



Farm Service Agency

DUCHESNE COUNTY FSA NEWSLETTER

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2007

Emergency Conservation Program Restoring Permanent Fences

Duchesne County has been approved to **accept requests** for the Emergency Conservation Program, (ECP). This program provides cost share assistance to producers affected by the Neola North Fire.

The following practice is available:

EC3-Restoring Permanent Fences

This practice corrects damage to fences caused by natural disasters.

The sign-up period for this program will be from August 1 to Sept. 15, 2007. Interested producers should contact the county office for additional information.

Personnel Changes at FSA

Sterling M. Rees, County Executive Director of the Duchesne County FSA office for the past 21 years, recently accepted the position of CED in the Utah/Wasatch County Office. We wish Sterling the best in his new endeavors in Provo and want to thank him for his years of service to the producers of Duchesne County. Jnell Huxford, previously a Farm Loan Officer in our office, is the new CED in the Duchesne County FSA office. We want to welcome Jnell back and if you have any questions regarding the farm programs offered by FSA, please stop by and visit with Jnell.

Our office was recently saddened by the tragic death of Farm Loan Manager Tracy Houston in the devastating Neola North Fire. If any of our farm loan customers have questions regarding their farm loans or anyone has any questions about the farm loan program in general, please do not hesitate to contact us. The State FSA office is working as quickly as possible to fill the void left by the death of Tracy. Our office would like to express our thanks for the work Tracy did while he was here and express our condolences to the Houston family for their loss of Tracy and George.

PURCHASE 2008 NAP COVERAGE

Noninsured 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. This program can be likened to an insurance policy.

NAP is a federally funded program that provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, or prevented planting occurs as a result of natural disasters. NAP also provides coverage for crops when Crop Insurance is **not available**.

If your crop is not eligible for crop insurance, then you can purchase NAP coverage for your crops. **It is \$100 per crop**, not to exceed \$300 per producer, per county, or not to exceed \$900 for a multi-county producer.

December 1, 2007 is the final day to sign up for 2008 NAP coverage.

**IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY SIGNED UP,
COME INTO THE OFFICE TODAY AND AVOID
THE LAST MINUTE RUSH!!!!**

Just like filing a claim, producers who have a **NAP contract** on file with this office need to file a **NOTICE OF LOSS** when it becomes apparent that a covered crop or pasture has been damaged by drought, frost, insects, etc. This **Notice of Loss** should be filed within **15 days** of when the damage is apparent – no matter how significant the loss may seem at the time.

IMPORTANT: Additionally, you will need to submit production evidence to the FSA Office for your crops, even if you did not have a loss on your covered crops. This is required to establish an APH (actual production history) for each year. This is used to calculate your production yield, and consequently will effect your NAP payment now or in the future.

Make sure to file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required. (Producers also need to notify the FSA office if you intend to graze a crop instead of harvesting it).

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs 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 programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication or 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 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.

2007 Compliance Activities

County Offices perform a variety of compliance reviews and spot checks to ensure the accuracy of payments and integrity of administered programs. Currently, these compliance reviews and spot checks are selected through a variety of processes.

Instead of selecting individual farms, contracts, loans, LDP's, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers for 2007 has been made using a statistical sampling method. Producers were selected based on their participation in CRP, DCP, LDP, marketing assistance loans (MAL's), and NAP.

For 2007, producers selected through the selection process will be spot checked or reviewed for:

- Compliance with all programs in which they participated or received benefits
- Accuracy of all of their FSA-578's (acreage report)

In many cases, this will mean that the same producer will be spot checked and reviewed in multiple states and counties. The reviews will take place throughout the year at times applicable for the certain program or activity.

The following is a list of programs that will be included in this review process:

Crop disaster programs, if applicable
HELC/WC compliance
2005 Hurricane TAP
LDP's / MAL's

CRP maintenance and practice checks
DCP
FSA-578's
NAP

Example: If a selected producer is participating in DCP for 2007, compliance with DCP provisions and anything associated with eligibility for DCP will be reviewed in **all** counties in which the producer is a program participant for 2007. The accuracy of the information on all FSA-578's associated with the producer will be determined by measuring the acreage (unless imagery is available) on all farms. If the producer is also participating in CRP, a field visit would be conducted to determine whether the practice is being maintained and whether unauthorized haying or grazing has occurred. If the producer later receives a farm-stored loan, the loan collateral will also be inspected.

Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections November 2-December 3, 2007

Are you a farmer, rancher, or other agricultural producer? Do you plan to vote in the upcoming FSA County Committee elections? If you are on the mailing list for this newsletter, the chances are you are an eligible voter. Contact the County Office if you have questions about voter eligibility by October 1, 2007.

- 🌾 *Eligible voters will receive their ballots by mail*
- 🌾 *Please vote for only one candidate of your choice*
- 🌾 *Don't forget to sign your name on the back of your ballot*

The County Committee Member representing Local Administrative Area 2 (Altamont, Talmage, Mountain Home, Bluebell and Upalco) is up for election. Those in voting area 2 will vote for one of the candidates who were nominated. Those nominated are Kirk Christensen, Mac Jessen, Wayne Miles, and Leslie Wilcken.

COUNTY INFORMATION

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