



June 2008

# Atchison County Newsletter

## Atchison County USDA Service Center

**Atchison County FSA**  
302 E. Hwy 136  
Rock Port, MO 64482  
(660) 744-5328 (Phone)  
(660) 744-5536 (Fax)

**Hours**  
Monday – Friday  
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**County Committee**  
Duane Klute, Chairperson  
Craig Heits, Vice Chair  
Julie Joesting, Member

**Staff**  
County Executive Director  
Corey Leshner

Farm Loan Manager  
Bob Dreyer

Farm Loan Officer  
Roger Uptergrove

Program Technicians  
Nancy Daugherty  
Pam Husing  
Patricia Lane  
Marilyn Thurnau  
Karen Vette

Field Assistant  
Chuck Linthicum  
Robert Smith

Summer Intern  
Afton Demott

The Farm Bill has been passed; however, the details are not known as far as what programs will be available for 2008. In the meantime, I felt it was important to notify all producers of some applicable deadlines and available programs.

A signup deadline has been announced for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP). That deadline is July 18, 2008. If you owned grazing livestock in Atchison County in 2006 and have not completed an application for payment under this program, you need to do it now.

Producers are reminded to report their planted acreage. The deadline to report small grains such as wheat and oats is June 30, 2008. The deadline to report all other crops, including land enrolled in CRP, is July 31, 2008. CRP participants are reminded that to report CRP, a CRP participant or someone with the authority to sign for them must complete the acreage report. Late file fees apply.

USDA has announced CRP permitted use for livestock feed needs. Certain acreage enrolled in CRP is eligible to be hayed or grazed after July 15, 2008. A \$75 fee per contract will apply and conservation plans will have to be revised. CRP participants must visit the office before haying or grazing begins. For complete details, see the enclosed article.

CRP participants are also reminded of the following: Contracts that have required food plots must be reported after the food plots are planted. Also, do not forget to do your required management practices and report the completion when done.

The County Committee election process is getting underway with nominations being accepted at FSA offices beginning June 15<sup>th</sup>. I encourage everyone to become involved with the election process, whether it is just to return a voted ballot or to run for a County Committee position. The County Committee is your local representative in administering federal farm programs. See the article in this newsletter to see which local administrative area in the county is holding an election this year.

A Crop Disaster Program (CDP) for quantity losses is ongoing for years 2005, 2006 and 2007. Signup for quality losses for the same years has not begun yet, but you may go ahead and provide documentation so the application can be prepared when software becomes available. To be eligible, you must have had a 25% loss by load due to quality and you must have suffered a 25% economic loss by load due to quality. To apply, all production on all farms for the year you are applying for must be provided to the office. If you had quality losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007, contact the office for specific details.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the office.

Corey Leshner

**Have You  
Reported Your  
2008 Planted  
Acreage?**

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**Farm Storage  
Facility Loans  
3.375%**

## **USDA Announces CRP Permitted Use for Livestock Feed Needs**

Recently, USDA authorized certain acreage enrolled under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to be released 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 and devoted to the following CRP practices in Missouri:

- CP1, Establishment of Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes,
- CP2, Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses,
- CP4B, Permanent Wildlife Habitat – Corridors,
- CP4D, Permanent Wildlife Habitat,
- CP10, Vegetative Cover - Grass - Already Established.

The most environmentally sensitive land enrolled in CRP is ineligible for critical feed use. These lands include wetlands, buffers, filter strips and other practices not listed as eligible. In addition, acreage ineligible for critical feed use includes acreage devoted to useful life easements, as determined by CCC, and land within 120 feet of a stream or other permanent water body.

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.

Participants who request a voluntary modification to the CRP contract to allow critical feed use must also obtain a modified conservation plan for haying and grazing management in accordance with NRCS Field Office Technical Guide haying and grazing standards and elect to either hay or graze their contracted acreage.

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 the modification of their CRP contract before COC approves the modified conservation plan.

CRP participants may request the voluntary modification to the CRP contract beginning June 2, 2008, at your local FSA office. For more information about this program, or to see if your acreage is eligible for this program, contact your local FSA office.

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## **Beginning Farmers and Ranchers**

FSA has funding to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more that 10 years;
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm;
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA;
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median farm size; and
- Meets the loan eligibility requirements of the program to which he/she is applying.

