



Farm Service Agency

TOOELE-SALT LAKE COUNTY FSA NEWSLETTER

MARCH 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 June 1, 2007.**

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.

Update your farm records. Changes made to your operation and acreage totals can affect your payments and compliance with programs.

The last day to sign your 2007 DCP contract is September 30, 2007, but you will be required to pay the \$100 per farm late-file fee for missing the

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.

The CCC-633 EZ is a two-part form. Depending on your commodity, pages 2-4 must be completed to request the actual LDP benefit (payment).

- Page 1 includes terms and conditions, and serves as your intention to request and receive LDP benefits
- Page 2 is applicable to feed grains, minor oilseeds, rice, and pulses
- Page 3 is applicable to cotton
- Page 4 is applicable to wool, mohair, and unshorn pelts

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.

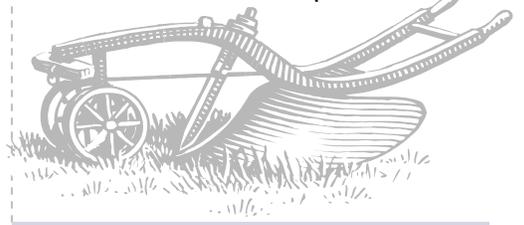
For Tooele and Salt Lake counties, an LDP on grains and oilseeds is currently unavailable, but these rates change

Acreage Reporting

ALL participating farms must file a crop report to be eligible for program benefits. This includes payments under DCP, NAP, CRP, LDPs, and disaster programs.

The deadline to report acreage for Tooele and Salt Lake counties is June 30, 2007. Reports filed after that date will be required to pay a \$46 late fee.

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.



County Committee

In some mailings of the Jan-Feb 2007 newsletters, it was inadvertently reported that Rodney Grgich represented LAA 4. Rodney actually represents LAA 1, the Tooele and Erda areas. Orson Johnson represents LAA 4, the Rush Valley and Vernon areas.

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.

NAP Program

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

The deadline date for producers to apply for NAP coverage for spring seed crops and vegetables is March 15, 2007. You will need to sign form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, and pay the service fee at the county office by that date.

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.

The application and service fee must be filed by March 15, 2007; the application closing date.

To qualify, a producer must be a landowner, tenant, or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop.

Security Guidelines

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has released a booklet entitled "Pre-Harvest Security Guidelines and Checklist 2006" to help agricultural producers enhance security at the farm level. The booklet contains practical measures to help protect against natural disasters, as well as the unintentional or intentional introduction of plant or animal diseases. To get a copy, stop by the county office. More information is available at <http://www.usda.gov/homelandsecurity>.

Premises ID

Producers with a Premises ID need to contact their local Farm Service Agency county office staff to update the following premises information if necessary:

- a change in address
- type of premises
- name of contact person
- telephone number

This is required to ensure an accurate database. Premises ID is part of the voluntary National Animal Identification System (NAIS). NAIS is designed to rapidly identify all animals and premises that have had direct contact with a disease.

Details on NAIS are available at <http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/index.shtml>



Electronic Newsletters

Now you can get this county newsletter by signing-up for e-mail distribution!

We are in the process of collecting e-mail addresses for producers who wish to receive the county newsletter by e-mail. You will need to have Microsoft Word to open the e-mail attachment of the newsletter. *(A hard copy of the newsletter will still be mailed to each producer.)*

If you are interested, send an e-mail to jennifer.hicks@ut.usda.gov requesting to be put on the list.

You can also get an electronic copy of this newsletter at the Utah State FSA Website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ut>.

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.)*

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>.

Farm Loan Assistance

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.

FARM OWNERSHIP LOANS

Eligible applicants may obtain direct loans up to a maximum indebtedness of \$200,000 and up to \$782,000 for guaranteed loans. The maximum repayment term is 40 years; however most guaranteed loans do not exceed 25 years. Loan funds may be used to purchase farm real estate, to enlarge an existing farm, to construct new farm buildings and/or improve structures, and to improve the environmental soundness of the farm.

Attention Producers:

By law FSA is required to provide producers with regulations and available services annually. This is the purpose of this page.

Change in Farming Operation or Address

Producers are reminded to notify this office to report a change in address or ownership. This is vital to assist this office in keeping records.

