



Farm Service Agency

Cache County News

March/April 2007

Cache County FSA
1860 North 100 East
North Logan, UT 84341
435 753-5480 Phone
435 755-2117 Fax

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

County Committee
B. Jon White
D. Kent Buttars
Mervin Thompson
Staci Zilles

Staff
Marcene Bennett
Jackie Clark
Kristi Cravalho

Farm Loan Manager
Scott Bown

Farm Loan Officer
Marc Henrie

County Executive Director
Bruce K. Lundquist

Comments from the Utah FSA State Executive Director

Bruce Richeson

For the past couple months, the staff in all 20 FSA County Offices have been conducting in-depth reviews of all files to ensure that all of your FSA paperwork is correct and up-to-date. We appreciate your patience and assistance in completing this review that had to be completed prior to any 2007 payment being made.

I remind each of you how important it is for all producer and farm operation records to be accurately on file in our offices. As soon as you know what your 2007 farming/ranching operation will look like, visit your county office to update your records.

As soon as your operation is in order, don't forget to sign up for the 2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP). Signup began in October, and ends June 1, 2007. As previously announced, the first advance for the direct payment will only be 22% of the total - with the balance being paid in October, 2007.

I encourage you to keep informed of farm programs administered by your local county office. One way is to always read the newsletter as soon as you receive it. It's one way to help keep your operation in compliance, to hear about new program announcements, and for you to stay on top of the many signup deadlines.

Thank you for all your assistance. Let us know if there is something we can do to help.

Youth Loans

FSA makes operating loans to individual rural youth – ages 10 through 20 – to establish and operate income producing projects. These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, and carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H Clubs, FFA, or a similar organization or with a vocational teacher or county extension agent. The project must be an organized and supervised program of work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. Contact us now for more details.

Change in Farming Operation or Address

Producers are reminded to notify this office to report a change in address or ownership. This is vital to assist this office in keeping records.

Spousal Signature

A husband and wife may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office from either spouse. Exceptions include claim settlements, power of attorney forms and signatory authority for an entity.

Gross Revenue

Many disaster programs state that a “person,” as determined by payment limitation definition, shall not be eligible to receive certain payments and benefits if their gross revenue exceeds \$2 million or \$2.5 million.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance may 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.

Reasonable Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact this office.

Submission of Applications via E-Gov

As required by the Freedom to E-File Act, eForms provides customers with the option to electronically access, fill out, and print paper forms, or obtain secure electronic access credentials for signing and transmitting forms and other documents electronically to their local Service Center.

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded to follow tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Contact should be made with the USDA Service Center prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to ensure compliance.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of United States agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. FSA administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties up to 25% 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.

Civil Rights Discrimination Process

As a participant or applicant for programs or activities operated or sponsored by USDA, you have a right to be treated fairly. If you believe you have been discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, disability, or marital or familial status, you may file a discrimination complaint. The complaint should be filed with the USDA Office of Civil Rights within 180 days of the date you became aware the alleged discrimination occurred. To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 326W, Whitten Building, Stop 9410, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice) or TDD).

Direct & Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP)

It's time once again to sign-up for the DCP program! You can begin enrolling your farm in 2007 DCP. This commodity based program is not a continuous program. Contracts for the DCP program must be updated each year. **Deadline to enroll without a late payment fee is June 1, 2007.**

When you sign the CCC-509, you are agreeing to:

- Comply with highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions on all your land
- Devote acreage equal to the base acreage to an agricultural or conserving use (The planting of fruits and vegetables on base acreage may result in payment reductions or loss of benefits)
- Effectively control noxious weeds and otherwise maintain base acres according to sound agricultural practices
- File acreage report with respect to all cropland on the farm
- Notify the county office staff when there is a transfer of or change of interest of a producer

Once you have a signed contract on file, FSA can issue an advanced payment after you designate which month you want the payment. Changes have been made to the DCP program concerning advanced payments. For the 2007 crop year, you will be able to receive a 22% advanced payment. Update your farm records. Changes made to your operation and acreage totals can affect your payments and compliance with programs. The last day to sign your 2007 DCP contract is September 30, 2007, but you will be required to pay the \$100 per farm late-file fee for missing the June 30th signup deadline.

Farm Loan Assistance

Need temporary credit? Maybe we can help. 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

Everyone needs financial help sometime. Perhaps FSA can help you with our loan programs and services to meet your farming needs.



Cache County FSA Office
1860 North 100 East
North Logan, UT 84341

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage Paid
Logan, Utah 84321
Permit #7

Auto

Bruce's Comments

Spring weather is here. Hopefully all fall planted crops fared well through the winter.

I understand your frustration on all the new paperwork required for 2007 payments. We are working through the details as fast as we can. I assure you that we will continue to work hard at getting your paperwork reviewed and approved as soon as possible.

There is a lot of discussion on the next farm bill. I would encourage you to contact your congressional representatives and let them know your concerns about supporting agricultural interests in Utah.

Our FSA office makes every effort to give you the best service possible. Please let me know if we're not meeting your needs.

For information from your computer on current FSA programs log on to www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/default.asp
For answers to your questions, please call me at (435) 753-5480 Ext. 17 or contact me by email at
bruce.lundquist@ut.usda.gov

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