Note: All applicants for direct farm ownership loans must have participated in the business operation of a farm for at least three years.

To find out more about loans for Beginning Farmer and Ranchers and more basic qualification requirements, contact your local FSA county office to set up an appointment with a loan approval official.

## Crop Disaster Program Sign-up Continues and Quality Sign-up to Begin Soon

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 will begin soon at the county office. 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 stored production, the price is determined using the local market conditions in effect on the date the production evidence is submitted. For fed production, the value is determined using the local market conditions in effect on the crop's final harvest date. The commodity must have suffered at least a 25% reduction in value to meet the Economic Loss Minimum. The National FSA office is developing a software program to determine whether the producer meets the Economic Loss Minimum.

For more disaster program information go online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov> or visit your local FSA office

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## County Committee Elections

Atchison Farm Service Agency is looking for individuals interested in serving on the FSA County Committee. This year Local Administrative Area (LAA) #1 will be having an election in Atchison County. LAA #1 includes Buchanan, Nishnabotna, and Polk Townships. Any eligible person residing in one of these townships who is interested in running for County Committee, or would like to nominate an individual to run for County Committee, needs to complete a nomination form. The nomination form for County FSA Committee Election (FSA-669A) is available at your local FSA office or you may also go online and download the form from our Missouri FSA website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/mo>. The document is located under the "I Want To" section on the right side of the screen.

Members of socially disadvantaged groups (a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities) are strongly encouraged to complete the nomination form for County FSA Committee Election (FSA-669A) and nominate themselves or another eligible candidate. New or beginning farmers are also encouraged to participate in the election process or become candidates for the FSA County Committee themselves.

County Committee members make decisions on applications for federal farm programs and disaster payments. Committee members play a vital role by helping local farmers manage tough financial times and natural disasters. County Committee members serve as a local voice in the administration of federal farm programs.

For more information regarding the County Committee Elections, talk to the any member of the FSA County Committee listed on the front page of this newsletter or Corey Leshner, County Executive Director at 660-744-5328 or stop in the local office for details on the types of decisions County Committee members make. You may also visit the County Committee Elections website to learn more about the County Committee Election process and read over the fact sheets at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.

The nomination period begins June 15th and runs until August 1, 2008. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters November 3<sup>rd</sup> and must be returned by December 1, 2008. The elected committee member and alternates will take office January 1, 2009.

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Selected Interest Rates For June 2008			
90-Day Treasury Bill	1.25%	Farm Operating Loans – Direct	3.125%
Farm Ownership Loans – Direct	4.875%	Farm Ownership Loans – Beginning Farmer Down Payment	4.000%
Emergency Loans	3.750%	Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.375%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	3.000%		

Farm Service Agency  
 Atchison County Office  
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### Dates To Remember

June 15	County Committee Nomination Period Begins
June 30	Final Certification Date for Small Grains
July 4	Independence Day – USDA Service Center Closed
July 18	Deadline to Apply for Livestock Compenstation Program
July 31	Final Certification Date for all Crops Except Small Grains & CRP

#### **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)**

The weather has slowed down emergency repair work and inspections by our office for the ECP caused by the heavy rains and flooding in the spring of 2007. As soon as weather permits, projects need to be completed. The State Committee has set a deadline of July 30, 2008 for work to be completed since this is an emergency program. There will not be any extensions granted beyond this date. As you complete the work, bring in the bills and report.

#### **Prevented Planting or Failed Crop Acreage**

When weather prevents planting or damages crops, producers are reminded to report that acreage to their local FSA office. Failed acreage must be reported to FSA before destroying and replanting to allow time for a field check. Farmers that are prevented from planting a crop need to report the prevented planting no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date for the crop. In Atchison County the final planting date for program purposes is June 5<sup>th</sup> for corn and June 20<sup>th</sup> for Soybeans.

This simple act of insuring that failed acres are documented in our office could be the determining factor in whether or not a farmer is eligible for future crop disaster program payments. Producers must be able to establish and document to the satisfaction of the County Committee that the crop that failed or was prevented from being planted or replanted through the normal planting period because the area was affected by a natural disaster rather than a management decision. The producer should be able to show that preliminary efforts had been made to plant the crop, such as tilling the land, or orders for the purchase or delivery of seed and fertilizer.

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.