

County Committee
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Office Hours
8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Monday through Friday

WASHINGTON COUNTY FSA NEWSLETTER

January 2007

Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP)

Crop year 2007 advance direct payments under the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) may be issued after the farm is enrolled for 2007. DCP requires annual signup. Farms may be enrolled through **August 3, 2007** without the assessment of any fees. Farms enrolled after August 3 and before September 30, 2007 will be assessed a \$100 late-filed signup fee. If you have not signed up, (and many producers have not) please contact the office for an appointment. Any changes to your farm must be made prior to signup. If you have purchased land or had any changes in leased land, please inform the office of these changes when making the appointment.

If planting fruits or vegetables (FAVs) on acreage enrolled in DCP, please check with this office before planting the crop. Failure to comply with FAV provisions is a contract violation and will result in a payment reduction or contract termination.

ELIGIBILITY AND SIGNATURE AUTHORITY REVIEWS

All FSA Offices are being required to review eligibility forms and signature authorities for all producers. This is a lengthy process and in many cases new forms need to be obtained due to the age of the forms currently on file. In addition, entity documents may need to be submitted to document who has authority to act on behalf of the entity. If proper and complete documentation is not already on file, it must be submitted prior to being able to sign FSA documents. We appreciate your cooperation and patience as we complete this monumental task.

SPOUSAL SIGNATURES

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of one another as individuals 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. Loans do require either the signature of both spouses or a properly executed FSA power of attorney.

REPORTING CHANGES

It is your responsibility to notify FSA of ANY changes in your farming operation or entity status throughout the year. Changes that could affect a determination include, but are not limited to a change in contract shares which may reflect change of land lease from cash rent to share rent or from share rent to cash rent; a change in the size of the producer's farming operation by the addition or deletion of a farm; a change in the structure of the farming operation, including any change in the member's shares; a change in the contributions of farm inputs of capital, equipment, active personal labor, or active personal management; and a change of farming interest not previously disclosed on CCC-502 or update, including the farming interests of a spouse or minor child.

You should also report changes in your financial institution since incorrect routing numbers will result in your payment being delayed.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

Low interest loans are available to assist in building or upgrading storage facilities. Loans shall not exceed \$100,000 for any one borrower and real estate liens are required on loans over \$50,000. Loans are for a term not to exceed 7 years. Storage structures must be for a program commodity. Please contact the FSA Office for additional information

CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE

All participants in USDA programs are required to have a conservation system in place on all highly erodible land (HEL). Several areas where compliance problems can arise include: renting new cropland, purchasing new land, breaking out additional cropland, changing cropping rotations, and changing or removing existing conservation practices. It is very important that you contact the FSA and/or NRCS office before doing any of the above. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these actions may result in loss of all Federal payments and eligibility.

PAYMENT LIMITATION

Producers are reminded that no program benefits may be made until the FSA office has made all the necessary payment limitation and eligibility determinations. Producers will remain ineligible until all the required forms that include information pertaining to their farming operations are provided to the office. The FSA county committee or the producer may initiate the payment limitation and payment eligibility determinations.

The following programs are subject to the following limitations.

Direct DCP Payment - \$40,000	Counter-Cyclical DCP Payment - \$65,000
Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) - \$75,000	Price Support Market Gains - \$75,000
CRP - \$50,000	NAP - \$100,000

Statutory provisions require that all entities--individuals, partnerships, joint operations, corporations, trusts, etc.--provide the names, addresses and ID numbers of the entity's members to the county committee. Also, entities must inform their members of the requirement for designating "permitted entities" for payment purposes. Spouses may be considered separate "persons" for payment limitation purposes if this determination is requested and all the applicable requirements to be determined a "person" are met.

CCC LOAN COLLATERAL

Producers are responsible for both the quantity and quality of grain under loan. If grain under loan has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties are severe and a producer's name will be placed on a loan violation list for at least a two-year period. Always call the office **before** any loan grain is fed or sold.

COMMODITY LOAN RATES

Commodity	2006 Loan Rate	2007 Loan Rate	Unit
Wheat	\$2.72	\$2.84	Bushel
Corn	\$2.07	\$2.08	Bushel
Barley	\$1.90	\$1.95	Bushel
Oats	\$1.33	\$1.34	Bushel
Grain Sorghum	\$3.20	\$3.21	Hundredweight
Soybeans	\$4.63	\$4.62	Bushel
Oil Sunflowers	\$9.14	\$8.94	Hundredweight
Other Sunflowers	\$9.14	\$8.94	Hundredweight

The final date to obtain a 2006 wheat or barley loan is March 31, 2007 and the final date to obtain a 2006 corn, sunflower, grain sorghum, or soybean loan is May 31, 2007.

