



# Farm Service Agency

## IRON COUNTY NEWS

October 2006

### Iron County FSA

2390 W HWY 56, #17  
Cedar City, UT 84720  
435 586-7274 Phone  
435 586-0649 Fax

### Hours

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

### County Committee

Myron Abbott  
Howard Jones  
David Bosshardt  
Sophia Hall, Advisor

### County Executive Director

Steven Lawrence

### Program Technician

Karma Neilsen

### Farm Loan Manager

Doug Hansen

### NAP Deadline Approaching

The NAP (Non Insured Assistance Program) can soften financial losses caused by natural disasters, but only if you have applied for coverage and paid the application fee. This program can be likened to an insurance policy.

NAP is a federally funded program that provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occurs as a result of natural disasters. NAP also provides coverage for crops for which the catastrophic level of insurance is not available.

**It is \$100 per crop**, not to exceed \$300 per producer, per county, or not to exceed \$900 for a multi-county producer. **December 1, 2006 is the final day to sign up perennial crops for 2007 NAP coverage.**

Just like filing a claim, producers who have a NAP contract on file with this office need to file a **NOTICE OF LOSS** when it becomes apparent that a covered crop or pasture has been damaged by drought, frost, insects, etc. This **NOTICE OF LOSS** should be filed within **15 days** of when the damage is apparent—no matter how significant the loss may seem at the time. Producers also need to notify our office if you intend to graze a crop instead of harvest it.

**IMPORTANT: We recently sent out letters to all of our producers who were enrolled in this program last year. If you are interested in signing up for 2007, please sign and date the paper that we sent to you and submit your check make payable to CCC and send back in the return envelope that we provided you. This will save you a trip to the office. If you have any questions at all, please give us a call.**

### County Committee Election

Just a reminder, to watch your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot. Early in November ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters in Local Administrative Area 2 which is the Cedar City, Enoch, Kanarrville & New Harmony areas. If you don't receive a ballot please notify the county office.

Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on December 4, 2006. Newly elected county committee members take office on January 1, 2007.



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

## NRCS Conservation Program Sign-Up Ends Nov. 15, 2006

It's time again to get signed up for the conservation assistance programs. Local farmers and ranchers who apply and go through a qualification ranking process may be eligible to receive *cost-share assistance* by participating in any of the conservation assistance programs offered under the 2002 Farm Bill. The cost share finance assistance can be up to 50% on Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and up to 75% on Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) and Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP).

The 2002 Farm Bill offers America's farmers and ranchers more incentives than ever before to voluntarily conserve natural resources on our nation's privately owned farmland. Its conservation provisions help reduce erosion, guard streams and rivers, restore and establish fish and wildlife habitat, and improve air quality. This year's announcement is being made well before the next planning season begins, allowing producers to connect their business decisions to protecting vital natural resources on private working lands. Projects selected will be planned and designed during 2007 for installation in 2008. You can join in on any of these incentives by signing up at the USDA office in Cedar City. Sign ups are going on now and you have till November 15, 2006 to come in and apply.

Funds are limited, and contracts will be award to those producers who apply conservation practices that will yield the greatest benefit to the conservation goals of the program. To be considered during the upcoming ranking period, producers, must submit their application on or before November 15, 2006.

If you are interested in participation you may apply at our local NRCS office, 2390 W HWY 56 in Cedar City or by calling (435)586-2429 Ext. 5.

## Reporting Farm Information

It is the producer's responsibility to report their farm operation completely and accurately.

Nobody needs reminded that farming and ranching in today's modern marketplace has become a complicated business. Gone are the days when most of us could sell cattle over a handshake and marketing grain meant delivering it to the local elevator. In today's complex business world, new importance has been placed on ensuring that all aspects of farming and ranching are covered with detailed and legally binding contracts.

Government paperwork is no different. In fact, as FSA implements the programs authorized by the Farm Bill, we have grown to realize that it is extremely important that all FSA farm records accurately represent how your operation is being conducted.



