



January/February 2008

Duchesne County Newsletter

Duchesne County FSA
USDA Service Center

Duchesne County FSA
240 W. HWY 40 (333-1)
435-722-2491 (phone)
435-722-9065 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/ut

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

County Committee
Bruce Dart, Chair
Craig Thomas, V. Chair
Kirk Christensen, Member
Nerissa Hicken, Advisor

County Committee meets
March 4, 2008
9:30 AM

Staff
Jnell K Huxford, CED
Trent Anderson, FLO
Robin Mecham, PT
Stephanie Mecham, PT

NOTICE:

Starting with this Issue, we are having a Vendor mail out the newsletters.

**If you receive this newsletter in error, please telephone our office so we can remove you from this Mailing list.
435-722-2491, Ext 100**

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Kirk Christensen newly elected member to the County Committee. Kirk represents LAA-2, Altamont, Talmage, etc.

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

Crop Disaster Program (CDP)

Farmers who suffered crop losses (does not include grazing) because of natural disasters may be eligible to receive benefits through the new Crop Disaster Program (CDP).

You may be eligible if you suffered losses from natural disasters that occurred in 2006, or 2007; and the crops were **planted and harvested before December 31, 2007**. Producers must have suffered losses in excess of 35 percent of their expected production to qualify. Sign-up for this program began on October 15, 2007, and no ending date has been announced.

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 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 include drought, excessive moisture, hail, excessive wind and freeze.

For more information, call the Duchesne County FSA Office, (435) 722-2491, ext 2.

Please call ahead for an appointment.

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

Livestock producers in Duchesne County who suffered grazing losses due to drought conditions in 2006 or 2007 may be eligible for benefits under this program.

The program has been amended thru December 31, 2007. Producers need to apply for each year they suffered an eligible loss. Payment will be issued for one year only - the most beneficial.

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 spot-check and are currently running fewer animals than you certified, you will be required to provide sales documentation/or other documentation showing what happened to the animals.

Please call for an appointment ASAP.



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.

Snow and Water Conditions

If you are interested in receiving information concerning the snow and water sites in the Uintah Basin please email Ed Whicker (NRCS) and he will be glad to put you on his email list. Please call 722-0884 extension 124 or email him at ed.whicker@ut.usda.gov.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act requires all foreign owners of U.S. agriculture 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.

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.

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.

Direct Deposit

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.

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.

Faxed Signatures

Certain FSA program applications may be accepted by facsimile (fax) machine if Form FSA-237, Facsimile Signature Authorization and Verification, is on file. This authorization form should be completed, signed and witnessed by the FSA office staff, or notarized.

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 Duchesne County FSA office staff directly or by phone call USDA's Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

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”.



Off-Setting Payments Made by FSA

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 does NOT exempt any program payments from being credited toward any FSA delinquent debt owed by the producer.

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. DCIA also bars this person from receiving direct loans (other than disaster) or loan insurance or guarantee.

Farm and Ranch Management Program at UBATC

The Farm and Ranch Management Program at the UBATC provides individualized training for farmers and ranchers. Participating farms are assisted in keeping a complete set of financial records through monthly instructor visits. Instruction is given on record keeping practices and the use of computer record keeping systems. Year end information is used to analyze the financial position of the farm business. The temporary use of a computer is available if needed. The cost is \$240 a year. For more information contact David Gillman at (435) 722-6956 or david@ubatc.edu.



FSA'S 2007 NATIONAL COMPLIANCE AND SPOT CHECK REVIEW

FSA is committed to delivering accurate program payments to America's agriculture producers. The accuracy of payments not only benefits farmers and ranchers, but also maximizes taxpayer dollars and government efficiency. As part of the 2007 National Compliance Review, FSA's National office is requiring local FSA county offices to conduct compliance reviews and spot checks of certain producers selected by the national office through a statistical sampling method. A Statistical sample of FSA employees, County Committee (COC) and State Committee (STC) members have also been selected for review using this same process.

FSA may review a producer's operations in multiple states and counties, depending on the scope of the producer's operations. FSA will review both the accuracy of the representations made by the selected producers in connection with participation in FSA programs as well as the producer's compliance with applicable program requirements. The reviews may need to be conducted at various times throughout the year depending on the FSA programs in which the producer is participating. FSA appreciates the cooperation of its customers as the agency continues to enhance its operations.

FSA's goal is to ensure that program dollars are delivered effectively and efficiently so America's farmers and ranchers can provide safe and abundant food, fiber and fuel for consumers at home and abroad.

Dates to Remember

February 18, 2008- OFFICE CLOSED
President's Day

March 4, 2008 - COC MEETING

Emergency Loans Available

Farmers who suffered significant damage due to severe weather in 2007 may be eligible for low-interest-emergency loans from the Farm Service Agency. These loans carry an interest rate of 3.75 percent.

*Production Losses. Eligible farmers can also use emergency loan funds to recover a portion of losses on growing crops that were destroyed.

* Physical Losses. Eligible farmers can use emergency loan funds to repair or rebuild essential farm buildings, clean debris or prepare land for replanting, and to replace livestock, supplies and harvested crops on hand or in storage that were lost. The producer must be an established farmer who suffered a production loss of at least 30 percent in any single essential farm or ranch enterprise.

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 Trent Anderson, Farm Loan Officer for more details and assistance in applying at (435) 722-2491 extension 2.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program 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 program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.