ACREAGE REPORTS

Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, is required and can prevent loss of benefits for producers who participate in DCP, CRP, NAP, and/or Marketing Assistance Loans and LDPs. Failed acreage shall be filed before the disposition of the crop. Failed acreage is acreage that was timely planted with the intent to harvest, but because of disaster-related conditions, the crop failed before it could be brought to harvest. The office will be sending appointment cards but if you are destroying failed acreage, please contact the office. The acreage reporting deadline for Colorado is **July 15, 2007**. The planting date is now required to be included with your acreage report.

PREVENTED PLANTING

Prevented planting is the inability to plant the intended crop acreage with proper equipment during the established planting period for the crop because of a natural disaster. To be approved, producers must be able to: (1) establish that all cropland feasible to plant was affected by a natural disaster rather than a management decision and (2) preliminary efforts such as land preparation and seed/fertilizer/chemical purchases were made.

If prevented planting is due to drought, irrigated acres must not have a reasonable probability of having adequate water to carry out an irrigated practice. An adequate water supply means there will be enough water physically and legally available throughout the entire growing season.

If nonirrigated acres are prevented due to drought, there must have been insufficient soil moisture for germination and progress towards crop maturity. Lack of moisture must be substantiated by exceeding the D2 level using the U.S. Drought Monitor or from sources whose business is to record weather conditions. As prevented planting is considered on a field-by-field basis, any local evaluations must also be performed on a field by field basis by a recognized authority.

The number of acres approved for prevented planting will be the lesser of (1) the prevented planted acres reported or (2) the maximum acres planted and approved for prevented planted in any 1 of the previous 4 crop years. This requirement is crop specific.

Procedural changes make it difficult to approve late filed prevented planting reports as the weather condition that caused the prevented planting on the final planting date must still be present at time of reporting. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

FARM LOAN PROGRAM

The farm loan side of FSA makes and guarantees loans to family size farmers and ranchers who are temporarily unable to obtain commercial credit. A portion of the program funding is set aside to assist Socially Disadvantaged Applicants (SDA). These groups include women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, and Pacific Islanders. Washington County loans are administered from the Sterling FSA Office, 621 Iris Drive, Sterling, CO 80751-4715. To assist producers, a farm loan representative will be available in the Washington County FSA Office on the first Wednesday of each month. Producers are encouraged to contact the Sterling Office at (970) 522-7440 ext 2, to ensure someone will be available in Akron and to schedule an appointment time.

FOREIGN LANDOWNER NOTIFICATION

Foreign investors, who buy, sell or hold a direct or indirect interest in U.S. agricultural land must report their holdings and transactions to the Secretary of Agriculture. Failure to timely file an accurate report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land. Contact your local FSA office to file the appropriate report.

NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

NAP was designed to reduce financial losses when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production. NAP covers all noninsurable, commercially grown crops grown for food or fiber, including honey, forage and grazing crops, turfgrass sod, Christmas trees, seed crops and aquaculture. Crops in Washington County that would be eligible for NAP assistance include such crops as millet for hay, small grains for hay, nonirrigated soybeans, sweet sorghum for hay, triticale and other noninsurable crops.

A nonrefundable service fee equal to \$100 per crop per county, not to exceed \$300 per county or \$900 per producer is required at the time application is made. Coverage is producer specific and not farm specific. Coverage will be 50% of the unit's actual production history or county established yield. Payments will be calculated utilizing 55% of the state-established price

Applicable deadlines are:

March 15, 2007	Final date to obtain NAP on forage sorghum, forage millet, hay millet seed, and oats
April 30, 2007	Final date to plant oats
June 20, 2007	Final date to plant millet for seed
July 15, 2007	Final date to submit 2006 NAP crop production
July 15, 2007	Final date to plant forage sorghum and millet for forage
September 1, 2007	Final date to obtain NAP on 2008 barley, canola, rye, triticale, & spring wheat
October 15, 2007	End of NAP coverage for alfalfa, mixed forage, sorghum forage, & millet

MEASUREMENT SERVICE RATES

Measurement service rates have been increased. These rates were set by the Deputy Administrator of Farm Programs (DAFP).

When an on-site visit is required to perform measurement service and farm visits are usually required, the following rates must be charged.

Basic Farm Fee	Plus Hourly Rate	Mileage
\$30 Per Farm	\$16 first hour/\$8 every 30 minutes after 1 st hour. (Minimum of 1 hour)	Mileage charge is included in the basic farm rate. No additional charge

The basic farm fee applies to **each farm** for which the producer is requesting measurement service. With the basic farm fee and hourly rate, the minimum total for measurement service will be **\$46.00 per farm**. If measuring farm-stored grain that was grown on separate farms but is now stored at one location, the producer shall be charged one measurement service rate for the farm where the grain is stored.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities including vision or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the FSA office and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are needed.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs and activities on the bases of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and 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 the USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (Voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (Voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

/s/ Royal Woods IV
County Executive Director