



Spring 2008

Texas/Dent County FSA News

Texas/Dent County USDA Service Center

FSA

6726 Highway 63 #A
Houston, MO 65483

(417)967-2028 phone
(417)967-4059 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/MO

Hours

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

County Committee:
Shirley Best
Jim Freeman
Pauline Chapman
Jerry Kiser

Committee meets the first
Tuesday of each month at
9:00 AM

County Office Staff:

Elvie Younger, Director

Program Technicians:

Loretta Hinton
Lori Martens

District Director:

Jim Kyle

Farm Loan Staff:

Amy Peiter, Manager
Debi Huff, Technician

Area Loan Specialist:

Ron Keith

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Pauline Chapman & Shirley Best. Pauline was re-elected to represent Local Administrative area 4 in Dent county. Shirley will represent Local Administrative area 2, which is all producers East of Hwy 63 in Texas county.

On January 8, 2008 the committee met to organize for the 2008 year. Shirley Best was elected Chairperson and Jim Freeman was elected Vice Chairperson.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

ATTENTION LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) for the droughts in 2005 and 2006 is well underway. We have started issuing payments to producers in Texas & Dent Counties with approved applications. If you owned eligible livestock on January 1st of 2005 or 2006 and suffered an eligible feed loss, you may be compensated.

A revised rule of the LCP program was implemented on February 14, 2008 for Texas and Dent Counties. Producers who didn't own cattle on the first day of either 2005 or 2006 but purchased cattle during the year of 2006 and still owned cattle on January 1 of 2007 may now qualify. Stop by the office or call (417) 967-2028 for more information.

Payment rates for some eligible livestock are:

- BEEF (Adult) – \$10.66/head
- DAIRY (Adult) - \$27.72/head
- BEEF & DAIRY (500#'s plus on Jan. 1st) - \$8.00/head

Other eligible livestock include: Buffalo, Beefalo, Sheep, Goats, Equine, Swine, Poultry, Deer and Elk. (Claimed livestock must be for commercial purposes in a farming operation to be considered eligible).

Producers incurring losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year for which to receive benefits. Also if a producer selects to receive LCP benefits for 2006 and they participated in the Livestock Assistance Grant Program (LAGP), their benefits will be reduced by the dollar amount they received from the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

No deadline has yet to be established for sign up in the LCP program.

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!

Customer Statements

January signals the beginning of a new year, and a time to gather financial records and start thinking about filling out a 1040. Producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will have a little online help in that they will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement. The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's at your fingertips and available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs; information on farm loans; and conservation plan and land unit information.

Dairy Disaster Assistance Program On Hold

Eligible dairy producers can sign-up soon for the Dairy Disaster Assistance Program (DDAP-III) at your local FSA Service Center. DDAP-III will compensate producers for production losses that resulted from cattle and yield losses and produced milk that had to be dumped because of lack of electricity, closed milk plants and damaged containment equipment.

DDAP-III will provide \$16 million in financial assistance to producers who suffered dairy production losses because of natural disasters. A producer's operation must be in a county designated a major disaster or emergency area by the President or declared a natural disaster area by the Secretary of Agriculture **between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007**. Producers in counties declared disasters by the President may be eligible, even though agricultural loss was not covered by the declaration, if there has been a FSA Administrator's Physical Loss Notice covering such losses.

Eligibility Requirements

Under proposed DDAP-III regulations, the following are some of the eligibility requirements producers must meet to receive benefits:

- Producers must have produced and marketed milk any time between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007;
- Producers must have suffered dairy production losses attributed to the declared natural disaster during the eligible period in an approved area; and
- Producers must provide proof of monthly milk production commercially marketed by all persons in the eligible dairy operation during the applicable milk marketing calendar year and claim period (Jan. 2, 2005 - Feb. 27, 2007).

Currently the application process is on hold. When more information is received, it will be announced.

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA County office staff if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent 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.

What is Continuous CRP?

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program allows participants to voluntarily enroll acreage in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources. Eligible landowners enter into 10- to 15-year contracts in return for receiving annual rental and perhaps maintenance, incentive and cost share payments.

To be eligible, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. If eligibility requirements are met, the Farm Service Agency will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year.

For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments, please contact the county office staff or visit:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=crp>.

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other as individuals for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

LDP Deadline on Wool, Mohair and Unshorn Lamb Pelts

Wool producers will be mailed a CCC-633 EZ to apply for LDPs for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts produced during the 2008 crop year.

Eligible producers must:

- have beneficial interest in the wool or unshorn pelts
- owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of shearing or slaughter
- sold the unshorn lambs for immediate slaughter or slaughtered the lamb for personal use
- comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in.

Dates to Remember	
March 15	Deadline for 2008 NAP for mechanically harvested seed, hay and grazing
May 26	Memorial Day – Office closed
July 31	2008 Acreage reports deadline

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the County Executive Director of their local Farm Service Agency office.

NAP Coverage Deadline

March 15, 2008 is the last day for producers to apply for Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage using Form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, and pay the service fee at the county office. The application and service fee must be filed **by March 15th**, the deadline date for 2008 mechanically harvested seed and hay. Grazing forage is insurable and all spring planted specialty crops grown for food.

The service fee is \$100 per crop per county or \$300 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$900 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees.

Faxed Signatures

Certain faxed signatures shall be accepted for all applicable program forms or other documents approved for faxed signatures, if all other signature requirements are met.

Controlled Substance

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

National Compliance and Spot Check Review

2007 National Compliance Review, FSA's national office required local FSA county offices to conduct compliance reviews and spot checks of certain producers selected by the national office through a statistical sampling method. FSA will review the accuracy of the representations made by the producer in connection with participation in FSA programs as well as the producer's compliance with applicable program requirements. FSA appreciates the cooperation of its customers as the agency continues to enhance its operations. FSA's goals are to ensure that program dollars are delivered effectively and efficiently so America's farmers and ranchers can provide safe and abundant food, fiber and fuel for consumers at home and abroad.

Direct and Guaranteed Loans Available

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are available now. Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan. Loan funds are available now — applying early is important so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner. Most of our loan programs have special funding available for minority, female and beginning farmers. FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

Waiting on a Farm Bill

Authority to hold an annual signup for the Direct and Countercyclical Program (DCP) expired with the old farm bill on September 30, 2007. The U.S. House of Representatives passed their version of a new farm bill in July and the U.S. Senate is currently considering their version. The remaining steps to implementation are passage of a farm bill in the Senate, agreement and passage of a conference version between the House and Senate, signature by the President, and publication of new rules in the Federal Register. Looking at that timeline, a signup before early spring is unlikely. However, program provisions and signup dates will be provided through this newsletter as soon as they become available.

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