



**July 2007**

# ***Buchanan County News***

**Buchanan County  
USDA Service Center**  
3915 Oakland Ave.  
St. Joseph, MO 64506  
816-364-3927 (phone)  
816-232-0370 (fax)  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/)

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

**County Committee**  
Erma Giddens  
Travis Klein  
Doug Shepherd

**Program Technicians**  
Debbie Johnson  
Beck Kelly  
Allyson Wells

**Field Assistants**  
Nate Parry  
Larry Heintz

**Farm Loan Manager**  
Charlotte Holeman

**County Director**  
Craig Everly

## ***Crop Certification***

***July 31, 2007***

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of FSA 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 and CRP payments.

All reports must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The producer certification deadline for for spring-seeded crops and CRP acreages is July 31. A fee will be assessed on each late reported farm.

## ***Haying, Grazing CRP Acres***

Producers considering managed haying or grazing of Conservation Reserve Program acres need prior approval from the county committee. Before the committee can allow haying or grazing, there must be an approved hazing and grazing plan. The acreage may not be hayed/grazed prior to July 15. Acreage hayed/grazed in either of the last 2 years is ineligible for release this year. A 25 percent payment

reduction is assessed for every approved acre hayed or grazed. Other restrictions may apply.

## ***DCP Enrollment Extended***

The June 1, 2007 deadline to enroll in the 2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) has been extended to **August 3, 2007**. Computer problems have caused application processing delays which prompted the enrollment deadline extension. A late-file fee of \$100 per farm will be assessed to the producer for CCC-509's filed after August 3, 2007 and before September 30, 2007.

Advance direct payments for the 2007 crop year are 22%. Advance payments maybe requested in any month starting with December 2006. The remaining final direct payment of 78% will be issued to participating producers in October of 2007. For clarification or an appointment, contact your local FSA office.

## ***Emergency Conservation Program***

Signup for the Emergency Conservation Program ends August 3, 2007. This program has been enacted in Buchanan County due to the flooding that occurred in May 2007. It primarily is to assist in rehabilitating cropland that was damaged by floodwater.

## ***COC Candidates Sought***

It will soon be county committee election time, and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) is actively looking for producers to be a candidate for the local FSA county committee. County committee members perform an important function. They represent you and your agricultural interests. They help shape how federal farm programs are implemented on the ground in local communities.

Who do you know who would make a good county committee member? Who do you know who would be able to represent you and your farming interests, as well as your neighbor's interests?

Why not talk to that person and ask if he or she would be willing to serve on the county committee? If he or she says yes, then fill out a nomination form (FSA-669), have the person sign it and then return it to the county office.

If you can't think of another producer to nominate or your prospective nominee turns you down, why not nominate yourself? Serving on the committee will take, on average, one day a month, and you will be providing your agricultural community a vital service.

The Local Administrative Area of which the election will be held is the area east of Highway 371 and south of Highway 169. Visit with the Farm Service Agency county office staff for more information.

## ***Preventing Fraud & Waste***

The Farm Service Agency and Risk Management Agency are partners in preventing fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been assisting, and will continue to assist, RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. Producers can report suspected cases to FSA or RMA.

## ***EMERGENCY LOAN DESIGNATION***

Mr. Tim Kelley, State Executive Director, Farm Service Agency announced effective June 27, 2007, 18 counties in Missouri, including Andrew, Buchanan, Nodaway, and Platte will have FSA disaster loans available due to severe storms and flooding which occurred May 5 thru May 18, 2007. Applications for assistance will be accepted at the county office of the Farm Service Agency, 502 West South Hills Drive, Suite 104, Maryville, MO 64468 for physical and production losses caused by this disaster. Applications will be accepted through February 27, 2008.

Loans for physical losses must be used to replace or repair damage to buildings, fences or to compensate the farmer for losses of basic livestock, stored crops, or supplies on hand, equipment, etc., that was lost due to the disaster. Loans for production losses may also be used to buy feed, seed, fertilizer, livestock or to make payments on real estate or chattel debts. Generally, loans for production losses cannot be approved until crops have completed their production cycle or have been harvested.

In order to qualify, a farmer must have suffered a 30% loss in production or an actual physical loss that was essential to the successful operation of the farm.

Loans for actual losses are made at an interest rate of 3.75% for emergency loans to those eligible applicants who are unable to obtain the actual credit needed from another source. All loan programs of the Farm Service Agency are conducted on a non-discriminatory basis.

### **Financial FACTS** for agriculture's future

Respond to USDA's Agricultural Resource Management Survey and let the financial facts be known for agriculture's policies and programs.



**NASS**

Fact Finders for Agriculture  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

## ***Reporting Farm Changes***

It is the producer's responsibility to notify the Farm Service Agency of *any* changes in his or her farming operation or entity status throughout the year. Changes that may affect a determination include a change in contract shares of a contract which may reflect change of land lease from cash rent to share rent or from share rent to cash rent; modification of a variable/fixed bushel rent arrangement; a change in the size of the producer's farming operation by the addition or deletion of a farm; a change in the structure of the farming operation, including any change in the member's shares; a change in the contributions of farm inputs of capital, equipment, active personal labor, or active personal management; and a change of farming interest not previously disclosed on CCC-502 or update, including the farming interests of a spouse or minor child.

### ***Record Changes***

If you have bought, sold or are renting different land, make sure you report the changes to the Farm Service Agency office as soon as possible after they occur. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or recorded land contract. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and fines if you are participating in our program.



## ***Bank Account Changes?***

As of Jan. 1, 1999, all Farm Service Agency payments are supposed to be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers.

## ***Unauthorized Disposition***

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties are severe and a producers name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call the office before any loan grain is fed or sold.

## ***Selling Land?***

If you're planning to sell farmland, there may be some program consequences you should be aware of. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't want to continue the CRP contract, you may have to refund all of the payments you've received to date.

Please consider discussing possible program consequences with the county office staff before selling any land.

## ***Tobacco Quota Buyout***

Any transfers of Tobacco Transition Program contracts to family members needs to be reported to this office as soon as possible when the successor is known. The process to change the entity and /or shares on a contract takes some time as this change is not completed at the county level but has to be routed through our national office.

## ***FSA Farm Loans***

The Farm Service Agency makes both direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank, Farm Credit System institution or other lender. FSA loans can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed and supplies. The loans can also be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements.

If you're having trouble getting commercial credit, check with the FSA county office staff about loan eligibility, as well as maximum loan amounts, rates, term and use of proceeds.

### **Dates To Remember**

<u>July 31</u>	<u>Final date to report 2007 spring seeded crops and CRP</u>
<u>August 1</u>	<u>Deadline to submit COC nominations</u>
<u>August 3</u>	<u>2007 DCP signup ends</u>
<u>August 3</u>	<u>ECP signup ends</u>
<u>September 3</u>	<u>Office closed. Labor Day</u>
<u>September 30</u>	<u>Final date for 2007 DCP contract revisions.</u>
<u>Ongoing</u>	<u>Farm Facility Loan Program</u>

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.