



May 2007

Polk/Dallas County News

Polk County USDA Service Center

Polk County FSA
1333 E. Broadway
Bolivar, MO 65613
417-326-4823 (phone)
417-326-6174 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

County Committee
Mary Wheeler
Byrian Kramme
David Agee

Staff
Karen Stillings, CED
Abby Inglis, PT
Cathy McNatt, PT
Cindy Scott, Temp. PT
Brian Hedges, FLM
Kim Mitchell, FLO
Ella Strode, PT

Dallas County USDA Service Center

Dallas County FSA
1225 S. Ash St.
Buffalo, MO 65622
(417) 345-7721 (phone)
(417) 345-7129 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

Hours
Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Jack Dill
Keith Whipple
Byron Duff
Bernice Linman

Staff
Karen Stillings, CED
Sue Hendrich, PT
Cindy Scott, Temp. PT

DCP Sign Up Extended

The sign-up deadline for the 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has been extended to August 3, 2007.

The extension is due to issues involving the performance of the Farm Service Agency's web-based computer system. The late-file fee of \$100 will only be assessed for farms that are enrolled after August 3, 2007 and before September 30, 2007.

Enrollment in DCP for the 2007 contract period began on October 1, 2006, and was scheduled to end on June 1, 2007. The extension applies only to the enrollment time frame, and does not extend the DCP contract period.

For more information about DCP and other FSA programs, please visit:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

ICE-STORM EMERGENCY PROGRAM

Signup period for EC-1 Debris Removal practice ended on March 9, 2007. County offices have taken approximately 900 applications between the two counties. On-site inspections have been completed and county office personnel are currently measuring footages and continuing to complete required paperwork. County office will notify producers regarding eligibility in the near future. Please continue to keep track of all expenses incurred, including manual labor, whether hired or personal, chainsaw labor, or equipment labor hours and dates work was completed. If you have any questions, please contact the office for assistance.

DAMAGE FROM LATE FREEZE SHOULD BE REPORTED

Producers suffering damage from freeze received in early April are encouraged to report damage to county office as soon as loss becomes apparent. This will give county office a record of crop type, disposition of crop, etc. for future reference.

FSA Signature Requirements

Proper signatures on Farm Service Agency contracts, applications and forms must be submitted before the document will be considered as filed. All entities, including revocable and irrevocable trusts, corporations, partnerships, estates, etc., must provide evidence of signature authority stipulating those individuals who are authorized to represent the entity. FSA cannot accept signatures without such documentation on file. Examples of acceptable evidence include trust agreements, corporate charters or resolutions, partnership agreements and court orders of appointment. Spouses can sign for one another on most program documents unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office staff. An FSA-211 may be filed to delegate signature authority for FSA program purposes to another individual.

Payment Limitation/Eligibility

USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. Documents and forms to determine eligibility and limitation once completed are reviewed on an annual basis. It is the producer's responsibility to timely report changes in the farming operation which may affect payment eligibility and payment limitation. The following payments apply to DCP for each

**RAINFALL
REPORTS- as
recorded at each
county office**

POLK COUNTY

Month Inches

Jan '07	4.62
Feb	1.92
March	2.77
April	5.50



**DALLAS
COUNTY**

Month Inches

Jan '07	3.67
Feb	2.14
March	1.91
April	4.84

**POLK/DALLAS
SHARED
MANAGEMENT
CONTINUES**

The Polk and Dallas County FSA Offices continue to operate under shared management. CED Karen Stillings is available in the Polk County office on Mon. Wed. and Thurs. and in the Dallas County office on Tues. and Fridays

contract year under the new Farm bill comes through both direct and counter-cyclical payments. For all covered commodities, except peanuts: \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments. For peanuts: \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program has a \$450,000 payment limitation. The Conservation Reserve Programs annual limit is \$50,000 per person.

Entities such as corporations, limited partnerships, trusts and estates are required to provide names, addresses, and ID numbers of their members.

CONTINUOUS CRP AND CREP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program allows participants to voluntarily enroll acreage in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

Eligible landowners enter into 10- to 15-year contracts in return for receiving annual rental payments, maintenance, incentive and cost share payments.

To be eligible, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. If eligibility requirements are met, the Farm Service Agency will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP or CREP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year.

Some areas of the county may qualify for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). This program is implemented much the same way as the Continuous CRP, however this acreage shall be enrolled for a period of fifteen years and is eligible for additional incentive payments beyond the regular continuous signup program.

For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments or CREP, please contact the county office.

ACREAGE REPORTING

June 30, 2006 is the final date to report wheat, barley and oats. Acreage reports are required if you participate in CRP, DCP or apply for loans or loan deficiency payments. **July 31**

is the final date to report corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, forage crops, fescue seed, CRP, fruits and vegetables and any other spring crops and land uses. Acreage reports are beneficial for producers in order to have crop and land uses on file with the county office in the event of a future disaster or emergency program. All cropland on the farm should be reported. Acreage reported after the final date will be considered late filed and a required measurement service fee will be charged to verify physical evidence of the crop.

