



Bates County News

February 2009

Bates County
USDA Service Center

Bates County FSA
625 w Nursery
Butler, Mo 6473
660-679-6112 (phone)
660-679-5932 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Paul Cumpston
Mike Cameron
A F Yarick
Tina Rapp –advisor

County Committee
Meets 2nd Tuesday

Staff
CED-Mike Finley
PT-Sara Abraham
PT-Anne Davis
PT-Linda Fritts
PT-Brenda Steiner
Field reporter-Jeff Droz



2009 DCP Sign-up Underway

Beat the rush sign up now.

You may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment.

Lots of new forms to sign, so please allow yourself some extra time.

Wheat and CRP grass reports taken now.

If you have operator changes the owner must give the FSA signed written notice before contract can be changed.

All signatures must be in the office by June 1, 2009- There are no late file provisions for missing signatures at this time

FSA will issue advance direct payments when all necessary forms are completed.

Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity falls below its target price.

Producers are encouraged to sign into the DCP program now even if they are considering the ACRE program

You may first enroll in the DCP Program, receive advance direct payments and then later modify your enrollment to include the ACRE program.

You can transfer into ACRE in any year but once in you cannot get out.

Eligibility requirements have change and required paper work has also changed. Income requirements have also changed.

Questions please call your local office???

CRP

There is not a general signup in site. But there are still possible acres left in the SAFE program and Quail Buffer program. If you have any interest in putting crop ground in CRP you need to contact your local county office.

All CRP contracts must make crop grass reports each year before July 30.

2009 Non-Insured Crops

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.

Deadline for alfalfa, mixed grass hay/pasture, and pecans is March 15, 2009.

The NAP Service Fees are: \$250 per crop; limit \$750 per county; \$1,875 per producer for all counties.

Please note: Insurance on all crops in all counties is a requirement with the new farm bill for participation in any future crop or livestock disaster programs.

Bates County Producers Please take note of any new Operator Changes

The FSA office will need verification from all the owners of property of any operator changes. If you're renting new ground or if you are renting your farm to a new operator we will need a copy of the lease or the owner can give us signed notice of the operator change.

We must have documentation before we can make any changes to a farming operation or give any information to new operator.

Lamb Referendum Vote

The referendum will be conducted at FSA county offices. To be eligible to vote, persons must certify and provide documentation, such as a sales receipt or remittance form, which shows they have been engaged in the production, feeding, or slaughtering of lambs during the period, Jan. 1, 2008, through Dec. 31, 2008.

Beginning Feb. 2, 2009, and continuing through Feb. 27, 2009, persons eligible to vote should obtain form LS-86-1 from a county FSA office either in person, by mail, fax, or via the Internet at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsmarketingprograms>. Persons must vote in the referendum at the County FSA office where their administrative farm records are maintained. For those persons not participating in FSA programs, the opportunity to vote will be provided at the County FSA office where the person owns or rents land.

Form LS-86-1 and supporting documentation must be returned in person, by mail, or by fax to the appropriate county FSA office. The form and documentation returned in person or by fax must be received in the appropriate county office prior to the close of business on Feb. 27, 2009. The form and documentation returned by mail must be postmarked no later than midnight on Feb. 27, 2009, and received in the county FSA office by March 6, 2009.

USDA monitors activities of the American Lamb Board. The mandatory program is financed by producers, seed stock producers (breeders), feeders, and exporters who are assessed one-half cent (\$.005) per pound when live ovine animals are sold. The first handler, primarily packers, pays an additional 30 cents per head on ovine animals purchased for slaughter.

Unauthorized Disposition of Loaned Grain

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe. Additionally, producer could be subject to criminal prosecution under federal law. Always call the office before any grain under loan is fed or sold.

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 than 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
- Also, the applicant must meet 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 business operation of a farm for at least three years.

