



Holt County  
**FSA NEWSLETTER**  
May 2008

**Holt County  
FSA Office**

118 W Davis Street  
Mound City, Mo 64470  
660-442-3134  
Office Hours:  
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**County Committee**

Karl Noelsch  
Kirby Rosier  
Karen Ingram

**Office Staff**

Kami Hubach, PT  
Kim Meyer, PT  
Wendy Tubbs, PT

**County Executive  
Director**

Jackie J VanGundy

**Farm Loan**

Bob Dreyer, FLM  
Roger Uptergrove, FLO  
Tuesday mornings

**Fieldmen**

Mark Buntz  
Stan Seitz

**District Director**

Jim Nance



Dear Holt County Producers

**New CRP Practice called SAFE**

A new Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) practice is available and began May 1 called SAFE- State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement. Producers in Missouri can qualify for annual CRP payments in return for establishing wildlife habitat restoration areas on eligible cropland acreage. This program targets entire fields, not just field borders and is designed specifically to restore habitat for Bob-White Quail. While FSA will administer the program, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) will be involved for technical determinations.

The contract length for SAFE is 14 to 15 years and the annual payment rate is based on the soil type. 50% cost-share and additional incentive payments are available, including a lump-sum incentive payment equal to \$100/acre and an additional 40% cost-share.

Fields will be seeded to an approved cover in accordance with a conservation plan to be developed by MDC or NRCS. 10% to 20% of the field will be devoted to a wildlife food plot and 1% will be established in a dense woody cover. SAFE cannot be used in the same field as an existing CP-33 (Habitat Buffer for Upland Birds).

As with all CRP practices, the land offered for SAFE must be eligible cropland that has a cropping history and is physically capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. The land cannot be under a federal easement that restricts its use or already be enrolled in CRP.

Missouri has received an allotment of 6,250 acres for SAFE. Sign-up began on May 1. Contact the office with specific questions.

**When Weather Prevents Planting or Damages Crops**

When bad weather prevents planting or damages crops, producers are reminded to report the acreage to the FSA office. Failed acreage must be reported to FSA before destroying and replanting to allow time for a field check. Prevented planting needs to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

This simple act of insuring that failed acres are documented could be the determining factor in whether or not a farmer is eligible for future crop disaster program payments. Producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the County Committee that the crop failed or was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period. Which is June 5 for Corn and June 20 for Beans and Milo.

## **Farm Program for 2008**

We have been getting several inquiries about signing up for the 2008 farm program and requesting advance payments. Until Congress approves a new farm bill or extends the current one, we cannot hold a sign up. As soon as we get information about a new or extended farm bill, we will get the word out in another newsletter and news releases.

## **Crop Reports**

County offices are taking crop reports on planted acres. Producers may also report CRP and permanent pasture acres at this time.

**REMINDERS:** Check planted acres and crop shares. Acreage, shares and farming entities should be consistent with crop insurance, and crop sales receipts. When producers report differently than the way they actually operate, they may not be considered eligible for program benefits.

The deadline to report wheat & oats is June 30 and the deadline for corn, beans, milo, CRP is July 31.

## **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)**

The weather has slowed down emergency repair work and inspections by our office for the ECP Program caused by the heavy rains and flooding last Spring 2007. As soon as weather permits, projects need to be completed. The State Committee has set a deadline of July 30, 2008 for work to be completed. There will not be any extensions granted beyond this date since this is an emergency program. Give us a call if you are ready to start a project and we have not made an inspection yet. As you complete the work, bring in the bills and report.

## **Removing CCC Loan Collateral**

Producers are reminded, if you have grain under loan that it cannot be removed or disposed of without prior authorization or repayment.

Producers may request authorization to move their grain either by phone or in person. A loan violation is subject to administrative penalties, and could result in the denial of future farm-stored loans. All commodities are subject to spot check.

Kim Meyer has joined the Holt County FSA Office as a full time Program Technician. She previously was employed with the Holt County Soil and Water Conservation District as the District Technician-Information Education Specialist.

Kim graduated from Northwest Missouri State University in 2006 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science. She and her husband Bryson live and farm by New Point. They have a cow/calf operation and also raise corn, soybeans, wheat, and alfalfa. Along with that, they perform custom harvesting for area farmers.

