



October 2006

Daviess County News

Daviess County USDA Service Center

Daviess County FSA
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Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Closed Wednesday until
noon

County Committee

Wally Taylor
Paul Fullenwider
Frank Schadler III

Advisor

Ruby McFarland

Farm Programs Staff

Dan Styke, CED
Holly Askin, PT
Sissy Baker, PT
Jenni Blandford, PT
Naomi Brown, PT
Valerie Evans, PT
Laura Howell, PT

Farm Loan Staff

Joe Wathen, FLM
Kathy Hazelwood, FLM
Deniece Byrd, FLO
Teresa Roberts, PT
Brenda Southard, PT
Jeremy Graham, FLOT

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

Local Administrative Area 2 (LAA2) will be holding its Farm Service Agency County Committee election this year. LAA2 covers the area of Daviess County south of Hwy 54 East to Hwy 81. The candidates are Sylvester Fischer, Ray Wright, and Paul Hamilton. In case you don't know the candidates, we have included a little information about each of them for you.

Sylvester Fischer has been farming since 1962. He raises wheat, soybeans, corn and tobacco with his two sons, Brian and Jerry. Sylvester served as the Supervisor of Sales for the Owensboro Tobacco Board of Trade for 32 years.

Ray Wright has been farming for 34 years. He raises corn, soybeans, wheat and tobacco with his family. He is also involved in raising beef cattle. In addition to farming, Ray has worked at Swedish Match N/A Tobacco Company for 32 ½ years.

Paul Hamilton share rents his farm in Eastern Daviess County where corn, soybeans and wheat are raised. Paul was raised on a farm and has returned to Daviess County after being away for several years with public work in the heating and air conditioning business.

Ballots will be mailed November 3, 2006 and must be returned to the FSA office by December 4, 2006. The ballots will be counted at the Daviess County Farm Service Agency on December 7, at 9:00 AM, 2006.

FARM RECORD CHANGES

Many farmers have dropped farms and others have picked up new ones with the loss of the tobacco program. Each farmer receiving USDA benefits must certify to their compliance with highly erodible land and wetland rules on form AD-1026. The AD-1026 form lists all the farms a producer is associated with, and we are trying to update this information since so much has changed in the last year. We will be reviewing your file when you apply for USDA benefits to ensure we have you associated correctly with your farming interest.

PREVENTED PLANTING WHEAT

Producers who request prevented planting acreage credit must report the acreage to the FSA office within 15 calendar days after the final planting date. The final planting date for wheat is November 15; therefore the deadline to file for wheat prevented planting acreage credit is November 30. Farmers who have wheat insurance should report their acreage of planted and prevented planting wheat to their insurance provider by November 15. All planted wheat must be reported to FSA by May 31, 2007.

MAINTENANCE OF CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP) ACREAGE

As a participant in CRP, you have agreed to maintain CRP acreage on your property in return for an annual rental payment. As a reminder, we have listed several do's and don'ts for CRP.

- Establish and maintain specified cover on your CRP acreage.
- Don't hay or graze your CRP acreage unless granted permission under specific rules.
- Control weeds to the extent necessary to ensure approved cover is adequately protected. Remember: Annual mowing of CRP for routine weed control is prohibited.
- Don't disturb acreage under contract during the primary nesting and brood rearing season for wildlife, except as approved by Commodity Credit Corporation. For Kentucky, the no mowing season is May 15 to August 1; however, it is recommended that you wait until August 15 to be safe.
- Perform periodic management activities described in the conservation plan for your contract such as light disking, burning, etc.

As stated earlier, mowing of CRP for routine weed control and cosmetic purposes is prohibited. A CRP area may be mowed only once during a two year period. It is advisable to make an annual pass or two around each CRP field to slow down encroachment from the surrounding woods. For mowing issues with waterways or unique weed problems, contact FSA or NRCS for guidance.

SET-ASIDE PRACTICE FOR ROW CROP FIELD EDGES UNDER CRP

Farmers can enroll their row crop field borders in buffers that promote upland bird habitats. The buffers must be an average of 30 to 120 feet wide and planted to an approved mixture of native warm season grasses and wildflowers. To be eligible for enrollment, the fields must have row cropping history 4 out of the 6 years between 1996 and 2001. In return for enrollment, FSA will issue annual rental payments (10 years) and assist with cost share to establish the cover. Furthermore, an up front signing incentive payment of \$100 per acre will be made after the contract is approved. Contact us for additional information.

FARM LOAN PROGRAM NEWS

The local farm loan team announced that a record number of farmers purchased land in 2006 with low interest rate loans from FSA. Even though the number of applications was significantly greater than previous years, all loans were funded. This is unusual from previous years in which some loan requests are held over until October 1st to fund from a new fiscal year. Without a backlog of request from 2006 fiscal year, 2007 should be a good year to consider a loan for farm purchase.

Most of these loan requests came from young farmers who purchased 50 to 100 acres of farm land. They are young farmers out of high school or college who grew up on a farm and now want to start their own operation. These loans are 40 year low fixed rate loans which are very beneficial to a beginning farmer.

A high number of requests also came from youths 10 to 18 years of age. These youths are 4-H or FFA students who received loans to finance their projects. The most popular loan was for students who purchased cows to begin a cattle operation.

The October interest rate for real estate loans is 5.625% and the rate for operating loans is 5.375%. Call your FSA office to speak to a loan officer.

OFFICE CLOSED WEDNESDAY MORNINGS

The Daviess County FSA office is closed on Wednesday mornings until noon. FSA utilizes this time to conduct staff meetings; receive training, and issue payments. Customers are welcome to call or visit the office on Wednesdays for emergencies and other business that requires immediate action. Thank you for allowing FSA time to conduct business without interruption.

On October 27th the FSA office will have a reduced staff due to an all employee meeting.

FAILED ACRES REMINDER

Farmers that suffered crop losses due to the recent heavy rain and flooding; are reminded to report failed crops to the FSA office. Failed acreage should be reported before the disposition of the crop.

Dates to Remember	
November 30 th	Deadline to file prevented planted wheat
December 4 th	Deadline to turn in ballots for COC election
May 31 st	Deadline to report planted wheat acreage
November 23 rd	Closed Thanksgiving Day
December 25 th	Closed Christmas Day MERRY CHRISTMAS