaver, UT. Or contact us at 435-438-5088, ext. 105.

Deadline for Wool Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP)

The Wool Loan Deficiency Payment program provides payments to eligible producers for wool produced and shorn from live sheep. Producers who have sold wool in 2007 need to bring their receipts into the office and complete their request for a Loan Deficiency Payment by January 31, 2008.

Note: Payments will be made to the person whose name is on the receipt.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Faxed Signatures

Most FSA program applications and forms that require a producer's signature may be accepted by facsimile (fax) machine. This does not include electronic signatures (e-mail or computer generated.) Certain forms require additional authorization forms be filed or original signatures. Check with your County Office for applicability.

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.

Beaver County FSA Office
PO Box 910
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USDA United States Department of Agriculture

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Ag Census Forms Due Feb 4th

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) began distribution of the 2007 Census of Agriculture last month and completed forms are due by February 4, 2008. Producers can return their forms by mail or, for the first time, they have the convenient option of filling out the Census online via a secure website at http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/.

Conducted every 5 years by the U.S.D.A., the Census is a complete count of the nation's farms and ranches and the people who operate them. According to NASS, the Census of Agriculture provides information that is not available elsewhere. The last AG Census was conducted in 2002.

The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other topics. It provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation.

Policy-makers use Census data for decisions concerning agricultural and rural programs. Community planners use Census information to target delivery of local services. Companies rely on Census data when determining where to locate their operations. And farmers themselves look at Census data when deciding to make changes in their production strategies.

Customer Statement

January signals the beginning of a new year, and a time to gather financial records and starting thinking about filling out a 1040. Producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement.
The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's at your fingertips and available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

It allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs; information on farm loans; and conservation plan and land unit information.

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