Kim enjoys being outside and helping with the family farm.

Please stop by the office to meet Kim and to welcome her to the team.

## **EQIP Sign Up**

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) is an NRCS program that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality. Through EQIP farmers receive financial and technical assistance to help install structural conservation practices and/or implement management systems that promote conservation.

Landowners and operators interested in participating in EQIP should apply at the NRCS office sometime between June and July of this year to be eligible for the 2009 round of funding. At this time the 2009 EQIP program policies are being developed. I'm sure we will see a few changes from last year. For more EQIP information, please visit or call our office closer to June or check the Missouri NRCS website at [www.mo.nrcs.gov](http://www.mo.nrcs.gov)

## **Final Loan Availability Date**

Producers are reminded that the final date to obtain a commodity loan for 2007 Crop Year Corn, Beans and Milo is June 2.

FSA also makes both Direct & Guaranteed Farm Ownership & Operating loans for producers who are unable to obtain commercial credit.

Loans can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed & supplies. The loans can also be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements. Contact the office for more information.

## **New Employee**

## Conservation Compliance

- Do you intend to clear timber areas to create or to expand existing crop areas?
- Are you converting a pasture field into a crop field?
- Are there any areas on your farm that you are considering cropping that have not been cropped in recent years?
- Is there a wet spot in a field that you want to drain to make cropping easier?
- Are you disturbing a wildlife habitat area of any type?
- Are you doing anything different on your farm this year?

These are highly erodible and wetland provision questions that need to be answered by producers to assure that they remain eligible for USDA benefits. All participants in USDA programs are required to have a conservation system in place on all the highly erodible land that they operate. Several areas where problems can arise when complying with a conservation system are; renting new cropland, purchasing new land, breaking out additional cropland, changing a crop rotation, and changing or removing existing conservation practices.

It is very important that you contact the FSA office before doing any of the above before modifying, tiling, draining, dredging, filling, or leveling any wetland or drainage ditch. Remember, failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations may result in loss of all Federal payments and eligibility.

## Preventing Fraud

FSA has joined with the Risk Management Agency to prevent fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to RMA. Producers can report suspected cases to the county office staff, RMA office, or the Office of the Inspector General.

## County Committee Elections

The Holt County Farm Service Agency is looking for individuals interested in serving on the County Committee. This year LAA-3 will be having an election. LAA-3 is comprised of the following townships: Forest, Forbes, Lewis and Nodaway. Any eligible person residing in one of these townships who is interested in running for the County Committee, or would like to nominate an individual to run for the committee, must complete a nomination form. The Nomination Form for County FSA Committee Election (FSA-669A) is available at the County Office.

Members of socially disadvantaged groups (a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities) are strongly encouraged to complete the nomination form and nominate themselves or another eligible candidate.

Committee members make decisions on applications for federal farm programs and disaster payments. Committee members play a vital role by helping local farmers manage through financial times and natural disasters. County committee members make many other important decisions that affect local farmers.

The nomination period begins June 15<sup>th</sup> and runs until August 1, 2008.

## Reporting Farm Changes

It is the producer's responsibility to notify FSA of any changes in their farming operation or entity status throughout the year. Changes that may affect a determination include, but are not limited to, a change in contract shares which may reflect a change of land leased from share rent to cash rent; addition or deletion of a farm; change in the structure of the farming operation, such as individual to a corporation or trust; change in contributions or inputs such as personal labor, or change in farming interest.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
 AGRICULTURE  
 FARM SERVICE AGENCY  
 HOLT COUNTY FSA OFFICE**  
 118 W Davis Street  
 Mound City, Mo 64470

May interest rate for facility loans is 3.0%  
 and the rate for commodity loans is 2.625%



*If you are considering a new grain bin,  
 ask about a Farm Storage Facility Loan!*

---

**Dates to Remember**

May 26	Office closed in observance of Memorial Day
June 2	Final date to obtain a loan on corn & beans
June 30	Final date to report planted wheat acres
July 4	Office closed in observance of Independence Day
July 30	Last day to complete work for ECP
July 31	Final date to report spring planted crops & CRP
Continues	Continuous CRP sign up
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Crop Disaster & Livestock Programs

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

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (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, Room 326 W, Whitten Building, 14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or all (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.