



FARM SERVICE AGENCY

UTAH/WASATCH COUNTY FSA OFFICE

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2007

Crop Disaster Program

Farmers who suffered crop losses because of natural disasters may be eligible to receive benefits through the new Crop Disaster Program (CDP).

You may be eligible if you suffered losses from natural disasters that occurred in 2005, 2006, or, 2007 crops that were planted before February 28, 2007.

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 include drought, excessive moisture, hail, excessive wind and freeze.

Don't miss this opportunity to receive benefits for crop losses you may have suffered between 2005 and 2007. Please call ahead for an appointment.

County Committee Elections

Upcoming County Committee elections will be held for Local Administrative Area (LAA) #2, which includes Provo, Orem, Springville, Mapleton and Vineyard. Election ballots will be mailed out to eligible voters in these areas on November 2, 2007. Ballots must be returned to the county office or postmarked by December 3, 2007. NOTE: Remember to sign the outside of the ballot envelope, where indicated.

Emergency Loans Available

Utah and Wasatch Counties have been declared a disaster area by Governor Huntsman. The disaster was due to the following conditions; severe drought, insect infestations, killing frosts, hot dry winds, below normal runoff, wildfires and flash floods. This makes producers eligible for Emergency Loans and Disaster Set Aside programs. If you have suffered a 30% below normal production yield, you may be eligible for an Emergency Loan.

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 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.

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) 2005

Livestock producers in both Utah and Wasatch Counties who suffered forage losses due to **excessive moisture** in 2005 may be eligible for benefits under this program. Eligible livestock include beef cattle, equine, elk, sheep and goats. To be eligible, livestock must have been located in an eligible county on January 1, 2005 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:

- Number of animals on January 1, 2005 that have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation.
- Producers who run on BLM, Forest Service or State Lands must bring in their billing statements for 2005 so that we can determine how many AUM's you paid for during the 2005 grazing season.

Note: Animal counts need to be very accurate. If you are selected for spot check and are currently running fewer animals than certified to in 2005, you will be required to provide sales documentation/or other documentation showing what happened to the animals. Please call for an appointment.

NAP Coverage Deadline

The Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) can soften financial losses caused by natural disasters, but only if you have applied for coverage and paid the application fee.

NAP provides coverage on crops in the county that are non-insurable. NAP fees are \$100 per crop, not to exceed \$300 per producer, per county.

December 1, 2007 is the final day to sign up for coverage on perennial crops for the 2008 crop year. This would include tart cherries, pears, non-irrigated alfalfa, grass hay and grazed forage (pasture and rangeland).

Note: All livestock producers should consider buying the \$100 coverage on their pasture and rangeland each year. This is a small fee for coverage that can pay large returns during the drought years.

NRCS Office Consolidation

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) located on S. Hwy 40 in Heber City has begun an office consolidation process for both Wasatch and Utah Counties. Due to the decline in the number of farms and ranches in the area, it is no longer feasible for NRCS to continue to staff an office in the Wasatch County for farm bill programs. Effective October 15, Farmers and Ranchers interested in participating in USDA Farm Bill programs and other financial assistance programs will need to contact the Provo NRCS Office which is a local call from Wasatch County. Dave Hanson, NRCS District Conservationist can be contacted at (801) 377-5580 ext. 20. The office is located at 302 East 1860 South, Provo. Barbara Carey, NRCS Resource Conservation and Development Coordinator will move to the Heber Forest Service Office at 2460 S Hwy 40, phone# 654-7239 or cell# (435) 640-0181.

Dates to Remember

November 2 - Election ballots mailed

November 11- Office will be closed for Veteran's Day

November 22- The office will be closed for Thanksgiving Day

December 1 – Final date to sign up for NAP coverage for 2008 Fall/Winter seeded and perennial crops.

December 3 – Final date to return ballots for LAA 2 election.

December 6 – COC meeting and counting of the ballots 9:30 a.m.

December 25 - Office will be closed for Christmas Day

January 1- Office will be closed for New Year's Day

Census Gives Farmers a Voice in Their Future

America's farmers and ranchers will soon have the opportunity to make their voices heard and help shape the future of agriculture for years to come. That opportunity will come to their mailboxes in the form of the 2007 Census of Agriculture. Conducted every 5 years by the US Department of Agriculture, the census is a complete count of the nation's farms and ranches and the people who operate them. 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.

Rick Kestle, Director of the Utah Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) stated that the Census of Agriculture provides information that is not available anywhere else – information that benefits agricultural producers and their communities in many ways." As examples, "policy-makers factor Census data into decisions concerning agricultural and rural programs and community planners use Census to target needed services to rural residents." Additionally, "companies rely on Census data when determining where to locate their operations. Farmers themselves can use Census data to help make critical decisions about their businesses." NASS will mail out Census forms on December 28, 2007 to collect data for the 2007 calendar year. 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 web site.

County Information

Address:

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Provo, UT 84606

Staff:

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Ellen Medeiros, PT

Phone:

(801) 377-5296
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Hours:

Monday- Friday
7:00 am- 4:30 pm

County Committee:

Kay Prost, Chairperson
Chad Warren, Vice-Chairperson
Alan Williams, Member
Jim Smith, Member
George Holmes, Member
Debra Cloward, Advisor

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