FARM LOANS

The Farm Service Agency makes Direct Operating and Direct Farm Ownership Loans to eligible family-size farmers and ranchers who are unable to obtain financing from commercial credit sources.

Direct Operating Loan funds may be used to purchase livestock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance, or finance other farm operating expenses. Also, Operating Loans can be used to pay for minor improvements to buildings, costs associated with land and water development, family subsistence, and to refinance farm debts under certain conditions. The limit on Direct Operating Loans is \$200,000.

Direct Farm Ownership Loan funds may be used to purchase farm land, construct or repair buildings and promote soil and water conservation. Eligible applicants must have participated in the business operations of a farm or ranch for at least 3 years. The limit on Direct Farm Ownership Loans is \$200,000.

Repayment terms vary according to the type of loan made, the collateral securing the loan, and the applicant's ability to repay. Monthly interest rates vary based on the Federal Government's cost of borrowing. The May full note interest rate on the Direct OL is 5.00% and Direct FO is 5.25%. These are considered fixed rates for the term of the note.

To discuss eligibility and program conditions or to receive a direct loan application packet, contact your local FSA office. The Polk County FSA Office located in Bolivar, serves as the Farm Loan Team Headquarters for the counties of Cedar, Dade, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Polk and St. Clair.

2007 COC Election Information

One of FSA's responsibilities is to conduct County Committee elections in an open manner that ensures accountability. County FSA Offices will provide local organizations representing socially disadvantaged groups with detailed information about the COC election process. FSA is reaching out to agricultural communities to get equitable representation on their county committees.



Groups representing socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, will be actively solicited for COC election candidates, and encouraged to fill out a nomination form (**FSA-669A**). Under represented farmers and ranchers are encouraged to step up and participate in their county's COC election process. Producers will notice posters and announcements displayed in businesses, churches, and other public places. COC election fact sheets can be found online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under the News & Events tab on the FSA homepage.

Maintaining CRP Cover

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) cover maintenance is the participant's responsibility and must be done according to the conservation plan. Haying or grazing of CRP acreage is strictly prohibited, and penalties will be incurred for such violations. All CRP maintenance activity, such as mowing, burning and spraying, must be conducted outside the primary nesting season for wildlife and in accordance with the conservation plan. Spot treatment of the acreage may be allowed during the primary nesting season if certain criteria are met. The primary nesting season in Missouri is May 1 to July 15.

CRP LAND SALE

Land enrolled into Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and sold prior to its ten or fifteen year expiration date could be subject to a refund of all contract payments issued, plus interest, and liquidated damages if the new owner does not succeed to the current contract for the remainder of the contract period. If you have acreage enrolled into a CRP contract and are considering selling all or part of that land, please contact our office for further details

Utilizing GIS

The Farm Service Agency currently employs a Geographic Information System (GIS), a computer-based tool for capturing, storing, mapping and analyzing geographic farm data. FSA uses GIS to replace the old manual system of hard copy maps and aerial photographs. This digital technology is faster and more accurate than the old way, and saves taxpayers money over the long term.

Here's how GIS works. Up-to-date aerial photographs of the entire county are scanned so they can be stored in the computer. The photos become the base layer of the GIS. Technicians examine the photos and identify individual farms. They then outline each farm field, creating another layer of data called the Common Land Unit (CLU).

The software stores the shape of the field as a "polygon," and ties it to a specific location using latitude and longitude. The software can then automatically calculate the size of each field. The CLU layer will be connected to a database that contains information about the cropping history for each particular field.

GIS gives us the tools to provide quicker, more accurate information to producers and reduce the amount of time the producer must spend in the FSA office. As an added bonus, producers can review their farm's GIS files online from the comfort of their homes.

FARM RECORDS CHANGES

Any ownership, operator or address changes should be reported to the FSA office to keep our records up to date.

For additional program information on any program listed, please contact your local FSA county office.

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY

FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2007

**Polk County USDA Service Center
1333 E. Broadway, Bolivar, MO**

11:00 – 2:00

FSA, NRCS and the Soil and Water Conservation District in conjunction with FCS Financial Services would like to invite you to attend our 5th Customer Appreciation Day. Farm program and farm loan information, fencing demonstration and various other information will be available. We look forward to seeing you there!

Dates to Remember

May 28	Memorial Day Holiday. FSA offices closed.
June 30	Final certification date for 2007 wheat, barley and oats.
July 31	Final certification date for corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, forage crops, fescue seed, CRP and fruits and vegetables.
August 3	Final DCP Sign-up Date
Continues	CREP and continuous CRP signup

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

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