



April 2004

Missouri Producer

Missouri Farm Service Agency

Parkade Center, Suite 225
601 Business Loop 70 W
Columbia, MO 65203

Hours

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

State Committee

Don Fischer, Chairman
Fred Ferrell
Julie Hurst
Craig Westfall
Barbara Wilson

Staff

Patty Dick, Administration
Dan Gieseke, Farm Loans
Bo Wendleton, Compliance
Gerald Hrdina, Conservation
Maurine Long, Price Support
Max Sell, Production Flexibility

Poultry Disease Information

Recent outbreaks of highly contagious poultry diseases--Exotic Newcastle Disease (END) and Avian Influenza (AI)--have sparked a national USDA education campaign to make commercial and hobbyist poultry producers aware of clinical signs of these diseases, preventive measures to stop the spread of the diseases and responsive measures that must be taken if producers suspect an outbreak within their flock. It is important that bird-owners educate themselves regarding these diseases as the result of an outbreak is almost always lethal to the flock, resulting in significant economic impact.

Any poultry or pet-bird owners or veterinarians who suspect a bird may have END or AI should immediately contact State or Federal animal health authorities.

For more information regarding clinical signs of diseases, prevention and decontamination, contact:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services; Emergency Programs; 4700 River Road, Unit 41; Riverdale, MD 20737-1231

Telephone (301) 734-8073, Fax (301) 734-7817, E-mail: emoc@usda.gov, www.aphis.usda.gov.

New Farm Business Plan

Farm Service Agency borrowers who have used the old Farm and Home Plan will soon trade it in for more modern technology that will save them time and energy. Starting in mid-2005, FSA borrowers will use the new Farm Business Plan, an Internet-based system that will replace the Farm and Home Plan and allow FSA to provide faster and more efficient service to producers.

Producers will be able to fill out and submit their Farm Business Plans to county offices from their homes or offices, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Those who do not own computers will be able to access their accounts through computers at public libraries or other facilities with Internet connections. Borrowers without access to computers will fill out worksheets, and FSA staffers will input the information.

The Farm Business Plan will allow borrowers to document cash flow, expenses, assets, debts and other important financial information. The information is shared with FSA farm loan officials or guaranteed lending partners who track the success of a borrower's business by computer to see how the producer is progressing toward the goal of graduating to commercial credit. In addition, the

Dates to Remember	
Today	Report changes to farming operation.
April 1	Status date for payment limitation determinations
May 31	Memorial Day holiday. FSA offices closed
June 1	Deadline to apply for loans, LDPs for feed grains, soybeans, cotton, rice, sunflowers
June 1	DCP signature deadline
June 30	Final reporting date for small grains
July 5	Independence Day holiday observed. FSA offices closed
July 31	Final reporting date for all other crops

system allows borrowers to evaluate their own short- and long-term plans and goals, as well as assess efficiency and demonstrate credit worthiness to lenders.

FSA farm loan officers and guaranteed lending institutions will also benefit from the plan's ability to quickly process information. The system provides borrowers and lending partners with a secure electronic environment that meets USDA and other federal regulations for electronic commerce and lending services.

Borrowers will access their information using personal identification codes and passwords. Producers will receive instructions on how to use the Farm Business Plan before it is made available. In the future, the plan will be part of USDA's Customer Statement, which means farmers, ranchers and others will have the ability to see their USDA farm loan and other personal program information online.

Loans for Socially Disadvantaged Applicants

The Farm Service Agency can make direct and guaranteed loans to socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family-size farms and ranches.

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

Direct loans may be made to applicants by FSA for both farm operating and farm ownership loans. Guaranteed farm loans also may be made for ownership or operating purposes, and may be made by any lending institution subject to federal or state supervision (e.g., banks and units of the Farm Credit System) and guaranteed by FSA. FSA typically guarantees 90 or 95 percent of a loan against any loss that might be incurred if the loan fails.

Persons who are primarily and directly engaged in farming and ranching on family-size operations may apply.

Socially disadvantaged loan applicants *do not* receive automatic approval. Individual applicants under this program must meet *all* requirements for FSA's regular farm loan program assistance.

Contact the county office staff or USDA Service Center for more information.

Customer Statement

The Farm Service Agency has launched a new Web tool to help producers track their participation in farm programs. The new Customer Statement allows producers to view participation and application status for conservation programs, program payments, farm loan information, and more.

Access to the Customer Statement is available to all USDA customers. In order to insure personal identity, a producer must first register on line for a USDA ID.

Selected Interest Rates for April 2004	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.875%
Farm Operating - Direct	3.650%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.500%
Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4.000%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility	3.375%
Sugar Storage Facility	4.500%
Commodity Loans 1996- Present	2.250%

The online process creates a user ID and password confirming an email address. The ID will be an important identifier as USDA begins to link more customer data from agencies across the department.

To view a Customer Statement, visit www.usda.gov and click on the Customer Statement button.

Graze Out for Small Grains

The Graze Out program is for eligible producers who elect to use their wheat, barley, oats or triticale acreage for grazing by livestock and agree to forgo any other harvesting of the commodity on such acreage during the applicable crop year.

The application period for Graze Out begins on the first day the crop is normally mechanically harvested as determined by the county committee, and ends on March 31 of the calendar year following the year the crop is normally harvested.

Producers may file an application for Graze Out anytime during the application period, and applications may not be cancelled or withdrawn once submitted.

An eligible producer for Graze Out is any producer who is eligible for a marketing assistance loan and who meets all of the following requirements: requests Graze Out payments on loan deficiency payment certification and application (Form CCC-633 Grazing) before March 31 of the calendar year following the year the crop is normally harvested; agrees to forgo any other harvesting of the commodity on the acreage planted for grazing by livestock; and retains beneficial interest through the date the crop is grazed out.

Eligible acreage for Graze Out is any acreage of wheat, barley, oats, or triticale that is not harvested by any means other than grazing. Crop acreage requested for Graze Out is not eligible for any other marketing assistance loan or LDP, a crop insurance indemnity, or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program or Crop Disaster Program.

For additional information on the Graze Out Program, contact the county office staff.

EQIP Available

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program offers financial and technical help to assist participants install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land.

EQIP may cost-share up to 75 percent of the costs of certain conservation practices. Incentive payments may be provided for up to three years to encourage producers to carry out management practices they may not otherwise use without the incentive. Limited resource producers and beginning farmers and ranchers may be eligible for cost-shares up to 90 percent.

EQIP sign-up information is now available online at www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/ or visit with the county office staff.

Removing CCC Loan Collateral

Do not forget, if you have grain under Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loan it cannot be removed without prior authorization or repayment.

Unauthorized removal, which includes removal for cleaning for seed or planting, is considered a violation and is subject to monetary and administrative penalties.

Your loans are subject to spot check. Determined shortages must be repaid with principal plus interest, and additional monetary penalties plus loss of future loan eligibility may apply. Producers planning to remove or clean CCC loan grain should contact the county office staff for additional information.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, rice, soybeans and corn. The interest rate changes each month. The current rate is 3.375 percent.

The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.

All farm storage facility loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required. For details, contact the county office staff.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (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 USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD).