



FARM SERVICE AGENCY

PERSON COUNTY NEWS

August 2008

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County Committee

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Russell Horton-Vice-Chairperson
Spurgeon Neal-Member
George Whitt-Advisor
Tammy Blalock-Advisor

Staff

Robert Satterfield, Jr., CED
Adele Fulcher, CPT
Terri Brandon, PT
Elizabeth Williamson, PT
Rosie Clayton, PT
Melissa Seaman, FLO



Program Reminders

Deadlines:

August 15: Crop reports covering all crops and land uses must be made.

Sept. 16: Buy-In Waiver fees are due.

Sept. 30: DCP program

We are currently accepting applications for the following programs:

2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program
2008 DCP Program



2008 FARM BILL - Farmers must take action NOW!

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) was enacted June 18, 2008 and created several new disaster programs. Producers who wish to participate in the new disaster programs are required to have crop insurance or non-insured crop disaster assistance (NAP) coverage for all crops, including grazing, in all counties in which they have an interest. The sales closing dates to purchase crop insurance or NAP coverage had passed for 2008 crops before the farm bill was passed so a waiver has been authorized to allow farmers to be eligible for disaster assistance for 2008 crops.

To be eligible for disaster assistance for 2008, farmers must pay a waiver fee of \$100 per crop for each crop that is not covered by crop insurance or NAP coverage. There is a maximum fee of \$300 per county for all insurable crops to be covered in that county and a maximum of \$900 will cover all insurable crops in all counties. There is also a maximum fee of \$300 per county for all non-insurable crops and \$900 to cover all non-insurable crops in all counties. Farmers will receive credit toward these maximums for crop insurance or NAP coverage that has already been purchased. The waiver fee must be paid no later than September 16, 2008. Payment of these waiver fees does not afford the producer crop insurance or NAP coverage; it only affords eligibility for

the 2008 disaster programs. Producers who meet the definition of "Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher," do not have to meet the Risk Management Purchase Requirement, and, therefore are not required to pay the buy-in fee.

Farmers must file an application for waiver and pay the applicable fee in each county that they have an interest in a crop. If they have previously paid the maximum fee they must still file a waiver application for every crop. The applicable buy-in form must be completed and applicable fees paid by **Sept. 16, 2008**. Payment of the applicable fees will allow the producer to be eligible for benefits for losses under Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program, Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Tree Assistance Program (TAP), and Emergency Assistance Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP).

The 2008 Act authorizes funds to be used to make payments to farmers and ranchers incurring eligible crop production/quality losses under the SURE Program, grazing losses under LFP, livestock death losses under LIP, and losses suffered by producers of livestock, honeybees, and farm-raised fish under ELAP. The 2008 Act also authorizes TAP.





2008 Cropland Certification Deadline

Nears

The Farm Service Agency has extended the crop reporting deadline for 2008 spring and summer planted crops until **August 15, 2008**.

Sign-up for DCP Underway

The sign-up for the 2008 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) has begun at the Farm Service Agency. Any farm that has grain bases in excess of 10 acres and has land in agricultural use is eligible to participate if an application is filed with the FSA Office by **September 30, 2008**. The person that will be in control of the cropland enrolled for the 2007 crop year will be the only person that is

eligible to receive the DCP payment. **An entire farm cannot be leased to someone and the landowner receive the DCP payment, and a farmer cannot receive the DCP payment on a farm they no longer tend.** One major change for the 2008 program is, that farms with 10 acres or less of grain bases are not eligible for payment unless the farm is owned by a limited resource or socially disadvantaged person.



Farmers May Apply for Crop Quality Losses

Farmers who received reduced prices for their 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops due to poor quality, caused by weather, may be eligible for a disaster payment from the Farm Service Agency. The Crop Disaster Program provides benefits to farmers who suffered losses of production or quality due a natural disaster.

Only crops covered by crop insurance or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) will be eligible for disaster payments.

Producer must have suffered price

reductions of at least 25%, due to poor quality, to be eligible for a quality loss payment. To apply farmers must provide the Farm Service Agency with all production records for the crop. The records must include the quantity, the crop year, the crop type, and the crop must have been graded for quality. If the production was sold a record of the price received must also be provided.

Farmers can receive payments for only one of the three years and the payment for production losses and quality losses will be added together to determine which year would be the most beneficial to the farmer.



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