

January 2008



Millard County News

County Committee Election

Millard County
USDA Service Center

Millard County FSA
65 West 100 North
Fillmore, UT 84631

435-743-5173 (phone)
435-743-5117 (fax)

www.fsa.usda.gov/ut

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Lee Monroe
Howard Bassett
Daniel Anderson
Joyce Coats

Staff
Cornell Atkinson CED
Geraldine Minton PT
Lynette Bond PT

Eric Jenson FLM
Jeanene Owens FLO

Congratulations to Daniel Anderson for his election to the County Committee. Daniel will represent farmers from Oak City, Leamington, Lynndyl, Sutherland and Delta on the county committee.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

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

Crop Disaster Program (CDP)

Farmers who suffered crop losses because of natural disasters may be eligible to receive benefits through the new 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 were in the same crop year.

Eligible damaging conditions would include drought, excessive moisture, hail, excessive wind and frost.

CDP cont.....

Don't miss this opportunity to receive benefits for crop losses you may have suffered between 2005-2007. **(YOU must have had NAP or Fed Crop Insurance)**

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

Producers with Livestock in Millard County who suffered forage losses due to wildfire in 2006 and/or wildfire and drought in 2007 may be eligible for benefits under this program.

The program has been amended to include 2007 losses. Producers must choose only one year which to receive benefits. Producers who have already signed up for the 2006 year may want to come into the office and apply for 2007 losses so that the maximum benefits are received from this program.

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



Commodity Loans

Commodity Loans are available to all farmers growing eligible commodities. These loans provide capital to farmers enabling them to hold their crop off the market and benefit from price increases that may come after harvest.

Commodity Loans mature in 9 months. Loan rates are as follows:

- Hard Red Winter Wheat \$2.98 bu
- Oats \$1.40 bu
- Barley \$2.14 bu
- Corn \$2.40 bu
- Wheat-Soft White \$2.69 bu
- Honey \$0.60 lb

Producers are reminded that they are responsible for maintaining the quality of commodities in farm storage. They will also be subject to penalties applicable to unauthorized removal or disposition if CCC Loan collateral is moved or disposed of without prior approval from the FSA county office.

Delta & Millard Conservation Districts Annual Tree Program for Spring Planting

The Delta and Millard Soil Conservation Districts (SCD) announce their annual conservation tree sales program. A variety of bare-root seedlings specially selected to grow in our soils, altitude and climate are offered. The seedlings include two species of conifers, five species of deciduous trees, and six species of shrubs that have attractive flowers, and two of these have edible fruit. Prices range from \$1.50 to \$3.10 per plant, (prices subject to change without notice).

The minimum order for each species is ten. The Conservation Districts encourage tree planting to promote conservation and enhance habitat for livestock, wildlife and people. Brochures are being distributed throughout the communities in Millard County. They can also be obtained at the Farm Service Center in Fillmore. Please call (435) 743-6655 ext. 113, and ask for Brian to place an order. These plants are sold on a first-come first served basis, so order early. Payment must be made before trees are delivered. Delivery is expected the second or third week of April 2008. Happy Planting.

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.

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.

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.



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.

Loans for Socially Disadvantaged

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) can make and guarantee loans to socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family size farms and ranches. Funds specifically for these loans are reserved each year. A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, and Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager or Officer for more details and assistance in applying.



Faxed Signatures

Certain FSA program applications may be accepted by facsimile (fax) machine if Form FSA-237, Facsimile Signature Authorization and Verification, is on file. This authorization form should be completed, signed and witnessed by the FSA office staff, or notarized.

Free Water Testing Offered by Local Conservation Group

The Millard County Conservation District is sponsoring free water sampling for local residents to promote awareness of ground water quality. Free water sampling and testing is provided by the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF). Leonard Blackham, Commissioner of UDAF feels that it is important that people understand their quality of water and how to protect water quality to insure good health and crop production. The sampling program provides chemical analysis of minerals, ions, total salts, pesticides, and Coliform and E. coli bacteria. Each person that signs up to have their water tested will receive a complete water analysis report and letter explaining the report. The report covers drinking water, irrigation, and livestock standards. The program is voluntary and non-regulatory. Its purpose is to provide water quality information for citizens of Utah who use water that is not regulated under the federal Clean Water Act. You can get more information by contacting Lars Rasmussen at 743-6655 or Mark Quilter at UDAF (801)538-9905. You may also request information by fax at (801)538-9436 or email mquilter@Utah.gov.

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.

Ag Census Forms Due Feb 4th

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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 decided to make changes in their production strategies.

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.

NAP Deadline

March 15, 2008 is the final day to sign up for coverage on spring planted crops for the 2008 crop year. This would include all grain forage crops.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program 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.