



FARM SERVICE AGENCY

SEVIER/PIUTE COUNTY FSA OFFICE

NOVEMBER 2007



Crop Disaster Program

Farmers who suffered crop losses 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 2005, 2006, or, 2007 crops that were planted before February 28, 2007.

Producers must have suffered losses in excess of 35 percent of their expected production to qualify.

Sign-up for this program began on Oct. 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 2005, 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.

Don't miss this opportunity to receive benefits for crop losses you may have suffered between 2005 and 2007. Please call ahead for an appointment.

NAP Coverage Deadline

The Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) can soften financial losses caused by natural disasters, but only if you have applied for coverage and paid the application fee.

NAP provides coverage on crops in the county that are non-insurable. NAP fees are \$100 per crop, not to exceed \$300 per producer, per county.

December 1, 2007 is the final day to sign up for coverage on perennial crops for the 2008 crop year. This would include, fall planted forage crops and grazed forage (pasture and rangeland).

Note: All livestock producers should consider buying the \$100 coverage on their pasture and rangeland each year. This is a small fee for coverage that can pay large returns during the drought years.



Livestock Compensation Program

(LCP) 2005

Sign up for this program began Sept. 10, 2007. Livestock producers in Sevier/Piute Counties who suffered forage losses due to **excessive moisture** in 2005 may be eligible for benefits under this program. 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, 2005 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:

- **Number of animals on January 1, 2005 that have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation.**
- **Producers who run on BLM, Forest Service or State Lands must bring in their billing statements for 2005 so that we can determine how many AUM's you paid for during the 2005 grazing season.**

Note: Animal counts need to be very accurate. If you are selected for spot check and are currently running fewer animals than certified to in 2005, you will be required to provide sales documentation/or other documentation showing what happened to the animals. Please call for an appointment.

Livestock Compensation Program

(LCP) 2006

Sign-up started September 10, 2007. The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed losses or incurred additional feed costs directly resulting from **wildfires** occurring between July 1, 2006 and February 28, 2007.

To be eligible for LCP, producers must have owned eligible livestock on the beginning date of the applicable disaster period and suffered an eligible feed loss from produced or purchased forage. The requirements that apply to the 2005 excessive moisture disaster also apply to the 2006 wildfire disaster.

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 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.

County Committee Elections

Upcoming County Committee elections will be held for Local Administrative Area (LAA) #5, which includes Koosharem, Angle, Greenwich, and Kingston. Election ballots will be mailed out to eligible voters in these areas on November 2, 2007. Ballots must be returned to the county office or postmarked by December 3, 2007. NOTE: Remember to sign the outside of the ballot envelope, where indicated.

Emergency Loans Available

Piute County has been declared a disaster area by Governor Huntsman. The disaster was due to the following conditions; severe drought, insect infestations, killing frosts, hot dry winds, below normal runoff, and flash floods. This makes producers in *Sevier and Piute* eligible for Emergency Loans and Disaster Set Aside programs. If you have suffered a 30% below normal production yield, you may be eligible for an Emergency Loan.



Dates to Remember

November 2 - Election ballots mailed
November 12- Office will be closed for Veteran's Day
November 22- The office will be closed for Thanksgiving Day
December 1 – Final date to sign up for NAP coverage for 2008 Fall/Winter seeded and perennial crops.
December 3 – Final date to return ballots for LAA 2 election.
December 10 – COC meeting and counting of the ballots 9:30 a.m.
December 25 - Office will be closed for Christmas Day
January 1- Office will be closed for New Year's Day

Commodity Loans

Commodity Loans are available to all farmers growing eligible commodities. These loans provide capital to farmers enabling them to hold their crop off the market and benefit from price increases that may come after harvest. Commodity Loans mature in 9 months. Loan rates are as follows:

- Oats \$1.40 bu
- Barley \$2.14 bu
- Corn \$2.40 bu

2007 Census of Agriculture

NASS will mail out Census of Agriculture forms on December 28, 2007, to collect data for the 2007 calendar year. The Census provides information that is not available anywhere else- information that benefits agricultural producers and their communities in many ways. The census is very important – it is the voice of farmers and ranchers, it is their future, and their responsibility.

County Information



Address:
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 Richfield, UT 84701

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 435-896-5489

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Office Hours:
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USDA - Farm Service Agency
 Sevier County FSA Office
 340 N 600 E
 Richfield, UT 84701



Attention Producers:

Following are some of the annual reminders of FSA policy:

Direct Deposit Account

The Debt Collection Act of 1996 mandates that payments from FSA be directly deposited into a producer's checking or savings bank account. It is important that any change in the producer's account such as type of account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

Reasonable Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact our office.

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.

Power of Attorney

If you're too busy getting work done around the farm to come into your local FSA office to conduct business and complete your paperwork, here's a solution. Retain an agent to act on your behalf for programs and transactions authorized under the 2002 Farm Bill and most other FSA administered programs. This can be done by completing an FSA-211, Power of Attorney. The form is available at your local USDA Service Center or on-line at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Forms obtained and completed outside USDA Service Center offices must be notarized.

Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings with the Secretary of Agriculture. FSA administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the counties are required to report the transaction to FSA within 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. It is the foreign person's responsibility to report the land transactions.

Spousal Signatures

A husband and wife 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 from either spouse.

Conservation Compliance

Highly Erodible Land (HEL) compliance is still required to earn program benefits. This includes payments under DCP, CRP, LDP, farm loan programs, crop insurance, and many other USDA programs. Farms with HEL soils need to be aware of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements.