
CROOK COUNTY FSA NEWS

MARCH 2007



TOWER OUTLOOK

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CROOK COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY
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NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

April 1st is the deadline date for producers to apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, or NAP coverage, using Form CCC-471. **The application and service fee must be filed by the applicable closing date for each of the 2007 spring seeded NAP crops.** To remain eligible for NAP, a producer must annually report the crop, including: type, variety, location, producer shares, date planted, and the intended use. Once the crop is harvested the production must also be reported. The application service fee is \$100/crop/county or \$300/producer/county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$900/producer with farming interest in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees.

In the event of a crop failure caused by natural disaster, the producer needs to notify the local FSA office by completing a "Notice of Loss" (form CCC-576). **The notice of loss must be executed within 15 days of the disaster occurrence or from the date the damage became apparent. Losses filed after this date will be considered "late-filed", see "measurement service rates" section of this newsletter for details.**

2006 hay crop production needs to be filed by **July 1, 2007** in order to be used for payment yield purposes for 2007. **NAP participants are required to file crop production.**

Most FSA programs require compliance with sodbuster and swamp buster provisions. These provisions require producers to follow an approved conservation system on all highly erodible land planted to an annual crop as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). **Be sure to have determinations made on any new land you plan to plant to annual crops.** If you plan to plant a different crop on your current cropland, check with NRCS to assure the new crop will qualify under your conservation system.

Swamp buster provisions state that converting a wetland to make possible the planting of a crop will result in the loss of all USDA benefits. To avoid this possibility it is strongly recommended that producers check with NRCS before starting to work in the fields.

THE 'EZ' MAKES IT EASY

The Farm Service Agency now employs the CCC-633 EZ in place of the old CCC-709 and CCC-633-LDP. The EZ form has been created to make the application process more user-friendly.

The CCC-633 EZ is a two-part loan deficiency payment request that allows producers to (1) indicate their intentions to receive LDP benefits before losing beneficial interest in the eligible commodity, and (2) submit a request for an LDP at any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest.

SODBUSTER, SWAMPBUSTER

The EZ form was developed to cover field direct LDPs, basic LDPs, and revised to cover basic and field direct LDPs for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts.

By signing the first page of the EZ form, the producer indicates his or her intentions to receive LDP benefits. This one page covers all counties and all eligible harvested commodities for the entire crop year for the individual, joint operation or entity identified on the form.

Once the first page of the form has been signed and submitted, the producer can submit an LDP request by completing page 2 for all harvested commodities or page 4 for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts. The LDP request can be submitted at any time during the loan availability period, before or after losing beneficial interest.

A key point to remember is that page 1 of the EZ form must be signed by the producer before beneficial interest in the commodity is lost. Once beneficial interest is lost the commodity is ineligible for an LDP even if beneficial interest is regained. All producers are encouraged to submit page 1 of the EZ for each crop year whether or not they plan to subsequently request a loan or LDP.

CONTINUOUS CRP

There will be no general signups scheduled for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in 2007 or 2008. The President's FY 2008 Budget assumed no available funding for CRP general signups.

However, environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) or Continuous CRP will still be eligible for enrollment. These targeted programs will remain funded, and continue to provide a heightened environmental benefit on select areas.

Land eligible for Continuous CRP includes pastureland adjacent to water bodies. This land is to be "set aside" and fenced off to allow natural regeneration of grasses, shrubs and trees to protect water quality and enhance wildlife habitat.

CROP REPORTS

Crop reporting season is fast approaching! Again this year we will be sending out appointment

cards. If the appointed time does not work for you please contact us and reschedule. We will start crop reports in April and schedule appointments through the third week of June, leaving the last week of June open for report revisions and missed appointments.

Crop reports are required for LDP commodity payments, DCP contract payments, CRP payments and NAP crop loss payments. Failure to file a crop report (either timely or late-filed) will make you ineligible for the applicable program and could possibly result in an overpayment if an advance was taken, such as with a DCP contract payment.

The deadline to timely file an acreage report is July 1st. Crop reports filed after July 1st will be charged a late-filed fee as explained below.

2006 crop production should be submitted when filing the crop report. **The deadline to file 2006 production reports is July 1, 2007.**

MEASUREMENT SERVICE RATES

FSA provides a number of measurement services for our producers that include: measuring crops after planting, measuring fields prior to planting, re-measuring previously measured acreages, verifying crops and disaster conditions and acreages, measuring or sampling farm stored grain and other commodity crops, and verifying crops for late-filed crop reports.

The cost of this service has changed. It is now \$30 for the basic farm fee and \$16 for the first hour and \$8 for every 30 minutes after first hour with a minimum of 1 hour charged.

Items of concern for us in the past have been late-filed crop reports and late-filed NAP notices of loss. Special attention should be paid to both of these items as the associated cost could be somewhat expensive for you.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

March 31...Deadline for 2006 Small Grain LDP's

April 1...Deadline to purchase NAP on all 2007 Spring Seeded NAP Crops.

June 1...DCP signup Deadline

July 1...Crop Report Deadline

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VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION IS INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER. PLEASE TAKE TIME TO READ THIS MATERIAL AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION. HELP US IN OUR ASSISTING YOU BY DOING YOUR PART AND STAYING INFORMED OF OUR PROGRAMS AND REQUIREMENTS!

For more information on any Farm Service Agency program, visit or call our office, or visit the FSA Homepage at www.fsa.usda.gov

Have a Nice Day, /s/ Mike Idler, CED

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