



District 8 – Barber – Clark – Comanche – Edwards – Ford – Gray – Hodgeman – Kiowa – Ness – Pawnee – Pratt – Stafford

January 2008

DAIRY DISASTER AID PROGRAM SIGNUP BEGAN DECEMBER 3, 2007

Eligible dairy producers can sign up for the Dairy Disaster Assistance Program (DDAP-III) at their local FSA service centers.

DDAP-III will help dairy producers recover production losses resulting from a variety of adverse weather conditions in the last few years. The program provides \$16 million in benefits to dairy producers for production losses that occurred between Jan. 1, 2005, and December 31, 2007, because of qualifying natural disasters. It compensates producers for production losses that resulted from lost herds or dumped milk when dairy plants closed or the natural disaster damaged containment equipment. Additionally, power outages, fuel shortages, and infrastructure damage may have temporarily interrupted the flow of dairy products to markets.

To be eligible for DDAP-III, dairy producers must have suffered losses in primary and contiguous counties declared or designated a natural disaster. Also, producers in counties receiving an FSA Administrator's Physical Loss Notice determination are eligible.

To find out more information or to apply for the program, contact your local USDA Service Center or FSA County Office.

DISASTER PROGRAM SIGN-UP CONTINUES

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops. **CDP signup** for quantity loss began **October 15, 2007**.

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 quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP.

CHANGING BANKS

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. To keep the system running smoothly, it's important to keep the county office up-to-date on changes you might make in your financial institutions. If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure uninterrupted service.



LIVESTOCK DISASTER PROGRAMS

Ranchers and other livestock producers can also apply to receive benefits under the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). LCP compensates livestock producers for feed losses occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec 31, 2007 due to a natural disaster. LIP compensates livestock producers for livestock losses during that same time period. For more information on these and other programs simply contact the nearest USDA Farm Service Agency office.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

FSA offers seven-year, low-interest loans to grain producers to build new or upgrade existing storage facilities and related essential, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment. Loan opportunities include, but are not limited to:

- New conventional-type cribs or bins, oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures, and flat-type storage structures designed for whole grain storage,
- Perforated floors, safety equipment, electrical equipment and concrete components considered essential for a fully functional storage facility,
- Remodeling existing storage facilities.

Farm storage facility loans must be approved prior to site preparation, equipment purchase or construction, and must be secured by a promissory note and security agreement. Special provisions apply for loans exceeding \$50,000.

The maximum loan amount will be 85 percent of the net cost of the applicant's needed storage or handling equipment, not to exceed \$100,000 per borrower. A minimum down payment to the supplier or contractor is required to bridge the gap between the net cost of the storage facility and the loan amount. Fixed interest rates on farm storage facility loans are equivalent to the rate of interest charged on U.S. Treasury Securities of comparable maturity on the date the loan is approved. There is a \$45 application fee.

LDP DEADLINE ON UNSHORN LAMB PELTS

Eligible producers have until Jan. 31, 2008, to apply for LDPs for unshorn pelts produced during the 2007 crop year. Eligible producers must have beneficial interest in the pelts, owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. Producers must also comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in.

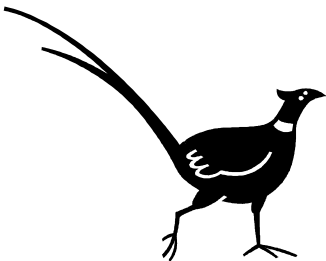
To qualify for payment, pelts must have been produced by an eligible producer from live unshorn lambs of domestic origin in the United States.

CONTINUOUS CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is a private lands environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

The Continuous CRP program is a voluntary enrollment program. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment.

To be eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year.



REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

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 program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Person with disabilities who require alternative means of 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 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) 729-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Enhancement Program (CREP)

Through the Upper Arkansas River CREP, USDA and Kansas will enroll up to 20,000 acres of eligible irrigated or non-irrigated cropland in 14- to 15-year Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts within the project area. The CREP project area includes all or parts of these Kansas counties: Barton, Edwards, Finney, Ford, Gray, Hamilton, Kearny, Pawnee, Rice and Stafford. Participants sign CRP contracts with USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). FSA administers CRP on behalf of CCC.

The primary goals of the Upper Arkansas River CREP are to conserve irrigation water and improve water quality by removing land from agricultural production. The project will reduce agricultural chemicals and sediment from entering Kansas watersheds. The contaminants can create poor water quality in rivers and aquifers. The project will conserve water supplies by terminating irrigation water rights connected to the land enrolled in CREP and by establishing permanent vegetative cover and other conservation practices. These practices are intended to slow the decline of the aquifer level and boost water supplies to the Upper Arkansas River. In addition, this project will enhance habitat for a variety of land and water plant and animal species, conserve energy and reduce erosion.

To be eligible for this program, an agricultural producer's land must meet specific eligibility requirements. For example, at least 51 percent of the non-irrigated (dryland) cropland must be located within the project area and meet CRP cropping history requirements. To be eligible for the program, irrigated cropland must have been planted and irrigated at the rate of not less than one-half-acre foot per year for four out of the six years, 1996-2001. Other eligibility requirements apply. To find out more information or to apply for the program, contact your local USDA Service Center or FSA County Office.