



January – February 2008

Tooele-Salt Lake County News

Tooele-Salt Lake
County USDA
Service Center

Tooele-Salt Lake
County FSA Office
185 N. Main Street
Tooele, UT 84074
435-882-3018
888-592-4565
(phone)
435-882-0429
(fax)

Hours

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

County Committee

Clell Pete
Chairperson

Ronnie Jones
Vice-chairperson

Orson Johnson
Member

Rodney Grgich
Member

Advisor

Staff

Keith Christensen
County Executive Director

Jennifer Hicks
Program Technician

County Committee Election Results

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.

Congratulations to Clell Pete for his election to the County Committee. Clell will represent LAA 3, which includes Grantsville, Ibapah, and Wendover.

We also wish to extend appreciation to **Duane Hicks** for the time, concern, and effort given on behalf of all the agricultural producers in the counties over the years. You will be missed!

We appreciate each of our committee members and their willingness to serve.

The organization of the committee is listed on the left sidebar.

Crop Disaster Program (CDP)

Farmers who suffered crop losses because of natural disasters may be eligible to receive benefits through the new Crop Disaster Program (CDP).

You may be eligible if you suffered losses from natural disasters that occurred in 2005-2007.

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) has been amended to include all crops planted for the entire 2007 crop year. This will include all spring planted crops.

Producers must have suffered losses in excess of 35 percent of their expected production to qualify.

Sign-up for this program began on October 15, 2007 and no ending date has been announced.

But come in now to apply and learn more about the provisions of this program.

Note: Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of the loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.

Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year for which to receive benefits. They may receive benefits for multiple crop losses if all were in the same crop year.

Don't miss this opportunity to receive benefits for crop losses you may have suffered between 2005 and 2007.

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

This program provides benefits to producers in designated disaster counties for their added costs of procuring livestock feed (i.e. those who suffered forage losses) during 2005, 2006, or 2007.

Producers choose one of these three years to receive benefits.

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) has been amended to include drought as an eligible loss for the entire 2007 crop year.

To be eligible for LCP,

- County must have been designated as a disaster county
- Producers must have owned the livestock on the beginning date of the applicable disaster period, which is January 1st of the applicable year

- Livestock must have been located in an eligible county on January 1st of the applicable year
- Livestock must have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation
- Producers must have suffered an eligible feed loss from produced or purchased forage

Sign-up for this program began on September 10, 2007 and no ending date has been announced.

But come in now to apply and learn more about the provisions of this program.

Salt Lake County was designated in 2005 for excessive moisture and 2007 for drought.

Tooele County was designated in 2005 for severe storms and excessive moisture; in 2006 for severe storms, wildfires, and excessive moisture; and in 2007 for drought.

Eligible livestock includes dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, swine, deer, and catfish.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

This program provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths caused by caused eligible disaster designations in an eligible county.

Salt Lake County producers are eligible for benefits for livestock losses in 2005 due to excessive moisture.

Tooele County producers are eligible for benefits for livestock losses in 2005 due to severe storms and excessive moisture; and in 2006 for severe storms, wildfires, and excessive moisture.

Sign-up for this program began on September 10, 2007 and no ending date has been announced.

To be eligible for LIP, a livestock producer must have legally owned the eligible livestock on the date the livestock died.

Deadline for Insuring Spring Planted Crops

The FCIC sign-up deadline for spring planted crops is March 15. This would include corn, barley, and oats.

This is also the deadline for NAP coverage on spring seeded crops such as oats, hay, barley hay, alfalfa small grain mixed hay, etc.

Farm Loan Assistance

USDA streamlines forms and rules for farm loan programs

Bruce Richeson, State Executive Director of USDA's Farm Service Agency in Utah, reports that the forms and rules for the USDA's Farm Loan Programs will be modernized by January 1, 2008 to make it easier for America's farmers, ranchers and producers to apply for loans.

"This streamlining initiative is part of a historic transformation in agricultural farm lending programs," said Richeson. "By making our process simpler and more straightforward, we will more effectively serve America's farmers and ranchers. We incorporated about 1,500 comments from nearly 600 members of the public in making these changes."

Over the past few years, specific areas of the farm loan programs, such as the Guaranteed and Emergency Loan Programs, have been streamlined by revising the loan making and servicing requirements and procedures.

Direct Loan Programs streamlining includes:

- Reducing the number of pages in the Code of Federal Regulations necessary to administer the Farm Loan Programs by more than 80%

- Modifying requirements to more closely conform to those used by other lenders
- Ensuring all forms are available online
- Cutting nearly in half the number of forms required
- Making guidance more manageable by replacing nearly 40 instruction manuals with 6 handbooks

You can view this streamlining rule via the "Federal Register" at http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/frcont07.html.

For more information about the Farm Loans Program, contact Steven Bartholomew at 801-377-5296; or online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> and clicking on the "Farm Loan Programs" link.

Applications for Assistance

Producers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications early. This will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible. In addition, due to budget constraints, farmers that wait until later in the year to apply, often run the risk of finding out that funding allocations have already been utilized. Contact Steven Bartholomew at 801-377-5296 for more information.

Loans for Socially Disadvantaged

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) can make and guarantee loans to socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family size farms and ranches. Funds specifically for these loans are reserved each year.

A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group

without regard to their individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, and Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Rural Youth Loans

USDA FSA makes operating loans to individual rural youths age 10 - 20 to establish and operate income producing projects. These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H Clubs, FFA, or a similar organization or with a vocational teacher or county extension agent. The project must be an organized and supervised program of work. It must produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

If you noticed you didn't have enough room to store your silage then maybe it is time for a new bunker. Did you know FSA's Facility Loan Program provides funding to finance bunkers and other facilities to store silage and high moisture corn?

If interested, be sure you contact the office for details. You cannot start any work on the site nor have any material delivered until after your loan has been approved by FSA.

Delinquent Debtors Barred

Under the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (DCIA), producers owing a delinquent non-tax debt to the federal government are ineligible for federal financial assistance, including marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments.

Customer Statement

This is the time of year 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 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.

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.

Appeal Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree.

Generally, program participants have three choices: (1) an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, (2) an opportunity for mediation, and (3) an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) 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.

Utah Association of Conservation Districts (UACD) Zone 2 Moves to New Salt Lake Office

Following the closure of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Office in Murray, UACD's Zone 2 staff has recently moved to new office space in the Fort Union area of Salt Lake City.

Please make note of the following changes:

The new address is:

6782 South 1300 East
Salt Lake City, UT 84121

The new phone number is:

801-542-8208

The new fax number is:

801-748-2176

The new e-mail is:

Firstname.Lastname@uacd.org

Current staff includes:

- [Heather Johnson](#) – Zone 2 Director and Envirothon Director working with the Salt Lake, Shambip and Grantsville Conservation Districts
- [Desiree Van Dyke](#) – Resource Coordinator working with the Weber, Davis, Morgan Conservation Districts
- [Terri Roth](#) – Administrative Assistant
- [Staci Strenkert](#) – Education Specialist and Envirothon Coordinator

Murray NRCS Office Closed Jan. 23, 2008

This closure will affect the NRCS Salt Lake County Field Office and the Great Salt Lake Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council.

All field office services previously provided at 1030 W 5370 S will now be provided at other locations.

Services will continue at these locations:

- For Farm Bill information, conservation help and eAuthentication:

Cindy Burton
Tooele County Service Center
435-882-2276
Cindy.burton@ut.usda.gov

- For the Great Salt Lake RC&D:

Jeff Williams
Bennett Federal Building*
801-524-4254
Jeff.williams@ut.usda.gov

- For soils information and aerial photos:

Ray Grow
Bennett Federal Building*
801-524-4253
Ray.grow@ut.usda.gov

Dates to Remember

| | |
|----------|---|
| Today | Report ANY changes in your farm operating plan or bank account |
| Today | Apply for disaster aid through CDP, LCP and LIP |
| Feb. 18 | Office will be closed for President's Day |
| Feb. 19 | COC Meeting |
| Mar. 15 | Final date to sign up for NAP coverage for 2008 Spring seeded crops |
| March 15 | Final date to purchase insurance for 2008 Spring seeded crops |
| March 18 | COC Meeting |

* Bennett Federal Building:
125 South State Street, 4th Floor, SLC, UT 84138

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in Tooele-Salt Lake County FSA meetings/events/functions should contact Keith Christensen, CED, on 435-882-3018 (Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339), or at: keith.christensen@ut.usda.gov.