



Farm Service Agency

TOOELE-SALT LAKE COUNTY FSA NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2006

DCP

Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program

The last day to enroll your farm in 2006 DCP is September 30, 2006. You will be required to pay a \$100 late file fee for each farm you enroll.

Producers who enrolled their farm in 2006 DCP can expect to receive their final direct payment soon after October 1, 2006.

This commodity based program is not a continuous program. Contracts for the DCP program must be updated each year. **Sign-up for 2007 DCP begins October 1, 2006** with advanced payments available after December 1, 2006.

NOTE: Changes have been made to the DCP program concerning advanced payments. In the 2007 crop year, producers 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

COC Elections

The Tooele-Salt Lake County Committee Elections are in full swing. It is crucial that every eligible producer take part in this election because county committees are a direct link between the farm community and USDA.

Agriculture producers in LAA 1 (Tooele, Erda, Lake Point) and LAA 4 (Salt Lake County) will be electing their representative on the county committee.



Producers will be receiving their ballots in the mail around November 3. You

have until December 4 to return voted ballots to the FSA office.

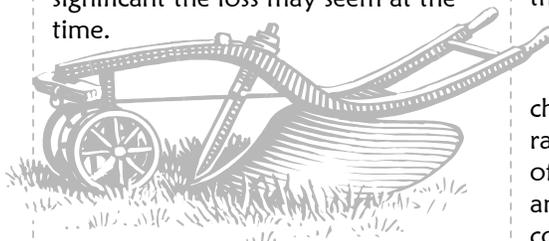
Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) can soften financial losses caused by natural disasters, but only if you have applied for coverage and paid the application fee. NAP is like 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.

If your crop is not eligible for crop insurance, then you can purchase NAP coverage for your crops. 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 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.



MAKE SURE TO CALL THIS OFFICE OR AN INSURANCE AGENT SOON IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.

DON'T MISS A DEADLINE!

Crop Insurance

Federal Crop Insurance has made some changes to their forage programs.

Irrigated alfalfa hay or forage will be insurable for eight years after the year of establishment. Alfalfa stands 9 years old and older may be insured as an alfalfa grass mixture type as long as there are at least 1.2 living alfalfa plants per square foot. No maximum age limitation applies.

This expanded coverage essentially makes all irrigated alfalfa and alfalfa grass mixture eligible for crop insurance, which means they are not eligible for coverage under our NAP program.

The crop insurance sales closing date for wheat, barley, and forage (alfalfa and alfalfa/grass mixtures) coverage for the 2007 crop year is October 31, 2006.

The closing date for all other crops is March 15, 2007.

Crop Insurance policies are available from private insurance agents. A list of agents is available at this office or at <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents>.

Producer Certification for Insurance Companies

Private insurance representatives are now required to provide to the FSA county office a signed statement from the insured individual specifying the crop year and the related documents the producer wants copied for the insurance agency.

The insurance agent will then be charged for these documents at the rate of \$0.20 per page/side for copies of the FSA-578, Report of Acreage, and \$1.00 per copy for map photo copies.

If the statement by the producer is not provided and payment received, the documents will not be released to the insurance agent or representative.

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 the 2007 Census of Agriculture to show their contribution to the entire U.S. 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.

How can YOU benefit from responding to the Census of Agriculture?

- Producers can negotiate for more competitive market prices because they have the same facts as buyers
- Farm organizations use the data to evaluate and propose policies and programs that help the agricultural producer
- Farm service providers can anticipate needs and be more responsive to producers
- Colleges and universities use the data in research programs aimed at increasing agricultural production and profitability
- State departments of agriculture use census data to better serve farmers and ranchers during drought and emergency outbreaks of diseases or infestations of pests
- Rural electric companies use census data to forecast future energy needs for the agricultural producer and the communities they live in
- USDA uses census data to help evaluate participation of farmers and ranchers in its programs and services
- Elected representatives use the data to develop farm policies and programs to protect and promote U.S. agriculture
- Public and private analysts make extensive use of census data in projecting and evaluating results of agricultural programs and events

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 Utah Field Office in Salt Lake City at 1-800-747-8522.



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 suppliers, and product manufacturers in order to provide education, information, services, and support.

AgrAbility of Utah is administered by the Utah State University's Agricultural Systems Technology and Education Department, USU Extension, the Center for Person's with Disabilities, and the Association for Independent Living of Utah.

Types of assistance available include:

- Agricultural work-site analysis
- Farm/Home accessibility survey
- Environmental modifications
- Equipment adaptation and modification
- Information and referral
- Facilitation of independent living
- Individual advocacy
- Peer support
- Coordination of community service
- Education
- Agricultural safety workshops to prevent further injuries

If you or someone you know could use some assistance in making your farm or ranch operation easier because of a disability, please contact this office or:

Rhonda L. Miller, PhD
Project Director
Phone: (435) 797-3772
Toll Free: 1-877-225-1860
Fax: (435) 797-4002
E-mail: rlmiller@cc.usu.edu

Farm Loan Assistance

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

RURAL YOUTH LOANS

FSA makes operating loans to individual rural youths age 10 through 20 to establish and operate income producing projects.

