



Allen County FSA Office
202 W Miller Road
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Hours: Monday- Friday
8:00 am to 4:30 pm

March 2008

County Committee Members

Marjorie Mentzer, Chairperson
Marvin Sander, Vice Chairperson
Gary Coltrane, Member

The Committee meets the 2nd Thursday of each month

Office Staff: Doug Peine, CED
Lindsey Hammond, PT
Marthena Spainhoward, PT
Jandy Wiltse, PT
Janet Mattox, TPT

Crop Disaster Program (CDP)

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**. The requirements for eligibility for this program have changed over the last few months.

Losses from natural disasters may qualify for crop disaster payments if the crop was planted before **December 31, 2007**. This is a new change, allowing producers to be eligible for all the 2007 crops. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006, or 2007 will be eligible to receive benefits in **only one year**. Participants may apply for loss benefits on multiple commodities 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 quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP.

Many producers have applied for 2007 wheat only. Those producers need to come back in and apply for the rest of the crops for 2007. Please contact the county office to set up an appointment.

Livestock Disaster Programs

The new Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) sign-up opened September 10, 2007. Eligible ranchers and other livestock producers can apply to receive LCP compensation for feed losses or LIP for livestock losses occurring between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007, due to a natural disaster. Both programs have a separate \$80,000 per person payment limitation.

LIP- The 2005-2007 LIP provides monetary assistance to eligible livestock owners and livestock contract growers, for livestock deaths that occurred between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007, in eligible disaster designated counties as a result of an eligible disaster event. Drought is not an eligible disaster event under LIP. Eligible owners must have owned the livestock on the day they died in an eligible county as a direct result of the disaster event. Documentation must be provided with the FSA-900 application to prove kind, type, weight and number of livestock that died, and evidence that supports date, location and cause of death.

LCP- The 2005 – 2007 LCP provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered grazing or incurred additional feed costs directly resulting from natural disasters occurring between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007. Eligible livestock must have been owned on the start date of the disaster designation and physically located in the disaster county. Eligible livestock include beef, buffalo, dairy, deer, elk, equine, goats, reindeer, poultry, sheep, and swine that are used as part of a farming operation and not for recreational purposes.

Most Allen County livestock producers are eligible for grazing losses suffered in 2006. If you feel this is the year in which you suffered the greatest loss, livestock ownership must be as of January 1, 2006. You will need to identify all pastures grazed by the eligible livestock. Livestock producers who rent pastures for grazing and are not on the FSA farm records will need to provide the written lease agreement or get a signed statement from the landowner to verify the pasture was leased for the applicable year.

Many of the requirements and regulations have changed for these programs. The county office needs to get more information from many producers. If you have applied for this program and haven't received payment due to more information needed, please contact the County Office.

CRP Reminders

CCRP - The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) is a private lands environment 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.

For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments or local Conservation Reserve Enhancement (CREP) availability, please contact your local FSA office or visit:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/crpcont03.html>

CRP Seeding Date: If your land was accepted in a recent continuous sign-up or if you received a one year extension resulting from the wet conditions in 2007, please remember the requirement to complete your practice timely. May 15th is the final seeding date for native grass. Now would be a good time to think about completing these activities. You will need to ensure you purchase the appropriate seed mixture and begin making arrangements for drilling. Once your grass is seeded, please remember to submit all of your bills to our office as well as the seed tags to NRCS. We will have some cost share forms for you to sign after completion. If you have any questions about completing CRP practices, contact our office or NRCS.

CRP Burning: If you have CRP land, now is a good time to review your CRP conservation plan to see if you are required to burn the acreage in 2008. This may be required as a maintenance or management practice in your contract. All burning activities need to be completed before the primary nesting season which begins **April 15th**. Once the burn has been completed, you will need to report this to the FSA office. Failure to complete required CRP burns will result in noncompliance, and could make contract subject to termination. If you have any questions pertaining to the burning requirements of your contract, please contact our office prior to **April 15th**.

