

May 2008



SW Mo FSA News

District 8 USDA Service Centers

Barry County FSA
Cassville, Mo 65625
417-847-2862

Barton County FSA
Lamar, Mo. 64759
417-682-3571

Bates County FSA
Butler, Mo. 64730
660-679-6112

Cass County FSA
Harrisonville, Mo. 64701
816-884-4432

Cedar County FSA
Stockton, Mo. 65785
417-276-4712

Dade County FSA
Greenfield, Mo. 65661
417-637-5991

Hickory County FSA
Hermitage, Mo. 65668
417-745-6496

Jackson County FSA
Blue Springs, Mo. 64015
816-229-5113

Jasper County FSA
Carthage, Mo. 64836
417-358-8198

Lawrence County FSA
Mt Vernon, Mo. 65712
417-466-7107

Newton/McDonald FSA
Neosho, Mo. 64850
417-451-1007

St Clair County FSA
Osceola, Mo. 64776
417-646-8107

Vernon County FSA
Nevada, Mo. 64772
417-667-8137

When Weather Prevents or Damages Crops

When bad weather prevents planting or damages crops, producers are required to report the acreage to the FSA office to receive history or disaster credit. Prevented Planted acres must be reported within 15 days of the final planting date of the crop and damaged crops must be reported within 15 days of when the damage was apparent. This applies to all crops, whether covered by crop insurance, not covered by insurance, or covered by FSA's Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP). Final planting dates vary among counties and crop types.

Producers who have their crops insured through a private crop insurance company should contact the insurance agent immediately and advise them of the damaged crops. Additionally, a *CCC-576, Notice of Loss Application*, must be completed in person at the FSA office, and the prevented and/or failed acres reported.

For those crops covered under FSA's NAP, producers should immediately contact the FSA office to report the acres and file a *CCC-576, Notice of Loss Application*. "Producers with NAP coverage should report their losses within 15 calendar days of crop damage from natural disaster, so the loss can be appraised and production counted before the crop is put into another use, abandoned or destroyed.

Crops not covered with a private insurance or NAP policy should still be reported to the local FSA office, and producers should file a Notice of Loss Application. This will provide FSA with a historical record of your crop should disaster assistance become available.

For more information about reporting prevented planting or failed acres, contact or stop in the FSA office.

2008 Farm Bill

At press time, A Farm Bill has been passed and approved. Early indications are that payments for 2008 will not be significantly different than 2007. Additional programs will be available for 2009. We will pass on more information as it becomes available on details and sign-up dates.

Sign-Up Continues for USDA FSA Disaster Programs

Eligible farmers and producers who suffered livestock, livestock feed and crop losses that occurred before Dec. 31, 2007, can still apply to receive disaster payments.

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) continues to accept applications and make payments for quantity losses under Crop Disaster Program (CDP) that occurred before Dec. 31, 2007. FSA continues to issue Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) payments for losses that occurred in designated disaster counties. **No ending date has been announced for CDP. However, the LIP and LCP deadline has just been announced as July 18, 2008.** FSA will conduct sign-up and begin making payments for quality losses under CDP at a later date.

More information about CDP, LCP and LIP is available online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

Maintaining CRP Cover

Participants are required to maintain Conservation Reserve Program acres according to the Conservation Plan agreed to with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Participants must:

- Have adequate approved vegetative cover to control erosion for the contract period;
- Control weeds and other types of undesirable vegetation; and
- Take control measures outside of the primary nesting season which is **May 1-July 15**.

Please keep in mind mowing for cosmetic purposes is prohibited at all times. That is why it is important to review your Conservation Plan and talk to FSA for the best control method(s), if you think noxious weeds or undesirable plant species are invading your CRP land.

Contact your local FSA office **if cover maintenance is required before July 15**, to control weeds or erosion problems.

County Committee Elections



The Farm Service Agency is looking for individuals interested in serving on the County Committee (COC). Every year one LAA (Local Administrative Area) has an election. This LAA represents roughly 1/3 of the county and is one of the 3 seats on the County Committee. If you are interested in running for the COC, contact your local office for information on which LAA is holding an election this year. Persons who are interested in running for County Committee, or would like to nominate an individual to run for County Committee, must complete a nomination form. The Nomination Form for County FSA Committee Election (FSA-669A) is available at your local FSA office. 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. Committee members make decisions on applications for federal farm program and disaster payments. Committee members play a vital role by helping local farmers manage tough financial times and natural disasters. County committee members make many other important decisions that affect local farmers such as whether haying and grazing should be allowed on Conservation Reserve Program land.

For more information regarding the COC Elections, talk to your County Committee, County Executive Director or stop in the local office for details on the types of decisions county committee members make. Or visit the COC 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 3rd and must be returned by December 1, 2008. The elected Committee Member and Alternates will take office January 1, 2009.

Preventing Fraud

The Farm Service Agency has joined with the Risk Management Agency to prevent fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to RMA.

Producers can report suspected cases to the county office staff, RMA office, or the Office of the Inspector General.

