



**August 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

## **County Committee Election**

Nominations for the county committee election are due in county offices by the close of business Sept. 3. The next step in the election process is the mailing out of the ballots, which will begin on Nov. 8. Voters have until Dec. 6 to return their ballots to the county office.

**Prospective Voter Requirements** If you're on the mailing list for a county office newsletter, the chances are you are an eligible voter. Anyone who meets the 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 for by law, regardless of the status of funding.

Each county is divided into three to five local administrative areas. Each LAA is represented by one member on the county committee. A person may vote in only one LAA in each county.

**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.

## **CRP General Sign Up 29 Starts**

Conservation Reserve Program general sign up 29 will begin Aug. 30 and run through Sept. 24. Landowners and operators may submit offers to enroll acreage into the program. Successful offers will become effective Oct. 1, 2005, or Oct. 1, 2006, at the producer's discretion.

A limited number of acres will be accepted for enrollment, and we will use the Environmental Benefits Index to rank the acreage offered. The index is based on costs and five other factors: soil erosion, water quality, enduring benefits, air quality and wildlife enhancement.

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
Aug. 2	Sign up begins for Bioenergy Program. Ends Aug. 31.
Aug. 30	CRP General Sign Up 29 begins
Sept. 3	Last day to submit nomination for county committee election
Sept. 6	Labor Day Holiday. FSA offices closed.
Nov. 8	County committee ballots mailed to voters
Dec. 6	Last day to return county committee election ballots
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Grasslands Reserve Program
Continues	MILC Program
Continues	Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands

Landowners are encouraged to work with the staff of their county Farm Service Agency office to maximize the environmental benefits of their Conservation Reserve Program offers.

### ***Final Counter-cyclical Payments***

There will be no final counter-cyclical payments for wheat, barley or oats for crop year 2003.

Wheat producers who received a 2003 first advance counter-cyclical payment are now overpaid. Those producers will have two options for repaying the unearned counter-cyclical payment.

The default option is to have any Direct and Counter-cyclical Program payment received between October 2004 and March 30, 2005, automatically reduced by the amount of the overpayment.

The second option is to repay the amount by writing a check.

Visit with the county office staff for details.

### ***Farm Business Plan***

The Farm Service Agency will provide its direct and guaranteed farm loan borrowers with a new online Farm Business Plan, an accounting system that will enhance the quality and speed of service that FSA offers America's farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural producers.

The new Plan is powered by easy-to-use computer software that is one of the most widely used financial planning tools in the lending industry today. The Farm Business Plan allows borrowers to document cash flow, expenses, assets, debts, and other important financial information.

FSA borrowers will be able to fill out and submit their Farm Business Plans via the Internet to local USDA Service Centers from the comfort of their homes or offices, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Producers who do not own computers, but who wish to use the system, will be able to access their accounts easily through computers at local public libraries or other facilities with Internet access. Borrowers without computers may complete worksheets by hand.

All users will acquire identification names and passwords to access the system so personal account information remains secure. The system meets Federal and USDA requirements as well as industry standards for electronic commerce and lending services.

The following are just some of the benefits offered by the new Farm Business Plan.

Selected Interest Rates for August 2004	
90-Day Treasury Bill	1.250%
Farm Operating - Direct	4.375%
Farm Ownership - Direct	6.000%
Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4.000%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility	4.125%
Sugar Storage Facility	5.000%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	3.125%

Producers will find the system is convenient and very easy to use.

- FSA Service Center employees will be able to assist producers more quickly in the completion of their Farm Business Plans compared to the Farm and Home Plans.
- Producers can make fewer trips to USDA Service Centers. This saves time and energy and gives producers more time to focus on their businesses.
- Producers will have access to their Farm Business Plans at all times and the system allows producers to chart the progress of their farm operations.
- FSA farm loan officers can share information more quickly with guaranteed lending partners and other FSA farm loan officials. This improved system of data sharing will speed up processing time.

It complies with the Government Paperwork Elimination Act and saves taxpayer dollars

Every year, FSA's Farm Loan Programs provide some \$4 billion in loans and guarantees to thousands of qualifying farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural producers who are unable to obtain private, commercial credit so they can buy new farms, equipment, feed, fertilizer, and other farm operating essentials. Special loan programs exist for beginning farmers and ranchers, socially disadvantaged persons, and rural youth.

### ***Managed Haying, Grazing***

Under CRP's managed haying and grazing provisions, producers may be allowed to hay or graze Conservation Reserve Program land. Check with your local county office staff for details.

The 2002 Farm Bill authorized the managed haying and grazing option to give producers a tool to help them better manage their lands. The periodic disturbance of vegetative cover under managed haying and grazing will increase the diversity and quality of the cover and improve wildlife benefits.

To participate, producers agree to modify existing conservation plans and accept a 25 percent reduction in their annual rental payments.

Under the program, producers can cut hay or graze livestock on a given acre no more than once every three years after the vegetative cover is fully established. An area hayed or grazed this year, for example, may not be hayed or grazed again until 2007. CRP participants can choose to hay or graze their entire CRP acreage in year one or only hay or graze a portion of it each year. Producers may not harvest hay and graze livestock on the same land in the same year.

### ***NAP Coverage***

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available and is produced for food or fiber.

The application deadline date for the 2005 NAP crops is soon approaching. For alfalfa and fall seeded crops the deadline date is Sept. 30, 2004.

Producers who already have coverage on 2004 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2005, if the applicable service fee is submitted 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.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable 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 a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

<b>Deadlines for 2005 NAP</b>	
Sept. 1, 2004	Christmas trees, mushrooms, nursery, sod, spinach greens
Sept. 30, 2004	Barley, canola, wheat
Oct. 20, 2004	Apples, grapes, peaches
Dec. 1, 2004	Honey
Dec. 31, 2004	Red potatoes

### ***Commodity Loan Maturing***

Reminder that 2003 commodity loans for farm stored corn and soybeans may mature in August and September. Take a second to view the condition of the grain during this weather pattern of humid air and fluctuating temperatures.

Do not forget, grain under Commodity Credit Corporation loan cannot be removed without prior authorization or repayment. Unauthorized removal, which includes removal for cleaning for seed or planting, is 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.

### ***Interested In A Career With FSA?***

The Farm Service Agency is a USDA agency with responsibility for stabilizing farm income, helping farmers conserve land and water resources, providing

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credit to new or disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, and helping farm operations recover from the effects of a disaster. FSA employs over 15,000 employees with offices in every state, and offers career choices in fields such as accounting, finance, marketing, economics, and information technology. For more information and to view vacancy announcements visit <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/>.

### ***Soldier's and Sailor's Relief Act***

Producers who are full time members of the military or have been called to active duty with their Reserve or National Guard units should know about the protections provided by the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940.

Producers or borrowers should notify the county office if they are full-time members of the armed services or have been called to active duty status whether or not their financial situation has been adversely affected.

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).