



**District 6 - Barber - Barton - Clark - Comanche - Edwards - Ford - Gray - Harper - Hodgeman - Kiowa - Ness - Pawnee - Pratt - Rush - Stafford**

**April 2006**

### **CCC-633EZ FOR 2006 LDP's**

Last August the FSA announced the CCC-633EZ form would replace the old CCC-709 and CCC-633 LDP. The EZ is a two part form that allows producers to (1) indicate the intention to take an LDP before losing beneficial interest, and (2) submit a request for a LDP during the loan availability period. The CCC-633EZ was developed to cover field direct LDP, basic LDP's, as well as wool, mohair, and unshorn pelts. Once the first page is filed, a producer can request an LDP by completing Page 2 for harvested commodities, Page 3 for Cotton, or Page 4 for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts. A key point to remember is that page 1 of the CCC-633EZ must be signed by the producer before beneficial interest is lost. All producers are encouraged to submit page 1 each crop year whether or not they plan to request a loan or LDP.

### **BORROWER TOLL-FREE NUMBER**

Direct loan borrowers with FSA can now check the status of their accounts around the clock using the new toll-free telephone number. The number, 1-888-518-4983, is available in both English and Spanish. The line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. With the first call, borrower will enter their tax ID number and zip code, then the borrower will create a personal ID number for security purposes.

### **EXCEPTION TO FAV RULE**

It is a violation to plant Fruits or Vegetables (FAV) on DCP acres. The only exceptions are (1) a home garden (2) planted and reported for green manure or forage and the producer pays for field verification, or (3) lentils, mung beans, and dry peas. Call your FSA BEFORE planting to insure compliance.

### **ACREAGE REPORTS DUE MAY 31**

Farm operators are reminded that May 31, 2006 is the final date to Report acreages of wheat, barley, oats, and rye. The Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) requires complete acreage reports must be filed or no payments will be earned on the farm. It is a requirement of the CRP Contract as well. Also, producers must report acreages to be eligible for Commodity Loans or Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's). LDP's are available on wheat, barley, and oats. With current commodity prices, most producers will want this have this option available. Due to the larger number of farms that have not yet reported, the County Office is requiring an appointment to report acreages. Producers can make an appointment by calling their local FSA Office.

### **CRP MAINTENANCE VITAL**

With the recent announcement of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) extensions and re-enrollments, there has been a lot of publicity given to proper CRP maintenance. In District 6, the two main problems seem to be control of noxious weeds and volunteer trees on CRP. Now is an excellent time for CRP participants to examine their CRP acreage and ensure that they are in compliance on their contract(s). Examples of noncompliance include but are not limited to:

- \*\*\*Unauthorized haying or grazing of CRP
- \*\*\*Commercial use has been made of the approved cover
- \*\*\*An unauthorized crop planted on CRP
- \*\*\*Unauthorized treatment during the primary nesting season, April 15 thru July 15, such as mowing, spraying, or burning
- \*\*\*Using CRP as a campground and parking lot
- \*\*\*Applying sludge or animal byproducts
- \*\*\*Constructing a road, house, or other buildings on CRP
- \*\*\*Failure to control noxious weeds
- \*\*\*Stacking hay on CRP
- \*\*\*Failure to control volunteer trees

Noncompliance can result in contract termination, a payment reduction, and/or inability to extend or re-enroll a contract. Each CRP contract is issued annually a \$5.00 an acre fee for contract maintenance, which is included in the annual payment. All CRP participants are encouraged to inspect their acreage to ensure contract compliance. Producers may contact their local FSA office with questions or for assistance.

### **FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS**

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, rice, soybeans and corn. The interest rate changes each month. The March interest rate has been announced at 4.5 percent.

The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.

All farm storage facility loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required. For details, contact the county office staff.

## **COUNTY COMMITTEE MEETING DATES**

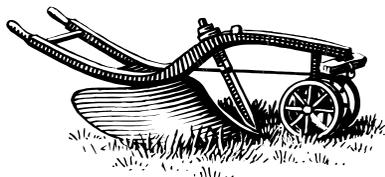
Each Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee in District 6 meet monthly. These meetings are open to the public. If you have an item for the County Committee we ask you inform the County Office in advance so that may be included as an Agenda Item. The County Committee Meetings are held in the respective County Office as follows:

Barber County.....1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday at 1:00 PM  
Barton County.....3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 8:00 AM  
Clark County.....2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 1:30 PM  
Comanche County...3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 1:00PM  
Edwards County.....1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at 9:00 AM  
Ford County.....2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 9:00 AM  
Gray County.....3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 9:00 AM  
Harper County.....2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 8:00 AM  
Hodgeman County.....2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 1:00 PM  
Kiowa County.....2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 1:15 PM  
Ness County.....1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 9:00 AM  
Pawnee County.....1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at 9:00 AM  
Pratt County.....2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 1:00 PM  
Rush County.....2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at  
8:00AM May-Oct  
9:00 AM Nov-April  
Stafford County.....1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday at 9:00 AM

## **CRP RE-ENROLLMENT, EXTENSIONS, GENERAL SIGNUP**

Producers with Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Contracts that expire on September 30, 2007 should have received a letter explaining the status of each contract. April 14, 2006 is the final date to extend or, if eligible, re-enroll those contracts. Each contract whether re-enrolled or extended, will be subject to a required field inspection to insure compliance. A flat fee of \$45, plus \$1 per acre, not to exceed \$500 per contract will be charged. The most common compliance problems appear to be noxious weeds and volunteer trees on CRP acres.

In addition, FSA will be conducting a General CRP Signup from March 27, 2006 through April 16, 2006. This is a general signup and will allow producers to bid in eligible acres for new CRP Contracts. This will apply to new acreage as well as CRP Contracts that expire on September 30, 2006. Producers should contact the staff at their local FSA office for additional information. We are advising producers to keep the April 14 deadline in mind.



## **DIRECT AND COUNTER CYCLICAL SIGNUP**

The annual signup for the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) Signup has begun and will continue through June 1, 2006. Producers must annually enrolled in DCP, and may request advance payments on either or both the Direct or Counter Cyclical payments. As of February 8, 2006, 40% of the Direct Payments may be requested in any month March through September, and final payment issued after October 1, 2006. Please contact your local FSA Office for an appointment.

## **CONDUCT BUSINESS ON-LINE**

Producers can obtain an eAuthentication level 2 account and conduct USDA business on-line 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from home. This access requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov>, followed by a visit to a USDA Service Center for identification verification. You must have an e-mail address.

Once access is obtained, producers can conduct USDA business online such as eLDP's (Loan Deficiency Payments), eForms, Customer Statement, Financial Inquiry and other programs that will become available electronically in the future.

## **LOANS AVAILABLE FOR BEGINNING FARMERS, SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED**

The Farm Service Agency is authorized to assist beginning farmers and or socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person whom:

- Has operated a farm for more than three years but not more than 10 years.
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm.
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA.
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers are identified as those who belong to a socially disadvantaged group.