



July 2008

Andrew County News

Andrew County
USDA Service Center

Andrew County FSA
105 Hwy 71 West
Savannah, MO. 64485
816-324-3196 (phone)
816-324-5879 (fax)

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Roger Scott, Chair
Jim Steeby, Vice-Chair
Karen Strasser, Member

Committee meets
3rd Friday of each
Month - 9:30 a.m.

Staff
Bob Caldwell, CED
Sindy Barr, PT
Carrie Noland, PT
Allyson Wells, PT.
Megan Barr, Temp.
John Wheeler, Field

Farm Loan Manager
Charlotte Holeman
Thursday mornings

What's in
This Issue:

DISASTER
PROGRAMS

CRP
REMINDERS

FARM BILL
PASSED

DCP SIGNUP

CROP
REPORTING

Crop Disaster Sign-up Continues and Quality Sign-up Begins

Eligible farmers and producers who suffered crop loss damage between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007, can still apply to receive disaster assistance. FSA continues to accept applications and make payments for quantity losses under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP), for losses that occurred before the end of the 2007 calendar year.

Also, Sign-up for quality losses under the CDP has begun at the county offices. **For quality losses**, producers must apply for quantity loss to be eligible to apply for a quality loss. However, producers do not need to qualify for a quantity loss. In addition, the requirement for Crop Insurance or NAP coverage still applies. Quality loss participants **will be required to provide actual production evidence. The actual production evidence will need to show the quantity, price AND quality factors.**

Stored and fed production must have a quality test indicating quality and quantity by January 1 of the year following harvest. For more disaster program information go online at:

<http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov> .

Final Acreage Reporting Dates Extended to August 15th

The delays in the announcement of the 2008 Farm Bill and weather conditions have contributed to the extension of the deadline for 2008 only. Acreage reports are required in order to be eligible for program benefits if you participate in DCP, CRP or apply for grain loans or LDP payments. Producers need to report all cropland on the farm including wheat, all planted spring crops, prevented planting, and failed acres, CRP, hay and pasture by **August 15th**. You will need to bring your planting dates with you. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage & prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Acreage reported after the Aug 15 deadline will be considered late filed and a measurement service fee (minimum \$46/farm) will be charged for a field visit to verify physical evidence.

Risk Management Agency (RMA) has also extended the date for insured producers to file their insured acreage reports to Aug 15 but encourages producers to file reports at their earliest opportunity so claims can be worked. When reporting to RMA & FSA producers should identify any land coming into production that has not been cropped in the last 3 years to insure you meet sodbuster requirements. (Land in CRP is considered cropped)

Failed & Prevented Planting Acres: Producers need to report prevented planted or damaged crops the FSA office to receive history or disaster credit. This applies to all crops, whether covered by crop insurance or not. This will provide FSA with a historical record of your crop should disaster assistance become available as it has in past years. Currently Crop Disaster benefits through FSA are only available to producers who are insured under Federal Crop Insurance (FCIC) or have Non-insured Assist. Program (NAP) coverage through FSA on uninsurable crops.

Producers who have their crops insured through a private crop insurance company should contact their insurance agent immediately and advise them of the damaged crops. Also a Notice of Loss Application must be completed in person at the FSA office, and the prevented and/or failed acres reported.

It is important that producers file a Notice of Loss Application to report crop losses before the disposition of the crop and within 15 days of the date damage occurred or 15 days from the date damage is apparent.

REMINDER: *Reported planted acreage and prevented planted & failed acreage, shares and farming entities should be consistent with crop insurance, and crop sales receipts. When producers report differently than the way they actually operate, they may be considered ineligible for program benefits or may be required to refund benefits. Producers may want to report your PP acres to your crop insurance agent first as RMA eligible PP acres for payment may be different than allowed PP acres for FSA (FSA max PP ac is max ac planted in any one of last 4 years)*

EMERGENCY LOAN DESIGNATION

Mr. Tim Kelley, State Executive Director, Farm Service Agency announced effective December 27, 2007, 71 counties in Missouri, including Andrew, Buchanan, Nodaway, and Platte will have FSA disaster loans available due to severe winter storms which occurred December 6, 2007, and continuing. Applications for assistance will be accepted at the county office of the Farm Service Agency, 502 West South Hills Drive, Suite 104, Maryville, MO 64468 for physical and production losses caused by this disaster. **Applications will be accepted through August 27, 2008.**

Loans for physical losses must be used to replace or repair damage to buildings, fences or to compensate the farmer for losses of basic livestock, stored crops, or supplies on hand, equipment, etc., that was lost due to the disaster. Loans for production losses may also be used to buy feed, seed, fertilizer, livestock or to make payments on real estate or chattel debts. Generally, loans for production losses cannot be approved until crops have completed their production cycle or have been harvested.

