

U.S. Department
of Agriculture



JONES COUNTY FSA

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Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday
8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

County Committee

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William Mills Jr.
Alexander Toodle

Staff

April Young, PT
Judith Green, PT

Loan Manager

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County Executive Director

Lewis Humphrey

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USDA

Jones County Farm Service Agency

MAY 2008

Final Loan and LDP Availability Date

Producers are reminded that the final commodity loan and LDP availability date for 2007 Crop Year Corn, Grain Sorghum, Upland Cotton, Rice, Dry Peas, Lentils, Small Chickpeas, Soybeans and Other Oilseeds **will be May 31, 2008.**

Farm Bill Extended Until April 18th

Last month the President signed a 33-day extension of the current law to allow Congress until **April 18th** to reach an agreement on the next Farm Bill. If Congress fails to reach an agreement on a new Farm Bill that meets the standards that the President set out, he will ask Congress to extend the current law for at least one year.

This extends FSA's authority to administer the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and marketing loan benefits for wool, mohair, unshorn pelts and honey through April 18, 2008.

FSA Signature Requirements

Proper signatures on Farm Service Agency contracts, applications and forms must be submitted before the document will be considered as filed. **All entities, including revocable and irrevocable trusts, corporations, partnerships, estates, etc., must provide evidence of signature authority stipulating those individuals who are authorized to represent the entity.**

FSA cannot accept signatures without such documentation on file. Examples of acceptable evidence include trust agreements, corporate charters or resolutions, partnership agreements and court orders of appointment. Spouses can sign for one another on most program documents unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office staff. An FSA-211 may be filed to delegate signature authority for FSA program purposes to another individual.

Sign-Up Continues for USDA FSA Disaster Programs

Eligible farmers and producers who suffered livestock, livestock feed and crop losses that occurred before Dec. 31, 2007, can still apply to receive disaster payments.

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) continues to accept applications and make payments for quantity losses under Crop Disaster Program (CDP) that occurred before Dec. 31, 2007. FSA continues to issue Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) payments for losses that occurred in designated disaster counties. **No ending date has been announced for LIP, LCP and CDP.** FSA will conduct sign-up and begin making payments for quality losses under CDP later this spring.

More information about CDP, LCP and LIP is available online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Low interest rate loans for storage facilities are still available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, soybeans and corn. The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures. All Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required. For details, contact the county office staff.

OUTREACH - The Farm Service Agency is committed to informing all persons of the programs that it administers. As part of the Outreach Plan for the Jones County FSA Office, the County Executive Director will be available to speak to groups upon request.



Report Failed Crop Acreage Prior to Destruction

With spring planting around the corner, the Jones County Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages farmers to report failed crop acreage that will not be brought to harvest to their FSA office. Failed acreage must be reported to FSA before destroying and replanting to allow time for a field check.

"It is very important that farmers report failed acreage that will not be brought to harvest to the FSA office prior to destruction," said Jones County Executive Director, L M Humphrey. "This simple act of insuring that failed acres are documented could be the determining factor in whether or not a farmer is eligible for future crop disaster program payments."

Form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. For crop losses covered by the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP), producers must contact their local FSA office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. Producers with crop insurance should also contact their local agent when losses occur and before destroying the crop.

Although low yield acreage does not need to be reported to FSA, producers are encouraged to keep good production records on acreage with a low crop yield to document crop losses. If Congress authorizes a crop disaster program in the future, production records may help support crop loss claims.

Additional information in regard to failed crop acreage or crop losses covered by the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) can be obtained by contacting your local FSA office. FSA program information is also available online at: <http://www/fsa/usda.gov>.

Small Grain Crop Reports and Notice of Loss

Crops of wheat, barley, oats, rye, and any fruit and vegetable planted or harvested before May 15, 2008 must be reported by May 15, 2008. Failure to file report timely could mean a loss of program benefits, such as program payments and /or price support loans. Please be reminded of the requirement that all cropland on a farm must be reported in order to retain program benefits. Contact the Jones County Farm Service Agency for further details.

Notice of loss to all crops including fruits and vegetables that have been damaged by any natural disaster (wind, hail, freeze, rain, drought, etc.) needs to be reported to the local Farm Service Agency within 15 days of damage.

LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed losses or incurred additional feed costs directly resulting from the 2007 drought.

To be eligible under LCP, livestock must: be dairy cattle, beef cattle, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, swine or deer that have been physically located in Jones County on January 1, 2007. Livestock must have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the beginning date of the disaster period, not grown under grower contract and not have been produced and maintained for reason other than a commercial use as part of a farming operation. Such excluded uses include, but are not limited to, wild free roaming animals or animals used for recreational purposes such as pleasure, hunting, pets, roping or for show.

Eligible producers must have owned on the beginning date of the applicable disaster period and suffered an eligible feed loss from produced or purchased forage or feedstuffs or incurred additional feed cost as a result of an eligible disaster period.

Livestock producers must submit a completed application in their administrative county FSA Office and provide adequate proof, as determined by FSA, that the feed loss or incurred additional feed costs were for the claimed eligible livestock.