

## NEWS RELEASE

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**LIVESTOCK, CROP DISASTER PROGRAM 2007 ELIGIBILITY DATE EXTENDED**

*Change includes livestock losses prior to Dec. 31, losses on crops planted for entire 2007 crop year*

**(Davis, CA) -- Jan. 14, 2008** – As a result of a recent extension, now all 2007 livestock and crop year losses may be eligible for the 2005 through 2007 disaster programs, announced John Smythe, Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency in California.

On Dec. 26, 2007, President George W. Bush signed the Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2008 (2008 Act). The 2008 Act amended the previous Feb. 28, 2007, date and now allows for crops planted prior to Dec. 31, 2007, for the 2007 crop year, to be included for loss purposes under CDP. Similarly, under LIP and LCP, the 2008 Act extends the date livestock and livestock feed losses could have occurred in a primary or contiguous county named in a Secretarial or Presidential disaster declaration to Dec. 31, 2007.

“This date change does not make 2008 crops planted in 2007 eligible for CDP, however it does benefit farmers in that it extends the eligibility date for crops planted in 2007 that were intended for harvest in the same crop year, and it adds 10 months to the amount of eligible time livestock losses can be considered for the new programs,” said Smythe.

Producers should visit their local USDA Farm Service Agency office to apply for benefits under these new disaster assistance programs, added Smythe.

Sign-up for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) began Sept. 10, 2007. Sign-up for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) began Oct. 15, 2007, and applies to farmers who suffered quantity losses to their crops. Ending dates for the sign-up period have not yet been determined.

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LCP now compensates livestock producers for feed losses occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007, due to a natural disaster. This can include producers who suffered losses resulting from blizzards that began in 2006 and continued into December 2007. Livestock producers may elect to receive compensation for calendar year 2007 grazing season losses caused by a wildfire natural disaster occurring during the applicable period as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. Producers in primary counties declared secretarial disaster areas or certain counties declared presidential disaster areas between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007, are eligible as are producers located in contiguous counties.

Also, producers in a primary (or contiguous) county that received an Administrator's Physical Loss Notice directly associated with a disaster declaration made by President Bush may also be eligible. Producers with a loss in more than one of the 2005, 2006 or 2007 calendar years must choose only one year for which they want to apply for benefits.

LIP now compensates livestock producers for livestock losses between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007, that resulted from natural disasters. Producers in primary counties declared secretarial disaster areas or certain counties declared presidential disaster areas between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007, are eligible as are producers located in contiguous counties.

Producers in a primary (or contiguous) county that received an Administrator's Physical Loss Notice directly associated with a disaster declaration made by President Bush may also be eligible. Producers incurring eligible livestock losses in more than one of the 2005, 2006 or 2007 calendar years must choose only one year for which they want to apply for benefits.

According to Smythe "CDP now provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters if the crop was planted before Dec. 31, 2007, or, in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before Dec. 31, 2007."

Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to 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.

For more information about LCP, LIP and CDP, contact the FSA office for your county or call 530-792-5520 or visit online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>; and see details under "Disaster Assistance Programs."

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