In order to qualify, a farmer must have suffered a 30% loss in production or an actual physical loss that was essential to the successful operation of the farm.

Loans for actual losses are made at an interest rate of 3.75% for emergency loans to those eligible applicants who are unable to obtain the actual credit needed from another source. All loan programs of the Farm Service Agency are conducted on a non-discriminatory basis.

USDA Announces CRP Permitted Use for Livestock Feed Needs

Recently, USDA authorized certain acreage enrolled under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to be available for hay and forage after the primary nesting season ends for grass-nesting birds, which is after July 15, 2008. All hay and livestock must be removed by Nov. 10, 2008. This modification for critical feed use is only available in 2008.

CRP participants with certain established vegetative cover may voluntarily have their CRP contract modified by CCC to utilize certain land enrolled in CRP for critical feed use, including haying or grazing. Acreage eligible for critical feed use includes acreage that is fully established, **but does not** include buffers or CP-25 practices.

Haying is limited to 50% of each eligible field. If grazing, 25% of each field must remain ungrazed or all of the eligible CRP acreage may be grazed at no more than 75 % of the stocking rate, as determined by NRCS.

No payment reduction will be assessed on contracts being utilized for this critical feed use. However, producers will be required to pay a fee of \$75, per contract.

For more information about this program, or to see if your acreage is eligible for this program, contact your local FSA office OR:

- If you plan to hay or graze any of your CRP under **a managed haying and grazing plan**, you need to contact our office and NRCS before you get ready to start. A reminder that you can only hay or graze every three years and there is a 25% payment reduction on the acres hayed or grazed.
- The only dates haying or grazing can occur is between **July 15th and September 30th unless you are using the critical feed option.**



Farm Bill Sign-Up

June 25 –Sept. 30 2008

The 2008 DCP Signup period started June 25, 2008 and runs through **September 30, 2008**. The rules for 2008 will be basically the same as the 2007 DCP Program. One main change however, is that farms with bases totaling 10 acres or less can not receive payment unless the owner or owners are eligible as a Limited Resource or Socially Disadvantaged producer. This requirement is for the Farm **Owner** – if the owner is eligible then anyone sharing on that farm is eligible including any tenants/operators that wouldn't meet the exception. To be eligible the farm must be wholly owned by someone meeting one of the exceptions or an entity that is completely made up of members that meet the exceptions. Farms jointly owned by Husband and wife would only be eligible if both could meet one of the exceptions. *(A Socially Disadvantaged person is defined as a member of a group who has been subject to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of their identity to a group rather than their individual qualities and a Limited Resource farmer for our area is one whose gross farm sales is less than \$116,800 and has a total household adjusted gross income of less than \$23,983 in the previous 2 yrs.)*

Producers may request 22% advance DCP direct payments for 2008 beginning in July and final payments will be issued after the first of October. To be eligible to receive payments producers will be required to comply with applicable soil and water conservation and wetland requirements as in the past, use the base acres for an agricultural or conserving use, control noxious weeds on base acres not cropped, file an acreage report and if participating in ACRE, beginning in 2009, a production report. The 08-12 crop base acres and farm payment yields in our area will remain the same. Direct Payments and price protection are only slightly less. The 2008 Farm Bill runs through 2012. Because the Bill was so late getting passed 2008 rules will be essentially the same as last year except as noted above. A few provisions for 2009 – 2012 have changed. When FSA procedures are finalized we will have program information meetings and newsletters this fall detailing the 2009-2012 regulations.

County Committee Elections

From Now through Aug. 1, farmers and ranchers can nominate eligible peers as candidates for election to the Andrew County Farm Service Agency County Committee. In 2008 an election will be held for the Andrew County Committee position for LAA #1 that includes the townships of Clay, Jackson, Nodaway and Lincoln. James Steeby is currently serving for this area.

