



January & February 2008

Box Elder County News

**Box Elder County
USDA Service
Center**

Box Elder County
FSA
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Tremonton, UT
84337

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435-257-5402
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Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30
p.m.

County Committee
Kent McMurdie
Laurie Munns
Curtis Marble

Advisor
Tamara Wood

Staff
James Hall
Julie Richins
Marilyn Pali
Barbie Madsen
Sherry Funk



County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Curtis Marble for his re-election to the County Committee. Curtis will represent LAA3, From Rocket Road, South Tremonton, Bear River City, Thatcher, Penrose, Corinne, Deweyville, Honeyville, & Brigham City.

We appreciate each of our committee members and their willingness to spend time and effort on behalf of the agricultural producers in Box Elder County.

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.

You may be eligible if you suffered losses from natural disasters that occurred in 2005, 2006 or 2007. The Crop Disaster Program has been amended to include all crops planted for the 2007 crop year. This would include all spring planted crops. Producers who filed a 2005 or 2006 Crop Disaster application may want to re-evaluate their 2007 losses to make sure maximum benefits are received under this program. Producers must have suffered losses in excess of 35 percent of their expected production to qualify.

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.

Eligible damaging conditions would include drought, excessive moisture, hail, excessive wind and freeze.

Don't miss this opportunity to receive benefits for crop losses you may have suffered between 2005-2007. Please call ahead for an appointment.

Deadline for Insuring Spring Planted Crops

The FCIC sign up deadline for spring planted crops is March 15. This would include Safflower, Corn, Dry Beans, Corn Silage, and Sunflowers. Onions is also a spring crop and the closing date is February 1.

Youth Loans

Remember 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, 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. Contact your local FSA office for more details

Applications for FSA Loans

Farmers and ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Filing early will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible so that planting decisions can be made. Failure to apply early can result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications that must be processed in date order. Contact your local FSA farm loan manager or officer for more details and assistance in applying.

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

Livestock producers in Box Elder county who suffered forage losses due to drought in 2007 may be eligible for benefits under this program.

The program has been amended to include 2007. Producers must choose only one year for which to receive benefits. Producers who have already signed up for the 2006 year program, but who had more animal numbers in 2007, may want to come into the office and re-evaluate their application so that maximum benefits are received.

Eligible livestock include beef cattle, equine, elk, sheep and goats. To be eligible, livestock must have been located in an eligible county on January 1 of the applicable year and must have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation.

Please provide our office with the following information when you come in to apply:

- Animal numbers on January 1 of the applicable year.
- Producers who run on BLM, Forest Service or State Lands must bring in their billing statements for the applicable year so that we can determine how many AUM's you paid for during the grazing season.

Note: Animal numbers need to be very accurate. If you are selected for spotcheck and are currently running fewer animals than certified to, you will be required to provide sales documentation/or other documentation showing what happened to the animals.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

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.

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.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information. If you want a crop loan, a power of attorney form will need to be completed for husband and wife, if both do not come into the office to sign the forms on the day the loan is disbursed.

Commodity Loans

Commodity Loans are available to all farmers growing eligible commodities. These loans provide capital to farmers enabling them to hold their crop off the market and benefit from price increases that may come after harvest.

Commodity Loans mature in 9 months. Loan rates are as follows:

- Hard Red Winter Wheat
\$3.03 BU
- Hard Red Spring Wheat
\$2.72 BU
- Soft White Winter Wheat
\$2.69 BU
- Oats
\$1.40 BU
- Barly
\$2.09 BU
- Corn
\$2.33 BU

Producers are reminded that they are responsible for maintaining the quality of commodities in farm storage. They will also be subject to penalties applicable to unauthorized removal or disposition if CCC Loan collateral is moved or disposed of without prior approval from the FSA county office.

Deadline for Wool Loan Deficiency Payments (LCP)

The Wool Loan Deficiency Payment program provides payments to eligible producers for wool produced and shorn from live sheep. Producers who have sold wool in 2007 need to bring their receipts to the office and complete their request for a Loan Deficiency Payment by January 31, 2008.

Note: Payments will be made to the person whose name is on the receipt.

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other 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.

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 — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

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.

Contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager or Officer for more details and assistance in applying.



Customer Statement

January signals the beginning of a new year, and a time to gather financial records and starting 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.

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.



Ag Census Forms due Feb 4th

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) began distribution of the 2007 Census of Agriculture last month and completed forms are due by February 4, 2008. Producers can return their forms by mail or, for the first time, they have the convenient option of filling out the Census online via a secure website at <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/>.

Conducted every 5 years by the U.S.D.A., the Census is a complete count of the nation's farms and ranches and the people who operate them. According to NASS, the Census of Agriculture provides information that is not available elsewhere. The last AG Census was conducted in 2002.

The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other topics. It provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation.

Policy-makers use Census data for decisions concerning agricultural and rural programs. Community planners use Census information to target delivery of local services. Companies rely on Census data when determining where to locate their operations. And farmers themselves look at Census data when decided to make changes in their production strategies.



JOKE OF THE MONTH

Where would you be?

If- you had all the money your heart desires?

If- you had the most fabulous home in the perfect neighborhood?

If- you had no worries

If- you came home and the finest gourmet meal is waiting you?

If- your bathwater had been run?

If- your partner was awaiting you with open arms and kisses?

SO WHERE WOULD YOU BE?

Well..... HELLOooooo!!!!!!!
 You'd be in the wrong damn house!!!!!!

Dates to Remember	
Jan 21	Closed M.L. King JR day
Feb 1	Crop Insurance deadline for Onions
Feb 14	COC Meeting
Feb 18	Closed President's Day
March 15	NAP Spring Crop Deadline
March 15	Crop Insurance Spring Crop Deadline
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continues Conservation Reserve Program Sign-Up

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs 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 programs. (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, 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 Box Elder FSA meetings/events/functions should contact James R Hall, CED, on (435) 257-5402 (Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339), or at: james.hall@ut.usda.gov.