



GRAHAM/GREENLEE COUNTY Farm Service News

**Farm Service Agency
Graham/Greenlee**

County / State Office

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www.fsa.usda.gov

Hours

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

County Committee

John Howard
Albert Noland
Kathy Sergent
Pearl Willis
Jane Wyatt

County Executive Director

Ruth Veit
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For further details and to discuss your own operation's eligibility for any program, contact your nearest FSA local office.

For a list of local offices, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/ca

NAP COVERAGE

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

The application deadline date for the 2010 NAP coverage:

September 1, 2009	crustaceans, stock flowers, and garlic Nursery Crops
October 31, 2009	Alfalfa, Barley, Cantaloupe, native grass , honeydews, lettuce, rye, and wheat
November 20, 2009	apples, apricots, cherries, honey, peaches, pears, pistachios, plums and watermelon
November 30, 2009	Potatoes
January 31, 2010	Cucumbers, grapes, Bermuda and Sudan Grass Basil Herbs, Jojoba, Pecans, and Chili Peppers
February 28, 2010	Pinto Beans, Corn, Upland Cotton, ELS Cotton, Okra, Sweet Potatoes, Pumpkin, Sorghum, Forage Sorghum, Grain Sorghum, and Squash
May 31, 2010	Nursery Crops

Producers who already have coverage on 2009 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2010, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application

for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to

complete the following to qualify for benefits: Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.

File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

For more information on NAP coverage please contact your nearest Farm Service Agency office.

FSA COC ELECTION DEADLINE

County committees play a crucial role in helping the county office staff implement the Farm Bill. Due to the important services that COC members provide, producers are encouraged to vote for the candidate of choice in the FSA county committee election process by December 7, 2009. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning on November 6, 2009 and due back in the office by either via mail or in person by December 7, 2009

FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to five members who are elected by eligible local producers.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM CHANGES

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and han-

ding equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.



Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

FSA is currently accepting applications from biomass facilities interested in participating in the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP).

Once an agreement is signed between FSA and a facility and funding through the program is provided, the facilities can begin accepting materials. Producers who sell these materials can apply for matching payments under the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) component of BCAP.

The matching CHST payments are paid at a rate of \$1 for \$1 per dry-ton equivalent received from a qualified biomass conversion facility, not to exceed \$45 per dry-ton equivalent. A biomass owner is eligible to receive payments for two years. The purpose of the matching payments is to assist biomass producers with the CHST cost of delivering



biomass to a qualified biomass conversion facility. Once a facility becomes qualified, eligible material owners or producers who deliver biomass to that facility may be eligible to receive CHST payments.

Eligible material owners or producers, who market eligible material to a qualified biomass conversion facility, may apply for the matching CHST payment at their FSA county office. An application must be submitted before the eligible material is sold and delivered to a qualified biomass conversion facility. After the product is delivered, a producer must provide FSA with documentation of product quantity, quality and payment rate. County offices will validate payment requests with information in the county office and information provided under the terms of MOUs with the qualified biomass conversion facilities. CHST payments will not be authorized until after an appropriate environmental analysis has been conducted.

Biomass conversion facilities and material owners or producers should contact their FSA state offices or visit www.fsa.usda.gov for more information.

MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans.

The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

The 2008 Farm Bill created 5 new disaster programs:

1. Emergency Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)

Possible Losses that may be compensated under ELAP:

- grazing losses because of eligible adverse weather events other than drought and wildfire on non-federally managed lands
- purchased or harvested feed that was intended as feed for eligible livestock, honey bees and farm-raised fish that was destroyed or lost because of an eligible adverse weather event
- feed purchased to sustain livestock, honey bees or farm raised fish because of an eligible adverse weather condition for a short period of time until additional feed becomes available.
- Physical losses of honey bees because of colony collapse disorder or eligible weather events
- Physical losses of honey bee hives because of an eligible adverse weather event
- Physical losses of farm-raised fish because of an eligible adverse weather event
- Transportation cost to move livestock from flooded areas during a flood to higher ground



2. Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

LIP compensates eligible livestock producers for eligible livestock death losses that occur in excess of normal mortality because of eligible adverse weather events such as blizzards, disease, extreme cold, extreme heat, floods, hurricanes, and wildfires during the calendar year. Eligible livestock death losses must occur on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011.

Signup began July 13, 2009, for livestock owners and contract growers who suffered livestock losses during 2008 and 2009.

Date of Livestock Death	Final Date to File a Notice of Loss	Final Date to Submit an Application for Payment
Calendar Year 2008	Sept. 13, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009
Jan. 1, 2009 to July 12, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009	Jan. 30, 2010
July 13, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2009	30 days after death is appar-	Jan. 30, 2010

3. Livestock Forage Program (LFP)

LFP compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses due to drought conditions or loss due to fire on Federally managed land (BLM, Forest Service, etc.) only.

To be eligible for the 2009 program, producers must purchase Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) or Pasture, Rangeland, Forage Program Vegetative Index (PRF-VI).

GRAZING LOSSES DUE TO DROUGHT WILL BE DETERMINED USING THE INTENSITY LEVELS OF THE U.S. DROUGHT MONITOR.

Losses are paid on a monthly rate, determined by the monthly feed cost of livestock using a feed grain equivalent or the monthly feed cost calculated using normal carrying capacity for the grazing land.

4. Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Program (SURE)

Risk management purchase requirements have been amended for SURE eligibility so that crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the coverage. Risk Management purchase requirements also requires Insurance to be purchased to be eligible for tree assistance program and emergency livestock, honeybees and farm-related fish programs.

SURE provides benefits for far revenue losses due to natural disaster. It is the 2008 Farm Bill's successor to the CDP or Crop Disaster Programs. SURE will last through 2011. For SURE program purposes, a "farm" refers to all acreage in all counties that is planted or intended to be planted to crops that are for sale by the producer, and all hay crops. SURE payments are available to producers on a farm that are located in a county covered by a qualifying natural disaster declaration (USDA Secretarial Declarations only) or a contiguous county OR the actual production is less than 50% of the normal production. In order to receive payments, the farm must suffer at least a 10% eligible production loss on at least one crop of economic significance.

5. Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Tree Assistance Program (TAP) provides financial assistance to qualified orchardists to replace eligible trees, bushes, and vine damaged by natural disasters. TAP was authorized 2008 Farm Bill. More information to come.

FSA LOANS

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for:

Farmers and ranchers- to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations.

Youth loans -to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups.

Beginning Farmers and Ranchers-FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged- FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production

For detail information loan eligibility or the different available loan programs, just contact the county office for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

Dates to Remember	
With in 15 days	NAP applicants- suffering from drought loss on native grass = Apply now.
Within 15 days	Notice of loss. Must report damage within 15 days of damage or when damage is apparent. (drought, flood, Hail, Etc)
Sept 14	Last day to apply for 2008 LIP program.
Sept 14	Deadline for filing notice of loss for Jan 1 thru July 12, 2009 for LIP,
Oct 31	Alfalfa, Barley, Cantaloupe, native grass , honeydews, lettuce, rye, and wheat
Nov 6	COC Election ballot mailed
Dec 7	Last day to return ballots to office

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