



September 2008

DeKalb County News

**DeKalb County
USDA Service Center**

DeKalb County FSA
1101 S. Polk
Maysville, MO. 64469
816-449-2112 (phone)
816-449-2082 (fax)

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Ronald Carrel, Chair
John Burton, Vice-Chair
David Eulinger, Member
Ruth A. Owen, Advisor

Staff
G. Eugene Keats, CED
Darlene Fisher, PT
Kristy L. Gray, PT
Cindy L. Barker, PT
Robert Barton, Field
Daniel White, Field

Farm Loan Staff
Charles Meissen, Manager
Teresa Akers, Farm Loan
Officer
Tuesday mornings, 10:00
a.m. to Noon



County Committee Elections

Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters by Nov. 3 in preparation for the election to be held December 5. Voted ballots must be returned to the county office **by Dec. 1** or postmarked by midnight Dec. 1, 2008. This year, one person will be elected to represent LAA 3, which is Washington, Colfax, and Grand River townships. The person elected will take office January 1, 2009.

County committee elections give farmers and producers an important opportunity to ensure that their FSA county committees represent them. Farmers and producers who serve on county committees help make decisions necessary to administer federal farm programs offered in their communities.

County committees make decisions on agricultural issues such as commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, disaster payments and employing County Executive Directors.

Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote. No one can be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

If you participate or cooperate in programs administered by FSA and live in the local administrative area conducting an election, you may be nominated for candidacy for a committee. We encourage everyone to participate in this process. You can obtain a complete list of eligibility requirements by visiting the county office or online at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/cocelig06.htm>

Please take time to vote!!

Dates to Remember	
Sept. 16	Final date to enroll in SURE
Sept. 30	Final date to enroll in Direct-Counter Cyclical Program
Sept. 30	Final date for all CRP grazing and haying activity except early CFU; CRP re-enrollment
Sept. 30	Final date to purchase wheat crop insurance for 2009
October 13	Office closed; Columbus Day
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans

Visit our Web site:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo>

Buy-In Waiver for Supplemental Disaster Assistance

Producers can establish 2008 eligibility for the new disaster assistance programs by paying the applicable administrative 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), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-Raised Fish (EALHF), or Tree Assistance Program (TAP). 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. Producers can contact their local administrative FSA county office to get more information or pay applicable fees **by September 16, 2008.**



NAP coverage is necessary for all crops that are not insurable under regular crop insurance policies. This includes paying the “buy-in” fees for 2008. The NAP policy covers crops such as fruits, vegetables, alfalfa, alfalfa grass mixtures, grass hay classified as “other hay”, and grazing acreage. Policies are purchased on the basis of intended use. In other words, if you have pure alfalfa, hay with some alfalfa in it, grass hay, and acreage to be grazed only, you would have four policies. If all the acreage is in one county, the buy-in fee would be \$300 due to the maximum. You must have all crops covered in order to be eligible for disaster assistance on any crop.



Keep in mind that in 2009, all crop insurance and NAP policies must be purchased by the applicable crop insurance deadlines which are September 15 for fall seeded small grains, and March 15 for spring seeded crops. This means hay and grazing policies will need to be purchased by March 15, 2009. The fees in 2009 will be \$250 per crop for CAT and NAP (separate maximums).

For example, a cattle producer who has his grain crops insured with at least a CAT policy would pay \$750 for NAP policies on alfalfa, mixed forage, and grazing forage, for each county up to a maximum of \$1875.00 for multiple counties.

2008 DCP Sign-up Continues

Producers have **until September 30, 2008** to sign-up for the 2008 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP). Producers can fill out their 2008 DCP contract at any USDA 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." Producers choose payment options, assign crop shares and sign and submit contracts from any computer with Internet access and also view and print submitted contract options. Producers who have not used their eAuth account for 180 days will have inactive accounts. If this happens, producers will need to contact the ITS helpdesk at the following telephone numbers: 1-800-457-3642, then Option 1, to reactivate their account.

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).

To be eligible for DCP payments, owners, operators, landlords, tenants, or sharecroppers must:

- share in the risk of producing a crop on base acres on a farm enrolled in DCP, and be entitled to share in the crop available for marketing from the base acres or would have shared had a crop been produced;
- annually report the use of the farm's cropland acres;
- comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements on all of their land;



- comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements on all of their land;
- use the base acres for agricultural or related activities;
- **protect all base acres from erosion, including providing sufficient cover as determined necessary by the county FSA committee, and control weeds.**

Re-Enrolling Expiring CRP Contracts

CRP contracts expiring on September 30, 2008 may be eligible to be re-enrolled with new 10- to 15-year continuous contracts, provided the current contract scheduled to expire in September is in full compliance. If re-enrolled, the new continuous signup contract would begin October 1, 2008. All re-enrolled continuous signup CRP contracts will require new conservation plans to be developed. Other provisions may also apply.

For further information regarding re-enrollment of an expiring CRP contract or for information regarding conservation and wetland compliance provisions for land leaving CRP and returning to crop production, please contact your local FSA office.

Please note that after the expiration of a CRP contract that had been devoted to trees, the acreage will no longer be considered cropland and may become ineligible for CRP or other farm programs. However, this provision does not apply for acreage immediately re-enrolled into a new contract without any intervening period of time.

If you are interested in re-enrolling your expiring CRP acreage, county office staff can help you determine which continuous CRP or CREP practices can work on your expiring acres. Please contact your administrative county FSA office as soon as possible to ensure your contract is approved by September 30th.

Other CRP Reminders

The above 2008 policy does not waive or negate the other on-going CRP requirements:

- Management practices are still required as scheduled in your conservation plan. Be very aware of permitted dates and activity after October 1 will count for 2009. **Be sure to report all management practice work completed in fiscal year 2008.**
- You can still participate in managed haying/grazing by paying the 25% rental fee, and thereby hay or graze the entire field. You can hay/graze every third year. Dates are July 16-Sept. 30
- Plant required food plots and report them to FSA.
- All haying activity for the summer of 2008 must be reported to FSA in order to chart the history and allow the contract to be paid.
- **Emergency Haying and Grazing is available in DeKalb County until September 30.** This allows a waiver of the “three year” rule, but haying or grazing would count in 2008. The regular fee of 25% of the rental payment applies to this activity.



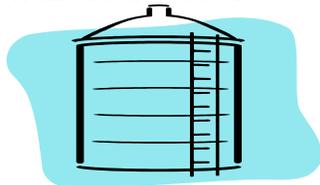
Selected Interest Rates for September 2008	
90-Day Treasury Bill	1.750%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.875%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.125%
Farm Ownership Loans Beginning Farmer Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.625%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	3.250%

Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the Farm Service Agency county office staff, and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are necessary.



If you are considering a new grain bin, ask FSA about a Farm Storage Facility Loan! Loans are seven year fixed payment loans. Eligibility is determined by the bushels of crops normally raised on the farming operation, and the amount of storage already available. Documentation is provided to show repayment ability. The loan can be made up to 85% of the total cost of the structure, concrete, wiring, fan, and other equipment. If the loan amount is over \$50,000, a deed of trust will be taken on the real estate.



Power of Attorney

FSA has a required power of attorney form available for those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., that enables the participant to designate another person to conduct his or her business at the office. This can be done by completing an FSA-211, Power of Attorney. The form is available at your local USDA Service Center or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>.

The FSA-211 form obtained and completed outside the USDA Service Centers offices must be notarized. To find out more, call the office.

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