Insurance and NAP Sales Closing Date Approaching

March 17, 2008, is the sales closing date to purchase 2008 crop insurance for corn, grain sorghum, or soybeans. It is also the final date to purchase a Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) policy for crops in which multi-peril coverage is NOT available. The NAP sales closing date includes crops such as double-cropped soybeans or milo, sunflowers, and some fruits, vegetables, and nut crops. NAP policies are much like catastrophic coverage under the standard crop insurance program. The NAP program will provide coverage for losses exceeding 50% of your Actual Production History (APH) for the crop and benefits are calculated on 55% of the price for the crop. Contact our office prior to March 17th if you are interested in a 2008 NAP policy.

ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to Gary Coltrane, who has been elected by producers in Local Administrative Area (LAA) #2, which is the Southwest area of the County. We thank all of you who participated in the 2007 election. Gary will serve a three-year term.

Report Your 2008 Farm Operation Changes Now

Please ensure your farm operation changes are timely reported to our office. Now is the time to report any new farms you have purchased, sold, rented, given up, etc. for the 2008 crop year. Failure to timely report these changes, may result in over or under payments to the affected individuals. All changes of tenants and owners are to be reported by the earlier of 30 days from the date the change is final **or August 1, 2008**, in order for the change to be effective for the current crop year.

The final date for producers to request a 2008 farm reconstitution is **August 1, 2008**. When requesting a reconstitution, keep in mind the designation by landowner method of reconstituting your farm. The designation by landowner method is the division of base payment acres in a manner agreed upon by the original farm owner and purchaser or transferee. This can be different than the cropland or contribution percentage that is normally used to reconstitute the farm. If the landowner designation method is used, the sellers and buyers or transferees must sign the reconstitution request agreeing to the division of the contract acres. Keep these dates in mind and ensure you notify our office if changes have been made or if you anticipate any changes for 2008. Contact our office for more information.

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.

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of one another 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.

There are exceptions to the rule. Spouses may not sign FSA-211's on behalf of each other or sign on behalf of the other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Spouses must have a power of attorney on file or sign personally for claim settlements, such as promissory notes, and on security documents for price support loans.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan and Farm Storage Facility Loan Documents. A spouse's authority to sign documents on behalf of the other spouse does not entitle the spouse to review or receive agency records of the other spouse.

Wheat Acreage Reports

Please remember that acreage reporting is required in order for you to be eligible for payments. The final date to report your planted acres of wheat, oats, and barley is **May 31, 2008**. **You are also reminded that planting dates will need to be provided at the time you report.** Please contact our office to schedule an appointment prior to **May 31st**.

Loan Reminders

The last day to request a 2007 Loan for wheat, oats, and barley is **March 31, 2008**, and **May 30, 2008**, for corn, milo, sunflowers, or soybeans.

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 facility

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.

Beginning Farmer Down Payment Farm Ownership Program (10-40-50)

Beginning Farmer Down Payment Farm Ownership Loans are available to help obtain financing for the purchase of a farm. The applicant must put down 10 percent. The Farm Service Agency finances up to 40 percent of the purchase price. The remaining 50 percent of the purchase price can be financed on contract with the seller or through a conventional lender. The lender can obtain a guarantee from FSA if the customer is eligible. The FSA loan rate will be locked in for the full 15 years, and currently the rate is 4.0 percent. For further information please contact the local Farm Loan Program office at 620-724-6227.

FSA Guaranteed Loans

FSA guaranteed loans provide lenders (e.g. banks, Farm Credit System institutions, credit unions), with a guarantee of up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. Farmers and ranchers apply to an agricultural lender, which then arranges for the guarantee. The FSA guarantee permits lenders to make agricultural credit available to farmers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria.

FSA guaranteed loans are for both Farm Ownership and Operating purposes. More information regarding FSA guaranteed loans can be obtained from your local USDA Service Center, 620-724-6227. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.



Non-Discrimination Statement

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.) 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 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.