



April 2008

## District 7 News

### **Bollinger County FSA**

Office Hours: 8:00-4:30  
Phone: 573-238-2671

### **Butler County FSA**

Office Hours: 8:00-4:30  
Phone: 573-785-8416

### **Cape Girardeau County FSA**

Office Hours: 8:00-4:30  
Phone: 573-243-1467

### **Dunklin County FSA**

Office Hours: 8:00-4:30  
Phone: 573-888-2536

### **Jefferson/Washington FSA**

Office Hours: 7:00-4:30  
Phone: 636-789-2441

### **Mississippi County FSA**

Office Hours: 8:00-4:30  
Phone: 573-649-9930

### **New Madrid County FSA**

Office Hours: 7:30-4:30  
Phone: 573-748-2557

### **Pemiscot County FSA**

Office Hours: 7:45-4:30  
Phone: 573-333-1923

### **Perry County FSA**

Office Hours: 7:30-4:30  
Phone: 573-547-6531

### **Ripley/Carter County FSA**

Office Hours: 7:45-4:30  
Phone: 573-996-7116

### **Scott County FSA**

Office Hours: 7:30-4:30  
Phone: 573-545-3593

### **Ste. Genevieve County FSA**

Office Hours: 7:00-4:30  
Phone: 573-883-2703

### **St. Francis/Iron County FSA**

Office Hours: 7:00-4:30  
Phone: 573-756-6488

### **Stoddard County FSA**

Office Hours: 7:00-4:30  
Phone: 573-624-5939

### **Wayne/Madison County FSA**

Office Hours: 7:45-4:30  
Phone: 573-224-3410

### **District Director**

Billy Swiney  
Butler County FSA  
Phone: 573-785-8416

### **Farm Storage Facility Loans**

Low interest rate loans for storage facilities are still available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, soybeans and corn. The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures. All Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required. The interest rate for April is 3.00%. For details, contact the county office staff.

### **New CRP Practice Available**

A new State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) program has been announced through the Farm Service Agency. Producers in Missouri can qualify for annual Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) payments in return for establishing wildlife habitat restoration areas on eligible cropland acreage. This program targets entire fields, not just field borders.

The contract length is 14 or 15 years and the annual payment rate is based on soil type. 50% cost-share and additional incentive payments are available, including a lump-sum incentive payment equal to \$100/acre and an additional 40% cost-share. While FSA will administer the program, MDC and NRCS will be involved for technical determinations. Signup will begin May 1<sup>st</sup> at your local FSA

office. Only a limited number of acres will be accepted, so don't wait to contact the office. There are two project areas available in Southeast Missouri.

A Bob-White Quail Habitat Restoration project is available in all Missouri counties. It will provide nesting and broodrearing habitat necessary for quail by creating diversity within the CRP field. 10% to 20% of the field will be devoted to a Wildlife Food Plot and 1% will be established in a dense woody cover. The rest of the field will be planted to an approved cover in accordance with a conservation plan to be developed by MDC and NRCS. This practice cannot be used in the same field as an existing CP-33 Habitat Buffer for Upland Birds. MO received an allotment of **6,250 acres** for this practice.

A Missouri Sand Grassland Restoration project is available in Bollinger, Butler, Cape Girardeau, Dunklin, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Ripley, Scott, and Stoddard counties. MO also received an allotment of **6,250 acres** for this practice. It will restore sand prairie, sand woodland, and sand savannas on unique sandy soils in these counties. There are 54 eligible soil types, some having wetter soil inclusions in low areas, plus 25 plant and animal species that will benefit from the practice. Eligible plantings include: Oak Savanna Restoration, Riparian Forest Restoration, and Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds. This practice can be used in the same field as an existing CP-33.

As with all CRP practices, the land offered for SAFE must be eligible cropland that has a cropping history and is physically capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. The land cannot be under a Federal easement that restricts its use or be already enrolled in CRP.

### **County Committee Meeting Times**

#### **Bollinger County**

First Thursday of each month at 9:00 am.

#### **Butler County**

Third Thursday of each month at 8:00 am.

#### **Cape Girardeau County**

First Tuesday of each month at 8:00 am

#### **Dunklin County**

Second Thursday of each month at 8:00 am.

#### **Jefferson/Washington**

First Wednesday of each month at 8:30

#### **Mississippi County**

Second Tuesday of each month at 8:00 am.

#### **New Madrid County**

First Tuesday of each month at 8:00 am.

#### **Pemiscot County**

Third Friday of each month at 9:00 am.

#### **Perry County**

Second Tuesday of each month at 8:00 am.

#### **Ripley/Carter Counties**

Second Friday of each month at 9:00 am.

#### **Scott County**

Fourth Friday of each month at 8:00 am.

