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Hours

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

County Committee

Richard Moore, Chair
Paul Doton, Vice Chair
Agnes Spaulding, Member
Robert Vaughan, Member
Sandra Whitney, Member

COC meets 3rd

Wednesday of each
month at 10:00 am

County Executive Director

Christine Lary, ext 13
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Program Staff

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Farm Loan Manager

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Quality Loss Crop Disaster Signup

Producers can apply for crop *quality* losses under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP). *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.*

The CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered losses to their 2005-2007 crops from natural disasters and related conditions. Producers who incurred qualifying quantity or quality losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 may receive benefits for only one of these years. However, producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Producers must have suffered a *quantity* loss in excess of 35% and/or a *quality* loss of at least 25 percent to be eligible for CDP. New this year, it is required that the production must have suffered a 25% loss in economic value to be eligible for a quality loss payment. Economic loss is the actual value of the crop if it had been sold.

Quality Loss applications need to have the following

- Crop measurements must be provided by a verifiable third party
- *All* lab tests taken on your forage crops

The payment rate is set at 65 percent of the amount of the affected crop multiplied by 42 percent of the per-unit average market value in the year in which the loss occurred. Producers may receive assistance for both quantity and quality losses. However, the total quantity and quality assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster.

Buy-In Waiver for Supplemental Disaster Assistance

Producers can establish 2008 eligibility for the new disaster assistance programs by paying a fee as required by the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Act).

Ordinarily producers who wish to participate in the new disaster programs would need crop insurance or non-insured crop disaster assistance (NAP) coverage on all farms in all counties in which they have an interest. Since the 2008 Act was enacted after the application periods had closed for those programs, producers who did not have insurance coverage could not comply with this requirement in order to be eligible. However, the 2008 Act authorizes a waiver that allows producers to pay a fee, called a "buy-in" fee, to be eligible for the new disaster assistance programs.

The buy-in fee is due no later than Sept. 16, 2008, 90 days after the date of enactment, as required by the 2008 Act. Payment of the applicable fees will allow the producer to be eligible for financial assistance under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), and other disaster assistance programs. Those who miss this opportunity will **not** be eligible for 2008 disaster assistance. Producers are also reminded that the payment of the applicable buy-in fee does **not** provide the producer crop insurance or NAP coverage; it only affords eligibility for the 2008 disaster programs.

The buy-in fee for 2008 eligibility is \$100 per crop, but not more than \$300 per producer per administrative county, or \$900 total per producer for all counties less any previously paid fees for CAT and/or NAP.

Sign Up Underway for the 2008 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP)

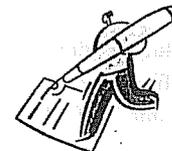
The Food, Conservation and energy Act of 2008 was enacted into law on May 22, 2008. The Act provides for the continuation of the Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP) for 2008 through 2012.

Producers have until September 30, 2008 to sign up for the 2008 DCP. Producers can fill out their 2008 DCP contract at any USDA Service Center or Farm Service Agency County Office. Sign-up can also be completed online by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/edcp> and clicking on "Access eDCP Service." You can choose payment options, assign crop shares and sign and submit contracts from any computer with Internet access. You can also view and print submitted contract options.

Differences between 2007 and 2008 DCP – Producers on a farm will **not** receive direct or counter-cyclical payments if the sum of the base acres on the farm is 10 acres or less, **unless** 1 of the following exceptions is met:

- The farm is *wholly owned* by a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher
- The farm is *wholly owned* by a limited resource farmer or rancher.

FSA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2008, eligible producers may request to receive an advance payment of 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments as soon as practical after enrollment. Final direct payments will be issued after Oct. 1, 2008. Counter-cyclical payments vary depending on market prices, and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate).



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$949,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for Socially Disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

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

NAP Coverage

Producers with 2008 NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- **Timely file acreage reports**
- **File a "Notice of Loss"** within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.
- **Keep track of harvested production** using acceptable methods.

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

Dates to Remember

Aug 15	Acreage Reporting deadline
Sept 1	Labor Day – Office closed
Sept 16	Crop Insurance and NAP "Buy-In-Fee" deadline for 2008 crops
Sept 30	2008 DCP Enrollment deadline
Ongoing	Crop Disaster Program Farm Storage Facility Loans Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

New Crop Certification Deadline

For 2008, the final crop reporting dates have been **extended to August 15, 2008**. Late fees will not be applied if acreage reports are filed that date.

Filing an accurate and timely report for **all crops and land uses**, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

NRCS News

Energy Costs, Corn, and EQIP With costs of fuel and fertilizer skyrocketing, the profit margin for growing corn has shrunk considerably. If you are considering cutting back on corn acreage or going to an all grass system, EQIP can help fund the transition. New seeding can be cost shared in some instances, and a range of pasture expenses can be covered to set up a grazing system. Sign up with NRCS by October 1. Call the NRCS if you'd like help with preliminary planning.

Forest Management Now Included in EQIP Forest Stewardship Plans that cover the full range of resource conservation on your forest land are now cost-shareable in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). These plans are considerably more detailed than a current use plan and address wildlife, invasive species, and any other concerns that may apply. Practices that control soil erosion and improve water quality on forest lands are also covered. Sign up with NRCS by October 1.

Wildlife Practices Cost Sharing The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) helps fund a wide range of practices benefiting wildlife including controlling invasive species, restoring early successional habitat, and releasing mast trees in upland forests. As of 2008, only private landowners are eligible for WHIP. Sign up with NRCS by September 1.