These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, and 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 be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

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 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.

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. The DCIA requirement will apply to 2003 and subsequent crop year MALs and LDPs.

When applying for MALs and LDPs, producers must self-certify that they are not delinquent on any federal non-tax debt. If it is known that the producer has a delinquency on such a debt, the county office cannot approve the request. DCIA also bars a person owing a delinquent non-tax debt to the federal government from receiving direct loans (other than disaster) or loan insurance or guarantee.

Designation by Landowner Method of Division

This method of division may be used when dividing tracts due to sale of land. The owners agree in writing to the division of contract acres between parcels of land. The division may or may not be proportionate to the acres purchased/sold.

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 our office.

Not-Actively Engaged Determinations

Any producers determined to be "Not Actively Engaged in Farming" will be ineligible for most all USDA payments. This includes DCP, gains from marketing loans and loan deficiency payments, CRP annual rental payments, disaster assistance or emergency payments, and any payment or benefit requiring a determination of "actively engaged in farming."

Off-setting Payments Made by FSA

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 does NOT exempt any program payments from being credited toward any FSA delinquent debt owed by the producer. Please call us for more information if you have a concern or feel this may apply to you.

Spot Checks by FSA

All CCC-501s (Members Information), and CCC-502s (Farm Operating Plan for Payment Eligibility Review), are subject to spot check through our end-of-year review process. If selected for a spot check, producers will be asked to submit proof of their contribution to the operation such as seed, fertilizer and chemical bills, land lease agreements, land contracts or property tax payments, equipment lists, cancelled checks for paid labor or hired management and any other items the FSA County Committee determine are necessary.

The producer is required to provide these items for the spot check so that the FSA county committee can make a determination that the farming operation is actually being performed as was stated on the applicable CCC-501 or CCC-502 that was originally completed.

Utah Farm Service Agency Website

Producers may access FSA information and forms at www.fsa.usda.gov/ut

Power of Attorney

If you're too busy getting work done around the farm to come into your local FSA office to conduct business and complete your paperwork, here's a solution. Retain an agent to act on your behalf for programs and transactions authorized under the 2002 Farm Bill and most other FSA administered programs. This can be done by completing an FSA-211, Power of Attorney. The form is available at your local USDA Service Center or on-line at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Forms obtained and completed outside USDA Service Centers offices must be notarize. To find out more, call the office.

Prevented Planting

Prevented planted acres means that you were unable to plant a crop on the field. If you plant an alternative crop on those acres, those acres are not considered prevented planting. For example, if you intended to plant oats, but subsequently planted corn on the acres, FSA does not consider those acres as prevented planting. If you were unable to plant all of the acres you intended then you need to take action. You want to make sure you report those acres as prevented planted when you file your acreage report.

If you have crop insurance, talk to your agent NOW. Find out if prevented planted acres are covered under your policy and if restrictions apply. Rules vary by program.

If your crop is covered by NAP, file a Notice of Loss with the office within 15 days of loss, report the acres by the required NAP crop reporting date.

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 RMA with auditing claims. Fraud can lead to producer disqualification to participate in FSA programs.

CRP Cover Maintenance

You are required to maintain your Conservation Reserve Program acres according to the conservation plan you agreed to with the Natural Resources Conservation Service technician. You need to make sure you:

- Have adequate approved vegetative cover to control erosion for the contract period
- Control weeds and other types of undesirable vegetation
- Take control measures outside of the primary nesting season



Please keep in mind mowing for cosmetic purposes is prohibited. That is why it is important to review your conservation plan and talk to NRCS if you think undesirable plant species are invading your CRP land.

20th Anniversary of the Conservation Reserve Program

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has 20 years of impressive achievements. Our nation's farmers and ranchers earn the credit for CRP's phenomenal success. Appreciation needs to be expressed to the stewards of these CRP acres and how they've been managed over the past 20 years.

Dates to Remember

TODAY	Sign-up for 2006 DCP
TODAY	Turn in CCC-633 EZ page 1 to request LDP before losing beneficial interest
TODAY	Report Farm Changes
Sept. 4	Office Closed – Labor Day
Sept. 19	COC Meeting
Sept. 30	Last day to enroll 2006 DCP
Oct. 1	2006 DCP final payments paid
Oct. 1	2007 DCP sign-up begins
Oct. 9	Office Closed – Columbus Day
Oct. 17	COC Meeting
Nov. 3	COC Election ballots mailed
Dec. 1	2007 NAP sign-up deadline
Dec. 4	Last day to return voted ballots

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: Henry Day Rodney Grgich Duane Hicks Orson Johnson Clell Pete Judy Russell	Positions: Chairperson Vice-Chairperson Member Member Advisor Advisor

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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.

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