



November 2006

Texas/ Dent County News



Texas/Dent County
USDA Service Center

Texas/Dent County FSA
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Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee:
Shirley Best
Pauline Chapman
Jim O. Freeman
Edward Moore

County Committee meets:
The First Tuesday of each
Month.

County Staff:
Elvie Younger, CED
Loretta Hinton, PT
Lori Martens, PT

Farm Loan Staff:
Jared Weydert, FLMT
Debi Huff, FLPT

Voting for County Committee Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election were mailed to eligible voters on November 3, 2006. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 4, 2006. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 4.

The candidates in this year's election are Sadaeo "Sid" Hagashi and Jerry "Charles" Kiser.

Eligible voters in a local administrative area 1, the area west of Highway 63 in Texas County, who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

Voter Requirements Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, is eligible to vote:

- 1.** Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following:
an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper; *or*
a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper; *or*
- 2.** Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; *and*
- 3.** Eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

Discrimination Prohibited No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

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 might have to refund all of the payments you've received to date.

Reviewing program implications with your local Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.

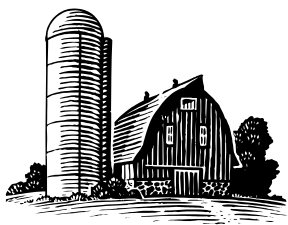
Continuous CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is a private lands environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

The Continuous CRP program is a voluntary enrollment program. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment.

To be eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year.

For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments or local Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) availability, please contact your local FSA office or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/crpcont03.htm>.



What is CREP?

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a voluntary land retirement program that helps agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat, and safeguard ground and surface water. *(Approved for Texas and Dent Counties in certain Watersheds according to map shown on Page 3)*

The program is a partnership among agricultural producers, public drinking water supplies, the USDA Farm Services Agency, the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the USDA Natural Conservation Service, the Missouri Association of Soil and Water Districts and the Missouri Department of Agriculture. CREP is an offshoot of the country's largest private-lands environmental improvement program – the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Like CRP, CREP is administered by the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). By combining CRP resources with state agencies and local public drinking water supplies, CREP provides farmers with a sound financial package for conserving and enhancing the natural resources of farms.

The Missouri CREP addresses high-priority conservation issues of both local and national significance, such as loss of habitat for bob-white quail and prairie chicken, impacts to water supplies, water quality, loss of critical habitat for threatened and endangered wildlife species, soil erosion, and reduced habitat for fish populations.

Eligibility

Enrollment in the Missouri CREP is limited to specific geographic areas, as shown on the attached map, and practices. To determine if your land is located in a CREP watershed and if your land qualifies, contact your local FSA office.

CREP contracts require a 15-year commitment to keep lands out of agricultural production. CREP provides payments to participants who offer eligible land. A federal annual rental

rate, including an FSA maintenance incentive payment, is offered, plus cost-share of up to 50 percent of the eligible costs to install the practice. Further, the program is offering state signup incentives \$125 to \$325/acre **depending on the soil type, conservation practice and watershed.**

FSA uses CRP funding to pay a percentage of the program's cost, while agencies from the state of Missouri and local public drinking water supplies provide the balance of the funds. USDA and Missouri Department of Conservation staff will also provide technical support and other in-kind services.

Benefits

For the landowner, CREP is not just a cost-effective way to address rural environmental problems; it can provide a viable option to supplement farm income as well.

CREP is convenient for producers because it is based on the familiar, highly successful CRP model. Land must be owned or leased for at least one year prior to enrollment to be eligible, and must be physically and legally capable of being cropped in a normal manner.

