

October 2007

## ***Texas/Dent County News***

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### **SIGN-UP DATE FOR LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM**

**Texas/Dent County  
USDA Service Center**

**Texas/Dent County FSA**  
6726 Hwy 63 #A  
Houston, MO 65483

417.967.2028 (phone)  
800-879-8894 (toll free)  
417.967.4059 (fax)

[www.fsa.usda.gov/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/)

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

**County Committee**  
Shirley Best  
Jim Freeman  
Pauline Chapman  
Jerry Kiser

County Committee meets  
The First Tuesday of the  
month at 9:00 a.m.

**County Office Staff:**  
Elvie Younger, CED  
Loretta Hinton, PT  
Lori Martens, PT

Farm Loan Staff:  
Jared Weydert, FLM  
Debi Huff, FL PT

The sign-up date for the new Livestock Compensation Program has been announced. Livestock producers can now apply to receive benefits under the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP). LCP compensates livestock producers for feed losses occurring between Jan. 1, 2005 and Feb. 28, 2007 due to a natural disaster. Livestock owners can claim the eligible livestock that they owned as of the first day of January in 2005 or the first day of January in 2006. A producer will only be paid for one of the eligible years. Eligible livestock are beef and/or dairy cows, bulls, non-adult cattle that were 500 pounds or greater, beefalo, sheep, goats, equine, deer, elk and poultry. Payments will be the smaller of livestock calculated value (based on 30 day feed needs) or value of feed loss (grazed pastures). Example: The number of head claimed multiplied by the national payment rate for each category. The national rate represents 61 percent of the cost for corn needed to maintain the specific livestock for 30 days. This calculates 50 head of beef cows x \$10.66 = \$533.00.

To apply for this program, you need to know the following:

1. The number of livestock you owned on January 1 of 2005 or 2006. The cattle had to be owned by you for the entire year unless sold due to drought.
2. The acres and location that your livestock grazed in the year that you are claiming the loss.

Five percent of the applications will be randomly selected for spot checks. A spot check will require proof of cattle and/or sales receipts. You may wish to call before driving to the office to determine the availability of staff. **No deadline has been established at this time.** More information about LCP may be obtained by calling the Farm Service Agency at 967-2028 ext. 2 or toll free at 1-800-879-8894 ext.2.

## County Committee Elections

Nominations for the county committee election were due in the county office by August 1, 2007. The next step in the election process is the mailing out of the ballots, which will begin on November 2, 2007. Voters have until December 3, 2007, to return their properly completed ballots to the county office. Elected committee members and alternates take office on Jan. 1, 2008.

This year's elections are for Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2 in Texas County and LAA 4 in Dent County. In Texas County, this includes all landowners East of Highway 63. Shirley Best currently represents these producers. In Dent County, this area includes the area West of Highways 68 and 19 and is represented by Pauline Chapman.

### **Prospective Voter Requirements -**

Anyone who meets the requirements in either, 1 or 2, as well as Item 3, is eligible to vote for county committee members.

1. Voter is of legal voting age and participates or cooperates in any FSA program, or
2. The voter is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.
3. The voter must also be eligible to participate in any FSA program provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

**Discrimination Prohibited** - No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status. If you have questions about your voter eligibility, contact your county office staff.



## Payment Limitations

USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. Documents and forms to determine eligibility and limitation once completed are reviewed on an annual basis.

It is the producer's responsibility to report changes in the farming operation that may affect payment eligibility and payment limitation.

The following limitations apply to Direct and Counter-cyclical Program payments for each contract year. For all covered commodities (except peanuts): \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments.

The Conservation Reserve Program annual limit is \$50,000 per person.

Entities such as corporations, limited partnerships, trusts and estates are required to provide names, addresses, and ID numbers of their members. These entities should also identify every payment under more than one entity.

**Adjusted Gross Income** - Effective through 2007, an individual or entity shall not be eligible for certain program benefits during a crop, program or fiscal year if both of the following apply.

- The three-year average of the adjusted gross income for the individual or entity exceeds \$2.5 million; and
- Less than 75 percent of the average AGI is derived from farming, ranching or forestry operations.

## Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the Farm Service Agency county office staff, and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are necessary.



### **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)**

- The program compensates livestock producers for livestock losses between January 1, 2005, and February 28, 2007, that resulted from natural disasters, including losses **due to blizzards that started in 2006 and continued into 2007**.
- Producers in primary or contiguous counties declared Secretarial or Presidential disaster areas between January 1, 2005, and February 28, 2007, are eligible. Also, producers in counties receiving Administrator's Physical Loss Notice during the same period are eligible.
- Producers incurring eligible livestock losses in more than one of the 2005, 2006, or 2007 calendar years **must choose only one year** for which they want to receive benefits.
- The payment rate is to be not less than 26 percent of market value of the livestock on the day before the date of death, as determined by the Secretary.

### **Crop Disaster Program (CDP)**

The Sign-up date for the new Crop Disaster Program has been announced. Eligible ranchers and other livestock producers can apply to receive benefits under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) beginning October 15, 2007, if they suffered quantity losses to their crops. USDA will announce and conduct CDP sign-up for quality losses as soon as possible.

**Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.** CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007, or, in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007.

Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. Contact the county office for details.

### **Beginning, Small and Limited Resource Farmers & Ranchers:**

**Do You Require Financial Assistance to Fund Conservation Program Initiatives?** USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) have worked together to make conservation programs more available to beginning, small, and limited resource farmers. As producers move from initial contract development into the implementation stage under NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentives Program, many face the inability to acquire the initial capital investment of their cost-share portion needed for contract implementation. To help producers implement conservation measures, FSA has several loan programs available to assist with up-front costs. FSA makes direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit otherwise. A primary objective of FSA's farm loan programs is to assist small, beginning, and socially disadvantaged (minority and female) producers. In fact, a portion of FSA's loan funds are reserved for beginning and socially disadvantaged producers. These loan programs are not new and have been used successfully in conjunction with conservation programs throughout the United States.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) and [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)

## Beginning Farmers & Ranchers

Are you a farmer or rancher who has substantially participated in the farming operation for no more than 10 years? If so, you may qualify for beginning farmer targeted loan funds with the Farm Service Agency.

The program is designed to assist these farmers by providing direct and guaranteed loans when they are unable to obtain financing from commercial credit sources.

If you believe this program could be of benefit to you, please contact the county office for more information. FSA loan officials will be happy to arrange an appointment to meet with you and discuss your options.

## Controlled Substance

Program participants convicted under federal or state law of planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting or storing a controlled substance are ineligible for program payments and benefits. If convicted of one of these offenses, the program participant shall be ineligible during that crop year and the four succeeding crop years for direct and counter-cyclical payments, price support loans, loan deficiency payments, market loan gains, storage payments, farm facility loans, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program payments or disaster payments.

### Dates to Remember

On-going	Sign Up for LCP
November 1	Ballots mailed for County Committee election
November 12	Veterans Day—Office Closed
December 3	Last Day to return County Committee ballots.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program 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 program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of 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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 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.