Maintaining Farm Stored Grain Quality

Many producers sometimes struggle to find adequate grain storage. Overfilled grain storage bins can lead to grain quality problems. Bins are ideally designed to hold a level volume of grain. When bins are overfilled and grain is heaped up, airflow is hindered and the chance of spoilage increases. Producers who take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored grain as collateral should remember that they are responsible for maintaining the quality of the commodity for the term of the loan. Before removing loan collateral call or visit your local FSA office.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program offers producers low interest financing for the purchase of new grain storage and drying equipment. Producers may be eligible to finance up to \$100 thousand for the purchase of grain storage and drying equipment.

For information about grain storage options visit your FSA office or local extension agent.

Removing CCC Loan Collateral

Producers are reminded, if you have grain under Commodity Credit Corporation loan it cannot be removed or disposed of without prior county office staff authorization or repayment. The county office staff may issue release authorizations based on a telephone or in person request when you are ready to move the grain. A loan violation is subject to monetary and administrative penalties, such as repaying the loan at principal plus interest, liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans and loan deficiency payments. All commodity loans are subject to spot check. Locking in a market loan repayment rate is not a marketing authorization. If you are planning to move CCC loan grain, remember, CALL before you HAUL!

Selected Interest Rates for May 2008

90-Day Treasury Bill	1.500%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.125%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans Beginning Farmer Down Payment	4.000%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.000%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	4.250%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	2.625%

Farm Loans for Socially Disadvantaged

The local Farm Loan Manager reminds interested applicants that FSA offers loans for farmers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations.

FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, applicants might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

FSA makes two different types of loans, direct and guaranteed. Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$200,000. Guaranteed loans (loans made by a commercial lender where FSA acts as guarantor) can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$949,000. Emergency loans are a type of direct loan for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for Socially Disadvantaged Applicants are other types of direct loans also available through FSA.

Socially Disadvantaged Applicants (SDA) are one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of their identity as a member of the group without regard to their individual qualities. SDA groups are Women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Certain FSA loan funds are targeted to beginning farmers and SDA.

For detailed information on loan eligibility or the different loan programs available, contact your local FSA office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official.

Reporting Acreage Crop

Please remember that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops other than Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by the June 30 deadline on small grains and a July 31 deadline on all other crops including CRP acreage.

Acreage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of June 30 for small grains and July 31 for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

Interest Assistance Program – Can Help When Cash Flow is Short

FSA guaranteed loans are available to farmers who receive financing from conventional lenders. This allows them to obtain the agricultural financing they need to continue or expand their farming operations.

One way the guaranteed program can really help farmers facing cash flow shortages due to the rising farm expenses is through the Interest Assistance Program. This interest rate subsidy is paid by FSA to the lender and allows the farmer to reduce the interest rate charged on a short or intermediate Operating Loan by 4%.

As an example, if the actual interest rate being charged on your loan is 8.5%, and you qualify for a guaranteed loan with Interest Assistance, the rate you would pay would be 4.5%.

The usual guaranteed fee charged for a guaranteed loan is waived for loans that qualify for Interest Assistance. The interest subsidy can be received for up to 5 years if you qualify.

New purchases or refinancing of existing debt can be done using this program. The maximum loan allowed with interest assistance is \$400,000.

Contact your area Farm Loan Manager or your current agricultural lender for more information on the Interest Assistance program and the various ways the FSA guaranteed program can be a useful financing tool. More information can be found on the FSA website.

Final Loan and LDP Availability Date

Producers are reminded that the final commodity loan and LDP availability date for 2007 Crop Year Corn, Upland Cotton, Rice, Dry Peas, Grain Sorghum, Lentils, Mustard Seed, Safflower Seed, Small Chickpeas, Soybeans and Other Oilseeds **is May 31, 2008.**



Sodbuster Regulations

The term “sodbusting” is used to identify the plowing up of erosion-prone grasslands for use as cropland. Sodbuster violations are unauthorized tillage practices on highly erodible lands that converted native vegetation such as rangeland or woodland, to crop production after Dec. 23, 1985.

Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs.

Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production.

If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates on a CPA-026 that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage, before bringing land into production.

In addition, producers and the producer’s affiliates have to file an AD-1026 with the staff in the administrative or control county office before any farm program payments can be made. The AD-1026 is the producer’s signed certification that HELC, as well as wetland conservation, provisions will not be violated.

Note: With the possibility that new land may come into production this year due to high commodity prices, RMA Crop insurance agents are required to follow “Added Land and New Breaking” procedures on this new acreage. To assist RMA, FSA will report to RMA, any land coming into production that does not have a cropping history in the 3 preceding years.

Dates to Remember	
May 31	Deadline to apply for 2007 commodity loans and LDP’s on feed grains, soybeans, and pulse crops.
June 15	County Committee Nomination period begins.
June 30	Final certification date for small grains.
July 4	FSA Offices Closed for Independence Day.
July 18	Sign-up deadline for LIP and LCP.
July 31	Final certification date for all crops and CRP except small grains.
CRP Seedings	Check with your conservation plan, final planting dates vary by species and area.
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program.

Visit our website at:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo>

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