



**October 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**

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

## **Electronic LDP Service Available**

Producers who are connected to the Internet can now stay home and apply for an Electronic Loan Deficiency Payment, or eLDP, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The producers will receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours.

To participate in the new service, you must meet all eligibility requirements for marketing assistance loans and LDPs for the commodity.

The voluntary eLDP service has stringent security measures to protect your private information.

You must have an e-mail address, direct deposit, and set up a customer profile through the county Farm Service Agency office.

To register, you can go to <http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov> and complete form CCC-634-E, "Request for Electronic Loan Deficiency Payment Services," or can obtain a form at the county office.

You must also have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification.

## **County Committee Election**

Just a reminder: Be watching your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters beginning Nov. 8. If you don't receive a ballot within two weeks, notify the county office. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on Dec. 6. Get involved, vote!

## **Signature Policy for Spouses**

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other 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 from either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule. For example, spouses may not sign FSA-211s on behalf of each other or sign on behalf of the other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
Oct. 1	2005 DCP sign up begins
Oct. 1	Sign up begins for CRP Northern Bobwhite Quail Initiative
Oct. 1	Sign up begins for CRP Wetlands Restoration Initiative
Oct. 11	Columbus Day holiday
Nov. 8	County committee ballots mailed to voters
Nov. 11	NAP application closing date for apples, grapes, peaches
Dec. 1	NAP application closing date for honey
Dec. 6	Last day to return county committee election ballots
Dec. 31	NAP application closing date for potatoes
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Grasslands Reserve Program

Spouses must have a power of attorney on file or sign personally for claim settlements, such as promissory notes.

A spouse's authority to sign documents on behalf of the other spouse does not entitle a spouse to review or receive agency records of the other spouse.

### ***DCP Contract Reminder***

Producers: Are you planning to participate in the 2005 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program? If so, contact the county office staff to schedule an appointment to sign your 2005 DCP contract (CCC-509) before June 1, 2005. (You can sign your contract after June 1 and before Sept. 30, but you will be assessed a late-signing fee of \$100.)

When you sign the CCC-509, you are agreeing to:

- comply with highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions on all your land;
- devote acreage equal to the base acreage to an agricultural or conserving use;
- effectively control noxious weeds and otherwise maintain base acres according to sound agricultural practices;
- not plant perennial fruits and vegetables or harvest annual FAVs (other than lentils, mung beans, and dry peas) or wild rice on base acres (Exceptions: Double-cropping covered commodities or peanuts with wild rice, fruits, or vegetables shall be permitted in any region in which there is a history of this type of double-cropping.);
- file acreage report with respect to all cropland on the farm; and
- notify the county office staff when there is a transfer of or change of interest of a producer.

The DCP contracts are not like the old seven-year Production Flexibility Contracts. You must designate shares and sign a new DCP contract each year.

### ***2004 CC Payments***

The first counter-cyclical program payment rates for 2004-crop wheat, feed grains and oilseeds will be announced after the Oct. 12 Supply-Demand Report. The first payments are to be made in October. Farmers are eligible for counter-cyclical payments if the effective prices are below target prices set in the 2002 farm bill. The first payment is at the discretion of the Secretary and may be up to 35 percent of the total projected payment.

### ***CRP Continuous Sign Up***

The 29<sup>th</sup> general CRP sign up ended on Sept. 24, and we're in the process of notifying producers whether their offers were accepted. Eligible cropland that wasn't accepted during this general sign up may be re-offered during the next general sign up or offered under CRP's continuous sign up program.

Selected Interest Rates for October 2004	
90-Day Treasury Bill	1.500%
Farm Operating - Direct	4.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.750%
Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4.000%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility	3.875%
Sugar Storage Facility	4.625%
Commodity Loans 1996- Present	3.000%

Environmentally desirable land devoted to certain conservation practices may be enrolled in CRP at any time under continuous sign-up. Offers are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements. Offers for continuous sign-up are not subject to competitive bidding.

All eligible owners and operators, regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status, shall have an opportunity to submit requests to place land in CRP.

Contact the county office for details or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/crpcont03.htm>.

### ***Marketing Assistance Loans, LDPs***

Marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments can mean the difference between a good year and a not-so-good year. With that in mind, it's important to comply with the rules.

To be eligible for loans and LDPs, you must comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements; report how you use cropland acreage on the farm; have beneficial interest in the commodity on the date the loan or LDP is requested and, in the case of a loan, retain beneficial interest while the loan is outstanding; and ensure that the commodity meets CCC minimum grade and quality standards.

Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan or LDP — even if you regain beneficial interest.

For commodities to be eligible for loans or LDPs, they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Individuals and entities whose previous 3-year average adjusted gross income, or AGI, exceeds \$2.5 million are ineligible for LDPs and market loan gains unless they can show that at least 75 percent of their AGI comes from agriculture.

The total of LDPs and market loan gains received by a producer is limited to \$75,000 for each crop year. That means \$75,000 for wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, rice, soybeans, other oilseeds, dry peas, lentils and small chickpeas; and, \$75,000 for peanuts, wool, mohair and honey.

You do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program to be eligible for loans or LDPs.

Violating provisions of the loan and LDP program may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans and LDPs.

---

The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

### ***NAP Deadline Approaching***

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) can soften financial losses caused by natural disasters, but only if you've applied for coverage and paid the application fee. The application deadline date for certain 2005 NAP crops is approaching.

NAP kicks in when natural disasters result in a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop. NAP coverage is equivalent to that provided by Catastrophic Risk Protection Plan (CAT) insurance. It's available for commercial crops or agricultural commodities produced for food or fiber for which CAT is not available. NAP coverage is not available for livestock.

If you already have coverage on 2004 NAP crops, you may choose to continue coverage on the same crops for 2005, if the service fee is paid by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage, is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

If you want to add or delete a crop from the previous year's coverage or change crop shares, you must file a new CCC-471, with signatures, and pay the service fee.

Producers with 2004 NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.

File a Notice of Loss within 15 days of when the loss is apparent.

### ***Comment Sought on CRP Future***

The public has until Dec. 8 to comment on the future of CRP. USDA is seeking your input on topics such as:

- How to manage the large acreage set to expire from CRP in 2007 and later;
- How to manage future CRP sign-ups and acreage; and
- How to evaluate the program's environmental effectiveness;

The notice seeking public comment on CRP was published in the Federal Register on Aug. 10. It's available online at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>.

Submit comments in writing by Dec. 8, 2004. The preferred manner to submit comments is via the Internet at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/>. Comments may also be submitted by email to [crprule.crprule@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:crprule.crprule@wdc.usda.gov), or by mail to

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).

---

Director, Conservation and Environmental Programs Division, Farm Service Agency, Room 4714-S, Stop 0513, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0513.

### ***New Fact Sheets***

Three new fact sheets are available at the county office or online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/news/whatsnew.htm>.

The new fact sheets are “Assigning FSA and CCC Payments,” “Electronic Loan Deficiency Payments” and “Beneficial Interest Requirements for Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) Excluding Sugar and Tobacco.”