



**January 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

## **2001-2002 Crop Disaster Program**

Producers, remember you have until Jan. 30, 2004, to apply for the 2001-2002 Crop Disaster Program.

You must have suffered a production loss of at least 35 percent in one of the years 2001 or 2002. Compensation is also available for losses exceeding 20 percent of the quality on the affected crop in one of the years 2001 or 2002. Losses must have been caused by damaging weather or related conditions.

CDP includes insured crops, uninsured crops and non-insurable crops. A payment limitation of \$80,000 is in effect.

## **Foreign Landowner Notification**

Foreign investors who buy, sell or hold a direct or indirect interest in U.S. agricultural land must report their holdings and transactions to the Secretary of Agriculture. Failure to timely file an accurate report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land.

## **Honey Loans Available**

Marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments (LDPs) for 2003 crop year honey are available until March 31, 2004. The national loan rate for honey is \$.60 per pound. Market prices currently exceed the loan rate, so LDPs are not available right now.

To be eligible for a loan, the producer must have produced honey in the United States during the calendar year for which the loan is requested, and extracted the honey on or before Dec. 31 of the applicable crop year; have continuous beneficial interest in the honey through date of repayment of the loan; and been responsible for the financial risk of keeping. Producers are responsible for maintaining the quality of farm-stored honey during the term of the loan.

The honey must be produced in the United States by an eligible producer, from an approved floral source, and stored in approved containers. The containers must be marked with the producer's name, type of honey, number of container and net weight. Pre-loan inspections are required before the loans can be disbursed.

Honey used as collateral may not be disposed of without approval of the county office staff.

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
Today	Report changes to farming operation.
Jan. 1	New Year's Day – FSA offices closed
Jan. 19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – FSA offices closed
Jan. 30	Deadline to apply for Crop Disaster Program
Jan. 31	Deadline to request LDPs, loans for wool and mohair
Jan. 31	Deadline to apply for LDPs for unshorn lamb pelts
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Grasslands Reserve Program
Continues	MILC Program
Continues	Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands
Jan. 1	New Year's Day – FSA offices closed
Jan. 30	Deadline to apply for Crop Disaster Program
Jan. 31	Deadline to request LDPs, loans for wool and mohair

## ***Spousal Signatures***

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 staff by either spouse.

There are important exceptions to the rule. Check with the county office staff for details.

## ***Special Accommodations***

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the FSA office and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are needed.

## ***Appeal Process***

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree.

Following a decision by a subordinate of the county committee, program participants have the right to request an informal review by the county committee, request mediation, appeal to the state committee, or appeal to the USDA National Appeal Division (NAD). For more information, contact the county office staff.

## ***Civil Rights Complaint Process***

Any person, class or group of persons may file a discrimination complaint with 180 days of an alleged discriminatory action. Complaints may be filed in writing or orally with the agency head, any designated agency official or the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Assistance in filing a complaint can be obtained by calling or visiting any FSA office.

## ***Payment Limitation***

**Determinations** Producers are reminded that no program benefits may be made until the FSA office has made all the necessary payment limitation and eligibility determinations. Producers will remain ineligible until all the required forms that include information pertaining to their farming operations are provided to the office. The FSA county committee or the producer may initiate the payment limitation and payment eligibility determinations. If the producer requests the determination, the request may be filed anytime before the final date for submitting form CCC-502 (Farm Operating Plan for Payment Eligibility Review).

Selected Interest Rates for October 2003	
90-Day Treasury Bill	1.000%
Farm Operating - Direct	3.750%
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	3.750%
Sugar Storage Facility	4.875%
Commodity Loans 1996- Present	2.375%

**Programs and Payment Limits** The following programs are subject to the following payment limitation.

**Direct and Counter-cyclical Program**

- ☞ Direct payment for barley, corn, grain, oats, other oilseeds, rice, sorghum, soybeans, upland cotton and wheat - \$40,000 per crop year
- ☞ Direct payment for peanuts - \$40,000 per crop year
- ☞ Counter-cyclical payment for barley, corn, grain, oats, other oilseeds, rice, sorghum, soybeans, upland cotton and wheat - \$65,000 per crop year
- ☞ Counter-cyclical payments for peanuts - \$65,000 per crop year

**Price Support**

- ☞ Market loan gains, LDPs and commodity loans for barley, corn, grain, oats, other oilseeds, rice, sorghum, soybeans, upland cotton and wheat - \$75,000 per crop year
- ☞ Market loan gains and LDPs for honey, peanuts, mohair or wool - \$75,000 per crop year

**Conservation Programs**

- ☞ Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) rental and incentive payments - \$50,000 per fiscal year
- ☞ Environmental Quality Incentive Payments (EQIP) - \$450,000 through the life of the farm bill

**Other Programs**

- ☞ Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) - \$200,000
- ☞ Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) - \$100,000 per crop year
- ☞ Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) - There is no payment limitation for MILC. These payments are limited to 2.4 million pounds of production per year.