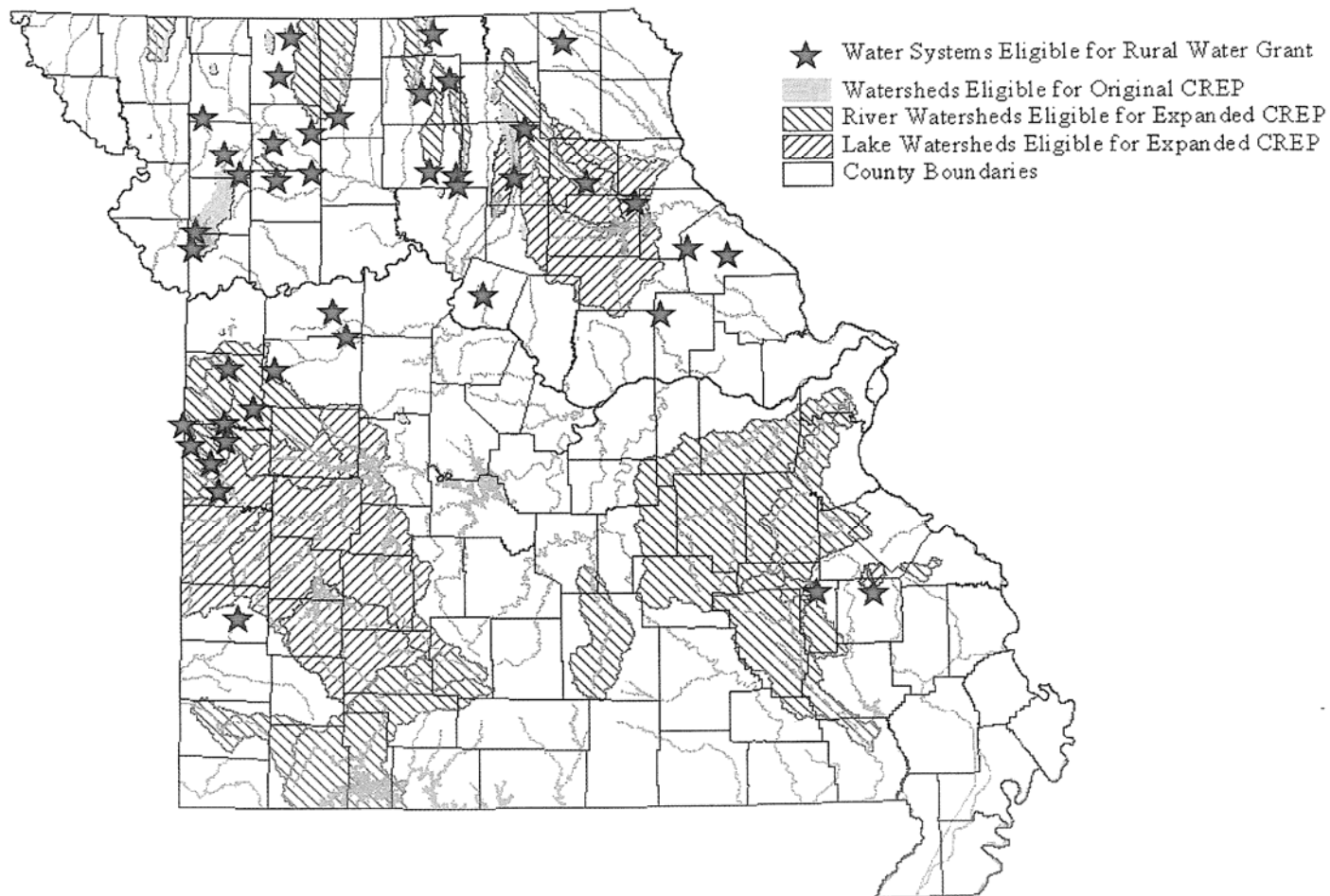
Land must also meet cropping history and other eligibility requirements. The CREP typically targets cropland acres. However, **pasture acres adjacent to streams, ponds or other water sources can also be enrolled** as either riparian tree buffers (CP22), wildlife buffers (CP29) or wetland buffers (CP30). The water body and buffer must be fenced to exclude livestock. Cost-share is available to install alternative livestock watering facilities.

Enrollment is on a continuous basis, permitting farmers and ranchers to join the program at any time rather than waiting for specific sign-up periods.

CREP supports increased conservation practices such as filter strips and forested buffers. These conservation practices help protect streams, lakes and rivers from sedimentation and agricultural runoff. CREP also helps landowners develop and restore wetlands.

For More Information

For more information on CREP, contact your local FSA office at 1-800-879-8894 Ext. 2.



The list of public drinking water supplies correspond with the stars on this map. CREP applications within those watersheds are eligible for an additional signup incentive payment equal to 150% of the annual CRP rental Rate. **Public water supplies must have a signed agreement with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to be eligible for this added incentive payment.**

Changing Financial Institutions

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been determined that the chance of having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit. Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

Dates to Remember	
Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Dec. 4	Deadline to Return County Committee Ballots
Dec. 25	Christmas Day Holiday
Continues	Continuous CRP Sign Up
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans

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

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