For example, producers have now found themselves in hot water because the FSA paperwork reflected their operation as a partnership when the state's tax records indicated that they had formed a corporation. Others have been penalized because the operating name on the FSA records was different than the name the producers used in doing business with suppliers or processors. While the local tractor dealer may know that John Farm really means John and Jane Farmer or that the Lazy R is another name for Stan Rancher's operation, government computers cannot make the connection.

Please take the time to review the forms on file in your FSA County Office. Your payment limitation forms should provide an accurate picture of your operation. The same shares should carry through on the DCP contracts, crop reporting shares, etc. In addition, it's just as important that all your commodity contracts, accounts with businesses that provide receipts for FSA documentation, etc., are in the same name of the entity as represented by our farm records. The county office staff is available to answer any questions you may have on this important issue.

## Be Counted on the 2007 Census of Agriculture

The 2002 Census of Agriculture counted 2.2 million farms and ranches in the United States. That was down 15% from the 2.6 million farms and ranches counted in 1974. What changes are in store for the future of agriculture in our country? It is important that all operators are again counted in 2007 Census of Agriculture to show their contribution to the entire US. Agricultural industry.

Every farm and ranch in the nation can expect to receive a mailed Census questionnaire in December 2007. To get an accurate count for 2007, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service must receive a completed report for every farm and ranch in the U.S. The Census is the only source of uniform agricultural data for every county in the U.S. and provides a complete statistical picture of U.S. farms and ranches every five years.

The information you provide on the Census is kept confidential. For more information about NASS or the Census of Agriculture visit [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov), or call NASS's Field Office at 1-800-747-8522.

## Farm Loan Assistance

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
- If you have any questions call Douglas Hansen (435)586-7274 Ext.15

## Crop Insurance

Federal crop Insurance has made some changes to their forage programs.

Irrigated alfalfa hay or forage will be insurable for eight years after the year of establishment. Alfalfa stands 9 years old and older may be insured as an alfalfa grass mixture as long as there are at least 1.2 living alfalfa plants per square foot. No maximum age limitation applies.

This expanded coverage essentially makes all irrigated alfalfa and alfalfa grass mixture eligible for crop insurance, which means they are not eligible for coverage under our NAP program.

The crop insurance sales closing date for wheat, barley and forage (alfalfa and alfalfa/grass mixtures) coverage for the 2007 crop year is October 31, 2006. The closing date for Oats and Corn is March 15, 2007.

Crop Insurance policies are available from private insurance agents. A list of agents is available at this office or at <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents>

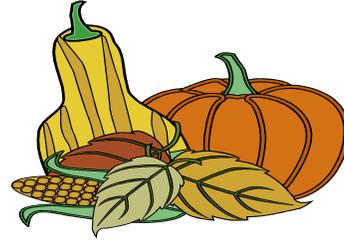
## Deadline to apply for Trade Adjustment Benefits

Agricultural commodity producers or fishermen in the United States, or their authorized representatives, may file a petition to USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service between now and January 31, 2007 for benefits under the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program (TAA). Benefits under this program include cash payments and various educational benefits that can include occupational training. Prior years TAA benefits have been provided to producers of blueberries, concord grapes, potatoes, avocados and to fishermen of shrimp and salmon, to name a few. The petition for benefits must be received by the TAA office by close of business, January 31, 2007. The TAA office address is Foreign Agricultural Service, ITP/IPPD, MS-1021, Washington DC 20250-1021 or Fax to 202-720-0876.

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 program. (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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- Oct. 9 Columbus Day Holiday  
Office Closed
- Nov. 3 COC Election Ballots Mailed
- Nov. 10 Veteran's Day Holiday  
Office Closed
- Dec. 1 Deadline to purchase NAP  
Insurance
- Dec. 4 COC Ballots must be postmarked  
Or delivered to office



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Iron County FSA  
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