



Farm Service Agency

WASHINGTON/CLARK CO. FSA NEWSLETTER MARCH/APRIL, 2007

DCP Program

Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program

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 Aug. 3, 2007.**

The last day to sign your 2007 DCP contract is September 28, 2007, but you will be required to pay the \$100 late-file fee if you enroll between Aug. 4th and September 28th.

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.

Loan Deficiency Payments

Don't forget that the Farm Service Agency rolled out a new, streamlined process for requesting loan deficiency payments. The CCC-633 EZ, "Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) Agreement and Request" is now the required form.

By signing the first page of this form, you indicate your intention to receive LDP benefits. Once the form has been signed, you can submit an LDP request for payment at any time during the loan availability period – before or after losing beneficial interest.

One thing that hasn't changed is the statutory requirement that you request an LDP **before** beneficial interest in an eligible commodity is lost. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for an LDP even if beneficial interest is regained.

SIGN UP FOR THE 2007 LDP YEAR NOW!

For more information on this program, visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> and click on the "Price Support" link and then select "Loan Deficiency Payments."

A subsidy payment is available when the market price of the commodity falls below the loan rate.

An LDP on your wool and mohair is currently available. A new payment rate is announced each Wednesday.

Eligibility Reviews

Just a reminder, our office is currently conducting in-depth reviews of documents used to support producer eligibility. The review is the agency's effort to ensure the accuracy of all payments made to producers. This process pays great attention to detail, takes time, and **must be completed before any 2007 crop-year program payments can be made.** You may need to complete new forms and provide additional supplemental documentation.

Acreage Reporting

ALL participating farms must file an annual crop report to be eligible for program benefits. This includes payments under DCP, NAP, (Livestock Producers) CRP, LDPs, and disaster programs.

The deadline to report acreage is June 30, 2007. Reports filed after that date will be required to pay a **\$46 late fee. COME IN TODAY!**

Also keep track of your planting dates. We will ask you for these dates when you file your crop report. Those dates are helpful to you in the event of a disaster program. Planting dates are also required for producers enrolled in NAP and crop insurance.

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

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.

Emergency Loans

We currently have two different Emergency Designations in place for all Clark Co. residents, due to extremely cold temperatures that occurred January 6-Jan 19, 2007

(Declaration S2488 and Declaration M1689) .

If you had damages and losses caused by the severe freeze that occurred during the above mentioned dates, eligible applicants should contact Doug Hansen, Farm Loan Manager for Emergency Loan Assistance at 435-586-7274 for additional information.

The deadline to apply for assistance is November 13, 2007.

County Information

Address:

196 E. Tabernacle
St. George, UT 84770

Phone

Numbers:
435-673-2381
FAX 673-0312

Staff:

Steven Lawrence, CED
Douglas Hansen, FLM
Karen Reber, PT

Office Hours:

Monday – Friday
7:00am – 4:30pm

County Committee:

Glen Hardy
David Hafen
John H. Bowler
John Wadsworth
Shirlene Hall

Position:

Chairperson
Vice-Chairperson
Member
Member
Minority Advisor

Dates to Remember

TODAY	Sign-up for 2007 DCP
TODAY	Report Farm Changes
TODAY	ELIGIBILITY SIGNUPS REQUIRED
Apr. 17	COC Meeting
May 23	COC Meeting
June 30	Last day to file Acreage Report Without paying Late Fee

FSA Handbooks Online

For those interested in learning the nitty gritty of farm program implementation, help is on the way. The Farm Service Agency is making its handbooks available online. The Web site is <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/efoia/directives.asp>, and is available to anyone with Internet access. *(Not all handbooks are online yet.)*

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Government at Your Fingertips

Producers are encouraged to sign up for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs online.

Once you set up what is called a Level 2 Account, you can sign up for the DCP program, request loan deficiency payments, access your program payment history and tax information and much more!

Although USDA will only accept eAuthentication Accounts from individuals, a representative role can be established to allow an individual to conduct business for an entity.

This online service is an example of the technological innovation USDA is using to make its programs more accessible.

For more information and to obtain authorization through a Level 2 Account, go to <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov>.

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