Bob's Corner

Well, here we go!
We are now taking
Crop reports, signing
up for DCP, LCP,
CDP, ECP, SAFE,
SURE and CRP!!

What does this all
mean? For one thing
it means things are
getting pretty busy in
the FSA offices.

Please read this letter
carefully and call or
come by with any
questions you may
have about any of the
programs we have
tried to explain.

Please do not wait
until the last days to
come in or there may
be a long line.

Thanks for your
patience during this
busy time.

816-324-3196 ext. 2

**Bob Caldwell,
CED**



IMPORTANT CRP REMINDERS

- CRP acres need to be certified in our office each year.
- Reminders have been sent out for required food plots, be sure to complete and return forms when the food plots are planted.
- Reminders have also been sent out for required management practices. After you burn, disc or apply chemicals, bring in or send the completed forms we sent you along with any bills you may have.
- There will be no general CRP sign ups in 2008, but there is a continuous sign up for sign up buffer strips and whole fields expired from CRP.

State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)

Owners and operators of certain cropland in designated geographic areas of Missouri may enroll eligible land in a new continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) conservation practice titled State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE), also known as Practice CP38.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will conduct sign-up for SAFE on a continuous (ongoing) basis. Through continuous CRP sign-ups, USDA accepts offers by producers, provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements. Producers can offer land for enrollment in SAFE and other CRP programs at their local FSA county office.

Eligible land is cropland that was planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity during four of the six years from 1996 to 2001. We expect these years to change when the farm bill is finalized. The land must be physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. Land designated as marginal pastureland does not qualify for SAFE. Land must have been owned for one year.

Sign-up Deadline for LCP and LIP

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced that livestock producers have **until July 18, 2008**, to enroll in the 2005-2007 Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Sign-up began on Sept. 10, 2007, for the two programs that provide aid to livestock producers who suffered eligible livestock or livestock feed losses between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007, because of a natural disaster.

2008 Emergency Cost Share

A sign up will begin July 14th and run through September 12th for producers who suffered damage to cropland from the flooding in early June. Some of the provisions are as follows:

- Must have had at least \$1000 worth of damage.
- Sand must be at least 6" deep,
- Drainage ditches must be silted in from this year's storm,
- 75% of the average cost will be cost shared on eligible practices,
- Field inspections need to be done by our office **BEFORE** the work is completed.

Disaster SURE Program for 2008

There are many questions concerning the 2008 Disaster SURE program that we do not have answers for at this time. We do know that to be eligible the producer will be required to have all crops in all counties covered by NAP or insurance if applicable. Producers, for 2008 only, will have the opportunity to pay the fees now for 2008 for both CAT insurance and NAP (\$100 per crop) in order to get eligible for SURE assistance. We should have the capability to collect these CAT and NAP fees soon. Producers will not have coverage under NAP and Insurance for 2008, the fees only allow them to be eligible for SURE. The fees for 2008 must be paid by **August 20** for a producer to be eligible for SURE.

For 2009 and future years the fees would have to be paid by the regular sales closing deadlines and the producer would actually have coverage for NAP and/or Insurance.

SURE will not offer payments for specific crop losses, but rather will provide assistance for overall Revenue losses which is computed based on all commodities produced. Producers can be eligible if in a county that has a Secretarial Disaster Designation or are adjacent to one or if the producer has a greater than 50% loss regardless of county designation. The SURE program will not offer any immediate payments to producers who are suffering from the current weather conditions. Payments could not be computed until Marketing prices and farm revenue can be computed sometime next year.

Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the Farm Service Agency county office staff, and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are necessary.

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

Dates to Remember	
July 18	Deadline for LCP & LIP
August 15	Deadline to report all crops and CRP
Sept. 30	Deadline for DCP Sign Up
Continuous	Farm Storage Facility Loan program.
On-going	Quantity and Quality loss for 2005 – 2007 Crop Disaster
On-going	CRP buffers & SAFE

Selected Interest Rates for July 2008	
90-Day Treasury Bill	1.6250%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.625%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5%
Farm Ownership Loans — Beginning Farmer Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.625%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	3.375%

