



February 2008

Webster County FSA News

Webster County USDA Service Center

FSA County Office

1202 Banning Street
Marshfield, MO 65706

(417)468-2088 phone
(417)468-7334 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/MO

Hours

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

County Committee:

Darrell Ragsdale – Chm
Carolyn Leonard – VChm
Joe Bill Day - Mem

Committee meets the first
Wednesday of each month
at 9:00 AM

County Office Staff:

Cheryl Grass – PT
Sue Price – PT
Ron Keith - AFLPS
Mark Aycock – FLM
Sharon Pettibon - FLT
Jim Kyle - DD
Wyman Miller - CED

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Carolyn Leonard on being re-elected to the county committee. This is the second term for Carolyn to serve on the committee. She served as advisor to the committee prior to being elected. Carolyn and her husband Bill conduct a beef cow farming operation in the Seymour area. When not conducting the farming operation, Carolyn and Bill like to travel.

On January 10, 2008 the committee met to organize for the 2008 year. Darrell Ragsdale was elected Chairperson and Carolyn Leonard was elected Vice Chairperson.

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.

ATTENTION LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) for the droughts in 2005 and 2006 is well underway. This month, we will start issuing payment to producers in Webster County with approved applications. If you have not applied, don't let this program slip by.

If you owned or cash leased eligible livestock on January 1st of 2005 or 2006 and suffered an eligible feed loss, you may be compensated.

Payment rates for some eligible livestock are:

- BEEF (Adult) – \$10.66/head
- DAIRY (Adult) - \$27.72/head
- BEEF & DAIRY (500#'s plus on

Jan. 1st) - \$8.00/head

Other eligible livestock include: Buffalo, Beefalo, Sheep, Goats, Equine, Swine, Poultry, Deer and Elk. (Claimed livestock must be for commercial purposes in a farming operation to be considered eligible).

Producers incurring losses in 2005 and 2006 must choose only one year for which to receive benefits. Also if a producer selects to receive LCP benefits for 2006 and they participated in the Livestock Assistance Grant Program (LAGP), their benefits will be reduced by the dollar amount they received from the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

Also included is the Livestock Indemnity Program for producers who lost livestock as a direct result of the ice storm in January 2007. Applicants must have owned the livestock on the beginning date of the disaster and provide verifiable proof of death. If verifiable proof is not available, a third part certification may be used. The owner must provide a written, dated and signed statement that no other proof is available, number of livestock by category when the deaths occurred, physical location in inventory when deaths occurred and documentation that supports reasonableness of the number of livestock in inventory when deaths occurred. The third party certification must provide a written and signed statement giving specific details about how the third party has knowledge of the animal deaths, affiliation to the producer, telephone number and address, number and kind of livestock that died because of the disaster and other specific details for the committee and DD to determine the certification is acceptable.

Give our office a call to set up an appointment to complete your application.

No deadline has yet to be established for sign up in the LCP and LIP programs.

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!

Dairy Disaster Assistance

Sign up in the Dairy Disaster Assistance Program (DDAP-III) has been temporarily suspended to make changes in the automated application process. Notice will be provided when sign up resumes. We do know that the base period will be 2003 and 2004. Producers can apply for benefits for 2005, 2006 and 2007. We will be asking for cow numbers for the years 2003 – 2007 and total annual production for each of these years. Start getting this information together and we will notify producers when sign up starts.

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA County office staff if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM (ECP)

Tornados tore across Webster County on January 7, 2008 causing damage to houses, outbuildings, fences and scattered debris over farmland. FSA has been approved to implement the ECP program to assist landowners repair or replace fence and remove debris from farmland where normal farming practices are disrupted. **Sign up starts January 22, 2008 and ends March 24, 2008.** Producers must incur at least \$1000.00 out of pocket expense to be eligible for assistance on the eligible related practices. If you had fences torn down and debris scattered over your farmland, come by our office to apply for assistance. A farm visit must be made by a representative from FSA to assess the damage.

This program does not provide any assistance for losses sustained to houses, outbuildings, barn lots or yard fences.

Even though we have been approved to imple-

ment the program, **no funds are available at this time.** Producers need to keep a daily log of all work performed, persons performing the work and receipts for cost involved.

Customer Statements

January signals the beginning of a new year, and a time to gather financial records and start thinking about filling out a 1040. Producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will have a little online help in that they will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement. The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's at your fingertips and available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs; information on farm loans; and conservation plan and land unit information.

Foreign Buyers Notification

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.

What is Continuous CRP?

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 and perhaps 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. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year.

For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments, please contact the county office staff or visit: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=crp>.

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other as individuals for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

LDP Deadline on Wool, Mohair and Unshorn Lamb Pelts

Eligible producers have **until Jan. 31, 2008**, to apply for LDPs for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts produced during the 2007 crop year.

Eligible producers must:

- have beneficial interest in the wool or unshorn pelts
- owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of shearing or slaughter
- sold the unshorn lambs for immediate slaughter or slaughtered the lamb for personal use
- comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in.

January 2008	
90-Day Treasury Bill	3.625%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	4.375%
Selected Interest Rates for	
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%

Dates to Remember	
Jan. 22	Sign Up in Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) begins
Jan. 21	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Jan. 31	Deadline on 2007 LDP's for wool, mohair and unshorn lamb pelts.
Feb. 18	George Washington's Birthday FSA Offices Closed
March 15	NAP sales closing date

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.

New Face in the Office

Last November Webster County and Greene County became permanent shared management offices. As a result of this action I became the CED for both counties. My name is Wyman Miller. I live in Springfield and have worked for ASCS/FSA for 30 years. I was raised on a cotton farm in Arkansas and moved to Missouri in 1967 to teach school in Marionville, MO. In Marionville I operated a peach orchard for several years. I taught school for 11 years before starting full time with ASCS in 1978.

It's good to be a part of the FSA family and welcome you to stop by the office for a visit. We want to do our best to serve the producers in Webster County.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the County Executive Director of their local Farm Service Agency office.

NAP Coverage Deadline

March 15 is the deadline date for producers to apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, or NAP, coverage using Form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, and pay the service fee at the county office. The application and service fee must be filed by March 15, the application closing date for 2007 spring seed crops along with vegetables.

The service fee is \$100 per crop per county or \$300 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$900 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees.

To qualify, a producer must be a landowner, tenant or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop.

Direct and Guaranteed Loans Available

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are available now. Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan. Loan funds are available now — applying early is important so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner. Most of our loan programs have special funding available for minority, female and beginning farmers. FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

Waiting on a Farm Bill

Authority to hold an annual signup for the Direct and Countercyclical Program (DCP) expired with the old farm bill on September 30, 2007. The U.S. House of Representatives passed their version of a new farm bill in July and the U.S. Senate is currently considering their version. The remaining steps to implementation are passage of a farm bill in the Senate, agreement and passage of a conference version between the House and Senate, signature by the President, and publication of new rules in the Federal Register. Looking at that timeline, a signup before early spring is unlikely. However, program provisions and signup dates will be provided through this newsletter as soon as they become available.

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