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

New Payment Method

Producers will now receive all payments issued through the FSA office from the National Finance Center. County FSA Offices will no longer process checks (we will only process the paperwork that triggers the check). If you do not have direct deposit, it will take at least 5-7 days longer for you to receive your checks. Now would be a good time to sign up for direct deposit if you have not already done so. **Please note that when obtaining CCC loans your initial disbursement will take longer.**

MILC Sign-Up Underway

The extended sign-up phase begins on Jan. 22, 2009 after the initial sign-up ends. The extended sign-up will continue throughout the duration of the MILC program, ending on September 30, 2012. Producers that submit CCC-580's during the extended sign-up can select as the MILC production start month for their dairy operation either: The month the CCC-580 is submitted or From the remaining months in FY in which CCC-580 is submitted for which the payment rate is not known and according to MILC production start month selection provisions.

Banking Changes?

If you have changed banks and not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in producer's account such as type account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

New Adjusted Gross Income Limits

The 2008 Farm Bill has significantly changed the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limitations. New AGI certifications will be required prior to producers receiving *any* 2009 program payments. There are some exceptions for the limitations including conservation benefits. The chart below provides the new limits.

IF average adjusted gross...	THEN the person or legal entity is INELIGIBLE for...
nonfarm income exceeds \$500,000	all commodity, price support, and disaster assistance program benefits.
farm income exceeds \$750,000	direct payments under DCP.
nonfarm income exceeds \$1,000,000	all conservation program benefits, unless 66.66% or more of the average AGI was derived from activities related to farming ranching and forestry.

For the 2009 program year, the certification will consider an average of the 2005,2006 and 2007 tax years. For more details, you may view form CCC-926 'Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Statement' @ www.fsa.usda.gov. Producers may also want to review their income tax forms (or get advice from your tax preparer) prior to your office visit.

All producers will be spot checked within the next three years and will be required to submit evidence such as tax records, business documents (for review only we think, not for retention), or a signed third-party verification deemed acceptable by CCC to verify the AGI certifications. Producers will be required to take the necessary actions to provide such documents or certification when requested.

Applications for FSA Loans

Farmers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Filing early will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible so that planting decisions can be made. Contact your local FSA Loan Approval Official for more details and assistance in applying.

2009-2012 Farm Bill Updates

Many programs have the same name just a few new provisions under the new legislation. A few of the programs are listed below:

- ACRE- Average Crop Revenue Election
- LFP- Livestock Feed Program
- SURE- Supplemental Revenue Assistance
- FSFL- Farm Stored Facility Loans
- NAP- Non-Insurable Disaster Assistance Program
- ELAP-LIP- Livestock Emergency Programs

The ACRE program is new for 2009 and is a farm by farm election. Final rules are pending. ACRE payments are calculated based on the actual crop acres planted (up to the previous crop base). Crop revenue will be determined by using the farms previous 5 year production yields (not sure how yields will be determined) times prices based on a two year average. The two average price years have not been decided, but is a key issue in making an ACRE election decision. The election to enroll in the ACRE program is irrevocable. By enrolling in ACRE producers would give up some current benefits; 20% reduction in direct payments, a 30% reduction in marketing assistance loan rates, and no counter-cyclical payments.

Planning to Break Out Ground

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. Before breaking out grass land contact the office. 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.

Contact your local Farm Service Agency for further details

Dates to Remember	
Feb.2-27	Referendum on the Lamb Check off Program Voting takes at your local FSA office
Feb. 16	President's Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
March 16	Final date to purchase NAP ins. On pecans, hay, pasture & other NAP crops
March 31	Final Availability for 2008 crop wheat, barley, oats, and loans
June 1	Final date to signup in DCP yearly program with all signatures
June 30	Final date to report Wheat, Oats, Barley
July 31	Final date to report corn, soybeans, Milo, CRP NAP crops, hay, pecans, grasses
Aug. 10	Final date to control weeds on idle DCP cropland

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

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