**Providing Information** Statutory provisions require that all entities--individuals, partnerships, joint operations, corporations, trusts, etc.--provide the names, addresses and ID numbers of the entity’s members to the county committee. Also, entities must inform their members of the requirement for designating “permitted entities” for payment purposes. Spouses may be considered separate “persons” for payment limitation purposes if this determination is requested and all the applicable requirements to be determined a “person” are met.

**Wheat Loan Rates**

Loan rate premiums will again be available for all durum wheat that grades as amber durum or hard amber durum. This policy was established in 2003 to improve the market orientation of the wheat loan program.

Beginning with the 2003 crop, the base level of the alternative loan repayment rate--posted county price (PCP)--was announced daily for durum with corresponding premiums for durum, which grades as either amber durum or hard amber durum. The 2004 per-bushel premiums applied to the base level of the durum county loan rate will continue at 2003-crop levels:

Amber durum           \$0.20  
 Hard amber durum   \$0.30

**2004 Rates for Small Grains, Oilseeds**

The 2004 county loan rates have been announced. The 2002 Farm Bill set national loan rates for each commodity, with one level set for the 2002 and 2003 crops and somewhat lower levels for the 2004-2007 crops. See the table.

<b>Commodity</b>	<b>2004 County Rate</b>	<b>2003 Nat'l Rate</b>	<b>2004 Nat'l Rate</b>
Wheat (\$/Bu)		\$2.80	\$2.75
Barley (\$/Bu)		\$1.88	\$1.85
Oats (\$/Bu)		\$1.35	\$1.33
Each "Other Oilseed " (\$/Cwt)		\$9.60	\$9.30

**Other 2004 Crops**

The 2004-crop loan rates for corn, grain sorghum, soybeans and pulses will be announced early in the year.

The 2004-crop county loan rates for wheat, barley, oats and other oilseeds is available on the Farm Service Agency Web site at [www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/psd/LoanRate.htm](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/psd/LoanRate.htm).

**Bottomland Timber Program**

Sign up is under way for the Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands Program, a CRP initiative to restore up to 75,000 acres of floodplains in Missouri by planting bottomland hardwood trees on private lands.

Participants will receive 50 percent of the cost to establish the trees, an annual rental payment for 14 to 15 years and technical assistance to plant the trees. Participants will also retain their right to sell or market their carbon-sequestered gains (credits) that are produced from bottomland hardwoods, or other environmental credits. Bottomland hardwoods include oak, maple, ash, cypress and tupelo.

Land must be located within a 100-year floodplain, comprised of primarily wetland soils and adjacent to permanent rivers and streams.

**Now Open For  
Fun and Games**



**FSA Kids**

[www.fsa.usda.gov/fsakids](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/fsakids)

## ***Faxed Signatures***

Certain FSA program applications may be accepted by facsimile (fax) machine if Form FSA-237, Facsimile Signature Authorization and Verification, is on file. This authorization form should be completed, signed and witnessed by the FSA office staff, or notarized.

## ***Record Changes***

If you have bought, sold or are renting different land, make sure you report the changes to the FSA office as soon as possible after they occur. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or recorded land contract. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and fines if you are participating in our program.

## ***Conservation Compliance***

All participants in USDA programs are required to have a conservation system in place on all the highly erodible land (HEL) that they operate. Several areas where problems can arise with complying with a conservation system are; renting new cropland, purchasing new land, breaking out additional cropland, planting different crops such as soybeans, and changing or removing existing conservation practices. It is very important that you contact the FSA office before doing any of the above. Also, it is very important that you contact our office before modifying - tiling, draining, dredging, filling or leveling - any wetland or drainage ditch. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in loss of all Federal payments and eligibility.

## ***Direct Deposit Mandatory***

As of Jan. 1, 1999, all payments issued by the county FSA office will be by direct deposit (electronic funds transfer) to a pre-designated checking or savings account with your financial institution. Forms are available at the FSA office to sign up for direct deposit if you haven't yet. For those already signed up, it is important that we are notified anytime there is a change in your account number or financial institution. If we aren't notified, future payments can be delayed or lost for a period of time.

## ***Controlled Substance***

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium poppies and other drug producing plants.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and 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).