



Farm Service Agency

January 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
Amy K. Caylor, PT
Robert Barton, Field
Daniel White, Field

Farm Loan Manager

Michael Harwood
Tuesday mornings



County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Ronald Carrel! Ronald was re-elected to represent farmers from Sherman, Camden and Adams townships on the county committee. Ronald was elected to his third consecutive term.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

The committee members held their organizational meeting in January and Ronald was elected Chairperson of the county committee for 2008.

USDA Issues Disaster Payments For Crop and Livestock

Recently, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) began issuing payments to tens of thousands of farmers and ranchers across the country who suffered losses because of natural disasters.

USDA is currently processing about \$1 billion in payments under the Crop Disaster Program, Livestock Compensation Program and Livestock Indemnity Program. Sign-up for these programs is ongoing. The programs provide payments to agricultural producers who suffered crop, livestock and feed losses in 2005, 2006, and 2007 crops planted before February 28, 2007. Rules for other 2007 crops are still being formulated. Producers must choose one year for which to receive payments.

Livestock producers can now certify grazing losses for 2006 so that payments under the Livestock Compensation Program are possible for that year. Only one year, 2005 or 2006, can be chosen.. Contact the FSA Office if you have been paid and want to inquire about 2006.

Find more information about FSA disaster programs online at:

<http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

Dates to Remember	
On-going	Crop Disaster and Livestock Programs
Jan. 21	Office Closed; Martin Luther King Birthday
Jan. 31	Deadline on 2007 LDPs for wool, mohair and unshorn lamb pelts.
Feb. 18	Office Closed; President's Day
Mar. 15	Deadline to obtain 2008 NAP coverage on spring planted crops; sales closing date for crop insurance spring crops
Mar. 31	Final Availability for 2007 crop wheat, barley, oats, honey loans and LDPs.
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans

Visit our Web site:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo>

Annual Notice to Producers

FSA is required annually to notify producers of many program requirements, policies, and reminders. The following are some of those notifications:

Trusts: If you have a trust, or your land is in a trust, please let the FSA Office know. Records need to be corrected.



Spousal Signatures: Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) programs in which either has an interest. In most cases, this option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

Foreign Landowners: The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.



Powers of Attorney: We have a 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 you to designate another person to conduct your 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>.

Forms obtained and completed outside the USDA Service Centers offices must be notarized. To find out more, call the office.



Faxed Signatures: Certain faxed signatures shall be accepted for all applicable program forms or other documents approved for faxed signatures, if all other signature requirements are met.

Website for Digital Imagery

Landowners who have access to the internet may find the following site of interest. Producers can access 2004 digital imagery for their land by using the map room link at <http://www.cares.missouri.edu/index.asp>. There will be no line work on the fields, but it is a good source of current photography. Producers can also access topographical maps, floodplain maps and measure distance and acreages.

Controlled Substance: Any person who is convicted under federal law of planting, producing, cultivating, harvesting, growing, or storing a controlled substance will be ineligible to participate and receive payments under USDA programs. Marijuana, opium poppies, and other drug producing plants are controlled substances.

Direct Deposit Mandatory: As of Jan. 1, 1999, all payments issued by the county FSA office will be by direct deposit (electronic funds transfer) to a pre-designated checking or savings account with your financial institution. Forms are available at the FSA office to sign up for direct deposit if you haven't yet. For those already signed up, it is important that we are notified anytime there is a change in your account number or financial institution. If we are not notified, future payments can be delayed or lost for a period of time.

Reporting Farm Changes: It is also 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 of a contract which may reflect change of land lease from cash rent to share rent or from share rent to cash rent; addition or deletion of a farm; change in the structure of the farming operation, such as individual to corporation or trust; change in contributions or inputs such as personal labor, or change in farming interests.

Farm Bill Update

The biggest news about the new Farm Bill is that there isn't one yet. No programs are available to sign up for as far as direct program payments are concerned. One can only speculate at this time if a new bill can be compromised and signed before crop planting time.



Financial Inquiries

As more and more producers use computers and have internet access, it is helpful and feasible for them to gain access to their FSA records. A process called "e-authentication" does that. You can view your payments, print forms, and sign up for many of FSA's programs online. If you are interested, contact the county office. See also the next paragraph.

As we begin the new year its time to start thinking about gathering financial records and filling out a 1040. Currently, producer financial information is not available on the USDA Customer Statement under FSA Benefits Summary. Producers can view his or her financial information on the Financial Inquiries website using their Level 2 account authorization. Producers who want to inquire about a particular electronic deposit, program payment, debt or 1099G should go to www.fsa.usda.gov and select Online Services, then Financial Inquiries for FSA Producers.



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.



Beginning Farmers, Ranchers

Are you a farmer or rancher who has farmed for less than 10 years? If so, you may qualify for beginning farmer targeted loan funds. Check with the Farm Service Agency for this program.

NAP Program

If you are interested in protection for non-insurable crops, contact the office. The sales closing date is March 15.

Selected Interest Rates for January 2008

90-Day Treasury Bill	3.625%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	4.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.125%
Limited Resource Loans	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans Beginning Farmer Down Payment	4.000%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.625%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	4.250%

Marketing Assistance Loans

With harvest over, producers are reminded of the marketing assistance loan program which offers nine month loans using grain as collateral. The loans are non-recourse which means the grain can be forfeited to CCC in times of extremely low prices. The current interest rate is 5.25%, subject to change at the first of each month for loans taken during that month, then again on January 1, 2008 for the duration of the loan period. The quantity of grain can be certified by the producer or measurement service is available. Loan rates in DeKalb County are corn: \$1.89; soybeans \$4.96; hard-wheat \$3.04; soft wheat \$2.50; and grain sorghum \$3.26/cwt. The final date to request loans is March 31 for wheat and May 31 for spring crops. You must now make an application before loan processing can begin.

It is of utmost importance that storage structures for CCC loan grain be safely accessible. If FSA comes to the farm to do a measurement service, and the bin does not have a safe attached ladder (not a wooden ladder leaned up to the bin ladder which starts four feet off the ground), the service will not be completed.

For those producers who have CCC loans, please be reminded to contact the county office when moving or selling the grain, and watch grain closely when the weather begins to change.

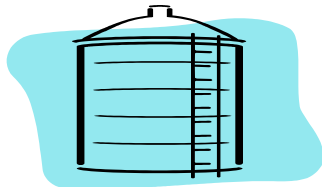


Reasonable Accommodations

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.



Socially Disadvantaged Farmers

Loans are available for operating expenses and to purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has priority funding for Socially Disadvantaged applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (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, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.