#### **Ste. Genevieve County**

Next to Last Thursday of each month at 8:00 am

#### **St. Francois/Iron**

First Friday of each month at 9:00

#### **Stoddard County**

The Wednesday closest to the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month at 7:00 am.

#### **Wayne/Madison County**

Second Wednesday of each month at 8:00 am.

## **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 LIP, LCP and CDP.** FSA will conduct sign-up and begin making payments for quality losses under CDP later this spring.

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

## **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.

## **Sign-up for DDAP III Ends May 5th**

Eligible dairy producers who suffered production losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 may apply to receive benefits, for any of these years, under the Dairy Disaster Assistance Program III (DDAP-III), as of March 5, 2008. Producers can sign up at their local USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) service center **until May 5, 2008, when sign-up ends.**

To be eligible, a producer's operation must be in a county designated a major disaster or emergency area by the president or declared a natural disaster area by the secretary of agriculture **between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007.** Producers in contiguous counties are also eligible. Producers in counties declared disaster areas by the president may be eligible, even though the agricultural loss was not covered by the declaration, if an FSA Administrator's Physical Loss Notice covered such losses.

Producers will need to provide to their local FSA office, the annual marketed production and average number of cows in the dairy herd for 2003 and 2004 to determine base production. To calculate the loss, FSA must also know the dairy's production and the average number of cows in the dairy herd for the applicable disaster years.

Losses will be calculated by comparing the expected base annual production (from 2003 and 2004) and the actual production during the applicable disaster claim year. FSA may adjust calculations when losses are not caused by disaster.

For additional information on the DDAP-III program, visit your local FSA service center or visit online at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## **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. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in loss of all Federal payments and eligibility.

---

## **Loans for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers**

FSA has funding to assist beginning farmers 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.

## **Rural Youth Loans**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes operating loans to individual rural youths age 10 through 20 to establish and operate income producing agricultural related projects. These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H Clubs, FFA, or a similar organization or with a vocational teacher or county extension agent. The project must be an organized and supervised program of work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience in agriculture related skills. Contact your local FSA office for more details.

## **Final Loan and LDP Availability Date**

Producers are reminded that the final commodity loan availability date for 2007 Crop Year Corn, Grain Sorghum, Upland Cotton, Rice, and Soybeans will be May 31, 2008.

## **Report Failed Crop Acreage Prior to Destruction**

With spring planting around the corner, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages farmers to report failed crop acreage that will not be brought to harvest to their FSA office. Failed acreage must be reported to FSA before destroying and replanting to allow time for a field check.

It is very important that farmers report failed acreage that will not be brought to harvest to the FSA office prior to destruction. This simple act of insuring that failed acres are documented 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 to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was **prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period.**

Form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. For crop losses covered by the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP), producers must contact their local FSA office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. Producers with crop insurance should also contact their local agent when losses occur and before destroying the crop.

Although low yield acreage does not need to be reported to FSA, producers are encouraged to keep good production records on acreage with a low crop yield to document crop losses. If Congress authorizes a crop disaster program in the future, production records may help support crop loss claims.

Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in loss of all Federal payments and eligibility.

## **Goals for CRP in Missouri**

The Farm Service Agency supports USDA's goals by supporting farmers and conserving natural resources and enhancing the environment. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) offers incentives to farmers to conserve natural resources. Available CRP practices include riparian and grass buffers and wetland restoration. Missouri's goals for 2008 are 1,200 acres of new buffer plantings and 1,200 acres of new wetland restoration.

There are many options available to farmers so please contact your county FSA office for more information and help the Farm Service Agency reach these important goals.

## **EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM ANNOUNCED FOR FLOOD DAMAGE**

Some counties in District 7 have been approved to accept applications for Emergency Conservation Program-Flood (ECP-F). This program is being offered as a result of damage caused by flash flooding from excess rains this spring. Landowners from the approved counties that suffered damage to farmland and fences from the flooding could be eligible for cost-share assistance to remove debris, gravel and sand deposits, and rebuild destroyed fences. Landowners must have at least \$1000 out-of-pocket expenses to qualify for ECP cost-share assistance. Affected landowners should keep good records of all personal and hired labor, expenses and machinery hours that are used to clean up debris. Landowners are also encouraged to take pictures of the damage.

The sign-up period will last 60 days. If approved, landowners will have 6 months to complete the work. Call your county FSA office to see if your county qualifies or for more information.

<b>Selected Interest Rates for April 2008</b>	
90-Day Treasury Bill	2.250%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.250%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.875%
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%
<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
May 1	State Areas for Wildlife (SAFE) CRP signup begins.
May 26	Memorial Day Holiday. <b>FSA Offices Closed.</b>
May 31	Deadline to apply for 2007 commodity loans on feed grains, soybeans, cotton, and rice.
June 15	County Committee Nomination period begins.
June 30	Final certification date for small grains.
July 4	Independence Day Holiday. <b>FSA Offices Closed.</b>

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program 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.