



Farm Service Agency

WASHINGTON and CLARK CO.

NEWS

OCTOBER 2006

Washington County FSA
196 E. Tabernacle, Room 16
St. George, UT 84770
435 673-2381 Phone
435 673-0312 Fax

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

County Committee
Bud Scow
Glen Hardy
John H. Bowler
David Hafen
Shirlene Hall, Advisor

County Executive Director
Steven Lawrence

Program Technician
Karen Reber

Farm Loan Manager
Doug Hansen

AgrAbility of Utah

AgrAbility of Utah is part of a national program administered through the USDA. AgrAbility focuses on promoting independence for members of the agricultural community who have disabilities resulting from injury, illness, age or other causes. AgrAbility offers opportunities to persons of all ages and connects individuals to a network of service providers, product supplies and product manufacturers in order to provide education, information, services and support. If you or someone you know could use some assistance in making your farm or ranch operation easier because of a disability, please contact: Rhonda L. Miller, PhD. Phone: 435-797-3772
E-Mail: rlmiller@cc.usu.edu.

County Committee Election

Just a reminder to watch your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot. Early in November ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters in Local Administrative Area 3 which is the Hurricane, LaVerkin, Virgin, & Springdale areas. If you don't receive a ballot please notify the county office. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on December 4, 2006. Newly elected county committee members take office on January 1, 2007.



Deadline to apply for Trade Adjustment Benefits

Agricultural commodity producers or fishermen in the United States, or their authorized representatives, may file a petition to USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service between now and January 31, 2007 for benefits under the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program (TAA). Benefits under this program include cash payments and various educational benefits that can include occupational training. Prior years TAA benefits have been provided to producers of blueberries, concord grapes, potatoes, avocados and to fishermen of shrimp and salmon, to name a few. The petition for benefits must be received by the TAA office by close of business, January 31, 2007. The TAA office address is Foreign Agricultural Service, ITP/IPPD, MS-1021, Washington, DC 20250-1021 or FAX to 202-720-0876.



NRCS Conservation Program Sign-Up Ends Nov. 15, 2006

The sign up period for several NRCS programs will be coming earlier this year. The period to sign up for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), and Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) **is currently open and will end on November 15th 2006**. These programs assist landowners by providing 50% - 75% of the cost involved in completing conservation projects on private land. These programs can help you pay for:

- **Rangeland and pastureland improvement projects** including fencing, stock-water developments, weed control, brush control, seeding and even yearly incentive payments for proper grazing management.
- **Irrigation improvements** including sprinklers, pivots, pipelines and pumping systems.
- **Streambank restoration projects** including rock-barbs, reshaping of banks, willow and other woody vegetation plantings, riparian fencing and off-stream stock watering systems.
- **Animal waste management systems** including waste storage structures, pipelines and feedlot relocations.

The above list is just a sampling of the types of conservation projects available through NRCS. If you would like more information, please contact NRCS at 435-586-2429, Ext. 5 or stop by the office at 196 E. Tabernacle in St. George.

THE DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR THESE PROGRAMS IN CLARK CO. IS OCTOBER 13, 2006. If you are interested in Clark County contact Jarrod Edmunds, Mojave Special Projects Office Leader, Telephone 702-262-9047, Ext. 104

NAP Deadline Approaching

The NAP (Non Insured Assistance Program) 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, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occurs as a result of natural disasters. NAP also provides coverage for crops for which the catastrophic level of insurance is not available.

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, 2006 is the final day to sign up perennial crops for 2007 NAP coverage.**

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. Producers also need to notify our office if you intend to graze a crop instead of harvest it.

IMPORTANT: We recently sent out letters to all of our producers who were enrolled in this program last year. If you are interested in signing up for 2007, please sign and date the paper that we sent to you and submit your check make payable to CCC and send back in the return envelope that we provided you. This will save you a trip to the office. If you have any questions at all, please give us a call.

ECP - Emergency Conservation Program

Attention Clark County Producers: A signup period from **Oct. 2 – Oct. 20, 2006**, has been established for any producers who might have received flood damage on or about July 25, 2006 to their farmland. Money is not available at this time, but we have been given authority to accept ECP requests, should funds become available in the future. If you are interested, please give our office a call.

Reporting Farm Information

It is the producer's responsibility to report their farm operation completely and accurately.



Nobody needs reminded that farming and ranching in today's modern marketplace has become a complicated business. Gone are the days when most of us could sell cattle over a handshake and marketing grain meant delivering it to the local elevator. In today's complex business world, new importance has been placed on ensuring that all aspects of farming and ranching are covered with detailed and legally binding contracts.

Government paperwork is no different. In fact, as FSA implements the programs authorized by the Farm Bill, we have grown to realize that it is extremely important that all FSA farm records accurately represent how your operation is being conducted.

For example, producers have now found themselves in hot water because the FSA paperwork reflected their operation as a partnership when the state's tax records indicated that they had formed a corporation. Others have been penalized because the operating name on the FSA records was different than the name the producers used in doing business with suppliers or processors. While the local tractor dealer may know that John Farm really means John and Jane Farmer or that the Lazy R is another name for Stan Rancher's operation, government computers cannot make the connection.

Please take the time to review the forms on file in your FSA County Office. Your payment limitation forms should provide an accurate picture of your operation. The same shares should carry through on the DCP contracts, crop reporting shares, etc. In addition, it's just as important that all your commodity contracts, accounts with businesses that provide receipts for FSA documentation, etc., are in the same name of the entity as represented by our farm records. The county office staff is available to answer any questions you may have on this important issue.

Be Counted on the 2007 Census of Agriculture

The 2002 Census of Agriculture counted 2.2 million farms and ranches in the United States. That was down 15% from the 2.6 million farms and ranches counted in 1974. What changes are in store for the future of agriculture in our country? It is important that all operators are again counted in 2007 Census of Agriculture to show their contribution to the entire US. Agricultural industry.

Every farm and ranch in the nation can expect to receive a mailed Census questionnaire in December 2007. To get an accurate count for 2007, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service must receive a completed report for every farm and ranch in the U.S. The Census is the only source of uniform agricultural data for every county in the U.S. and provides a complete statistical picture of U.S. farms and ranches every five years.

The information you provide on the Census is kept confidential. For more information about NASS or the Census of Agriculture visit www.nass.usda.gov, or call NASS's Field Office at 1-800-747-8522.



Washington/Clark Co
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Dates to Remember	
October 9	Columbus Day Holiday Office Closed
October 17	COC Meeting
November 10	Veteran's Day Holiday Office Closed
November 3	COC Election Ballots Mailed
December 1	Deadline to purchase NAP coverage
December 4	COC Ballots must be postmarked or delivered to office

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