Change in Direct Deposit Account

The Debt Collection Act of 1996 mandates that payments from FSA be directly deposited into a producer's checking or savings bank account. It is important that any change in the producer's account such as type of account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

Spousal Signature

A husband and wife may sign documents on behalf of each other for 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 from either spouse. Exceptions include claim settlements, power of attorney forms and signatory authority for an entity.

Faxing Documents to the County Office

Form CCC-237 is no longer required to be on file for a producer to fax FSA documents to the county office. Most forms are now accepted with a faxed signature. Call this office for more information.

Submission of Applications via E-Government

As required by the Freedom to E-File Act, eForms provides customers with the option to electronically access, fill out, and print paper forms, or obtain secure electronic access credentials for signing and transmitting forms and other documents electronically to their local Service Center.

Gross Revenue

Many disaster programs state that a "person," as determined by payment limitation definition, shall not be eligible to receive certain payments and benefits if their gross revenue exceeds \$2 million or \$2.5 million.

Payment Limitation and Eligibility

USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. Once completed, documents and forms to determine eligibility 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 limitation for payments is \$40,000 per "person" per fiscal year for payments subject to limitation. Gains from marketing loans and loan deficiency payments are subject to \$150,000 annual limitation. Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is annually limited to \$50,000 per person. Entities such as corporations, limited partnerships, trusts and estates are required to provide names, addresses and identification numbers of their members. These entities should also inform every member of the requirements for designating permitted entities if the member receives payment under more than one entity. A spouse may be considered a "separate person" for payment limitation purposes if the determination is requested and determined eligible.

Controlled Substance

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

Reasonable Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact this office.

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance

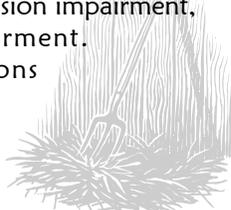
Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded to follow tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Contact should be made with the USDA Service Center prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to ensure compliance.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of United States agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. FSA administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties up to 25% 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.

Civil Rights Discrimination Process

As a participant or applicant for programs or activities operated or sponsored by USDA, you have a right to be treated fairly. If you believe you have been discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, disability, or marital or familial status, you may file a discrimination complaint. The complaint should be filed with the USDA Office of Civil Rights within 180 days of the date you became aware the alleged discrimination occurred. To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 326W, Whitten Building, Stop 9410, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD).



Producer Notification Cont.

Conservation Compliance

All participants in USDA programs are required to have a conservation system in place on all the highly erodible land (HEL) that they operate. Several areas where problems can arise with complying with a conservation system are: renting new cropland, purchasing new land, breaking out additional cropland, planting different crops, and changing or removing existing conservation practices. It is very important that you contact FSA before doing any of the above. Also, it is very important that you contact our office before modifying – tiling, draining, dredging, filling or leveling – any wetland or drainage ditch. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in loss of all Federal payments and eligibility.

Monitoring Efforts to Prevent Fraud

FSA will be assisting the Risk Management Agency (RMA) and insurance providers to reduce fraud, waste, and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program (FCI). FSA will monitor crop conditions throughout the growing season; report suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse; and assist FMA with auditing claims.

Dates to Remember

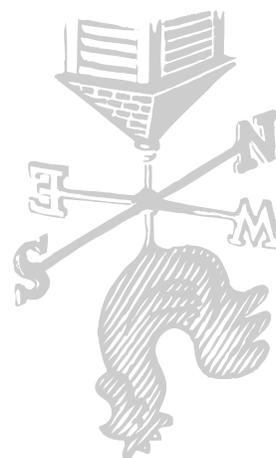
TODAY	Sign-up for 2007 DCP
TODAY	Turn in CCC-633 EZ page 1 to request LDP before losing beneficial interest
TODAY	Report Farm Changes
Mar. 15	Deadline for NAP – spring seed crops
Mar. 20	COC Meeting
Mar. 31	Final Availability for 2006 crop (wheat, barley, oats, honey) loans and LDPs
Apr. 17	COC Meeting

County Information

Address: 185 N. Main Street Tooele, UT 84074	Phone Numbers: 435-882-3018 888-592-4565
Staff: Keith Christensen, CED Jennifer Hicks, PT	Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 am-4:30 pm
County Committee: Ron Jones Orson Johnson Duane Hicks Rodney Grgich Clell Pete Judy Russell	Positions: Chairperson Vice-Chairperson Member Member Advisor Advisor

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status. (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 USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



USDA - Farm Service Agency
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