



August 2008

# Rich County News

## Rich County USDA Service Center

Rich County FSA Office  
195 N. Main Street  
Randolph, UT 84064

**Phone**  
435-793-2465

**Fax**  
435-793-2745

**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

## County Committee

Clint Cornia  
Chairperson

Steven Huffaker  
Vice-chairperson

Kent Johnson  
Member

Judy Stuart  
Advisor

## Staff

Bill Cornia  
County Executive Director

Debbie McKinnon  
Program Technician

Scott Bown  
Farm Loan Manager

Marc Henrie  
Farm Loan Officer

## 2008 Disaster Programs Requires Crop Insurance or NAP Coverage

### ELIGIBILITY "BUY-IN" DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 16, 2008

The recently-enacted Farm Bill legislates 2008 disaster programs covering losses to crops, trees/vines/bushes, forage, and other losses due to adverse weather. These programs require the crops you planted, grew, produced or were prevented from planting to have been covered by federal crop insurance or FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). **All of your crops on all of your acreage must be covered, not only those acres that suffered losses.**

Due to the late passage of the Farm Bill in May, you will be given an opportunity to "buy-in" to the disaster program by paying a \$100/crop catastrophic crop insurance or NAP service fee for any 2008 crops that are not already covered by crop insurance or NAP.

### **This eligibility "buy-in" must be completed by September 16, 2008**

at your FSA Office to satisfy the requirement for total CI / NAP coverage. Note that it does not provide you with crop insurance indemnities or NAP benefits. Once this requirement is met, you may be eligible for one or more of the following programs:

- **Supplemental Revenue Program (SURE):** Covers crop revenue losses from quantity or quality deficiencies in disaster declared counties, contiguous counties, or in cases where the overall production loss exceeds 50%

- **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP):** Compensates livestock owners for forage losses due to drought. Additionally, losses due to wildfire will be covered on public lands.
- **Tree Assistance Program (TAP):** Provides for partial reimbursement for replanting, salvage, pruning, debris removal and land preparation for orchardists and nursery tree growers if losses exceed 15%.
- **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (EALHF):** Emergency relief to producers of livestock (including horses), honey bees, and farm-raised fish. Covers losses from disasters such as adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires not adequately covered by any other disaster program. This program is authorized at the discretion of the Secretary.

Another disaster program authorized by the Farm Bill is the **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality. This is the only disaster program that does not require crop insurance or NAP coverage.

Note that additional requirements exist for disaster programs eligibility.

### **Bottom Line:**

**To be eligible for Disaster Programs in 2008, you must already have NAP or crop insurance coverage on ALL crops on ALL acreage OR you must pay the fees for the eligibility buy-in at your FSA Office by September 16, 2008.**

Contact your FSA Office for more information.



## Sign-up Underway for the 2008 DCP Program

This year there is a shortened amount of time to sign-up for the 2008 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program.

This annual program requires a new signed contract every year.

**Those producers who have eligible crop acreage base farms and have not yet enrolled in the program must do so by the September 30, 2008 deadline.**

FSA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices.

For 2008, eligible producers may request to receive an advance payment of 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments as soon as practical after enrollment. Final direct payments will be issued after October 1, 2008.

Counter-cyclical payments vary depending on market prices, and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate).

**No 2008 contracts will be enrolled after Sept. 30, 2008.**

For all eligibility requirements or addition information, contact your local office.

## Wool LDP's

The wool loan deficiency payment program provides payments to producers for wool produced and shorn from live sheep.

All producers who will sell their wool in 2008 need to have form CCC-633EZ Page 1 on file with your FSA office before shearing and selling the wool.

Producers need to bring their receipts to the FSA office after wool has been sold. Payments will be made to the person whose name is on the receipt.

All sales receipts for wool sold in 2008 must be submitted for payment before January 31, 2009.

## 2005-2007 Quality Loss Crop Disaster (CDP) Program Signup

Signup for quality losses under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) began on June 23, 2008. Producers can apply for crop quality losses at their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office.

The CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered losses to their 2005-2007 crops from natural disasters and related conditions. Producers who incurred qualifying quantity or quality losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 may receive benefits for only one of these years.

However, producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

**Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.**

Producers must have suffered quality losses of at least 25 percent to be eligible for CDP Quality Loss. Producers may receive assistance for both quantity and quality losses. However, the total quantity and quality assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster.

## Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

We would like to remind all participants in the 2008 NAP Program that a Notice of Loss must be filed timely. You must file a Notice of Loss in writing on Form CCC-576 within 15 days of when the loss occurred or when it became apparent to you that you will have a loss.

**Sign-up has begun for the 2009 NAP program. The service fee is \$250 per crop per county.**

The application and service fee must be filed by the Dec. 1, 2008 deadline for each applicable crop in each applicable county.

## Farm Loan Assistance

Farmers and ranchers have an understanding lender who will listen when banks and other financial institutions decline to extend credit. That lender is FSA.

The Farm Service Agency offers loans to farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agriculture operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit.

There are various types of loans that can be tailored to meet the producer's needs.

For farm ownership loans, eligible applicants may obtain direct loans up to a maximum indebtedness of \$300,000. Loan funds may be used to purchase farm real estate, to enlarge an existing farm, to construct new farm buildings and/or improve structures, and to improve the environmental soundness of the farm.

For more information regarding loan eligibility or loan options, contact your county office to make an appointment with a farm loan officer.

## Farm Reconstitutions

In Farm Service Agency terms, farms are constituted to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

To be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by August 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program. If 2008 DCP direct payments have already been issued on the farm, the reconstitution will be effective for 2009 unless the payments are refunded. Also reconstituted farms must re-enroll in the DCP within 30 days, but no later than September 30, 2008.

## Designation of 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.

## 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 (FCI) Program. 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.

## 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.”

## 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.

## FSA Measurement: Your Digital Service

Farmers who would like a guarantee on their crop plantings and land use acreage can make it official by using the FSA measurement service. Producers must file a request with the county office and pay the cost of a field visit to have stake and referencing done on the farm.

Measurement service is available using digital imagery and where

an on-site visit is not required are charged at a reduced rate. Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty, or loss of eligibility. Producers can request ortho-imagery and CLU covering their land (commonly referred to as a clip) at no charge. This would provide the acreage of an entire field.

## Rich County Fair Gets An Early Start

If the county fair seems early to you this year—it is! The Fair Exhibits open to the public on Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Once again the Farm Service Agency will be participating in the 4-H Livestock program. We hope this will not only help the youth in our area but will also get them and their parents more knowledgeable about the Youth Loan Program we have which can assist young people in purchasing and/or feeding a 4-H project, or many other projects they might be interested in participating in.

We will also have a display in the Livestock building as we have other years. Stop by to pick up flyers or talk to any one of us about the programs provided by FSA that contribute to our county.

The County Fair is an important part of our heritage. We encourage everyone to take the time out to not only attend the Fair but also to participate. Thanks to all the many hard workers who help to make the Fair and Rodeo such a success each year.

## Thank You Eagle Scout “Justice Limb”

**Justice** completed his Eagle Project and it lends a real touch of patriotism to our office. It is great to see “Old Glory” waving in the breeze. Next time you see Justice be sure to thank him for a **job well done!**

## Remember to submit a Timely Notice of Loss

The timely filing of a notice of loss for any failed crop, can prevent loss of benefits for the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP).

**To be considered timely, you must file your Notice of Loss, form FSA-576, within 15 days of the date in which the loss occurred.**

For drought, this would be 15 days after you have harvested and know you have suffered a loss.

Also, if you are going to pas-

ture any acreage which you have already reported you will be haying, remember to contact our office and then place a panel fence around a section so that the adjuster can determine the amount of loss you suffered. Be certain to keep track of dates and the type and size of animal that utilized the feed.

**Visit or call your FSA office and report timely in order to be in compliance and be eligible for payments!**

### Dates to Remember

Today	Report ANY changes in your farm operating plan or bank account
Today	Apply for CDP
Today	Wool LDP's: file CCC-633EZ Page 1 before shearing
Today	Report Notice of Loss for NAP
August 6	Rich County Fair Begins
August 16	Rich County Fair Ends
August 20	COC Meeting
Sept. 16	Disaster Eligibility Buy-In Deadline for 2008
Sept. 30	2008 DCP Program sign-up Deadline

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 Rich County FSA meetings/events/functions should contact Bill Cornia, CED, at 435-793-2465 (Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339), or at: [bill.cornia@ut.usda.gov](mailto:bill.cornia@ut.usda.gov).