



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: 8:00-4:30
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

Targeted FSA Loan Program

The Farm Service Agency makes direct and guaranteed loans to socially disadvantaged applicants, enabling them to buy and operate family-size farms and ranches. Funds are reserved each year specifically for these loans, but regular loan funds can also be used.

Direct loans may be made to qualified applicants by FSA for both farm operating and farm ownership purposes. Guaranteed farm loans also may be made for ownership or operating purposes, and may be made by any lending institution subject to Federal or state supervision (banks, savings and loans, and units of the Farm Credit System) and guaranteed by FSA. Some state governments also operate farm loan programs that are eligible for FSA guarantees. FSA typically guarantees 90 or 95 percent of a loan against any loss that might be incurred if the loan fails.

Persons who are primarily and directly engaged in farming and ranching on family-size operations may apply. A family-size farm is one that a family can operate and manage itself.

Socially disadvantaged loan applicants do not receive automatic approval. In addition to being members of a socially disadvantaged group, individual applicants under this program must meet all requirements for FSA's regular farm loan program assistance, including:

- Have a satisfactory history of meeting credit obligations.
- Have sufficient education; training, or at least one-year's experience in managing or operating a farm or ranch within the last five years for a direct operating loan, or, for a direct farm ownership loan, have participated in the business operation of a farm or ranch for three years;
- Be a citizen of the United States (or a legal resident alien), including Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and certain former Pacific Island Trust Territories;
- Be unable to obtain credit elsewhere at reasonable rates and terms to meet actual needs;

- Possess legal capacity to incur loan obligations.

A socially disadvantaged person is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. **For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.** Contact the county office staff for details about this program.

FSA MAKES LOANS FOR PIVOT IRRIGATION

FSA has begun an effort to increase irrigation in our local area. FSA is attempting to provide producers with an alternative to purchase pivots on affordable rates and terms. FSA also makes loans for other types of irrigation. The loans can be made for up to 7 years at a fixed rate of interest with equal annual installments. The maximum loan amount is \$300,000.00 per person for the subject loans. Some of the eligibility criteria are listed below.

- Have a satisfactory history of meeting credit obligations.
- Have sufficient education; training, or at least one-year's experience in managing or operating a farm or ranch within the last five years for a direct operating loan;
- Be a citizen of the United States (or a legal resident alien), including Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and certain former Pacific Island Trust Territories;
- Be unable to obtain credit elsewhere at reasonable rates and terms to meet actual needs;
- Possess legal capacity to incur loan obligations.

These loans are intended for producers who actually operate the farm. Landlords are not eligible for the loan program. Please contact your local FSA office for more information on the application process, eligibility and security requirements.

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 15th of each month at 7:00 am.

Wayne/Madison County

Second Wednesday of each month at 8:00 am.

Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Live in a rural area or in a town of 50,000 people or fewer
- Must obtain a written recommendation and consent from a parent or guardian if the applicant has not reached the age of majority under state law
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

To find out more about the FSA Rural Youth loan program, contact your local FSA county office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official.

NAP Coverage Deadline

March 16 is the last day for producers to apply for Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage using Form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, and pay the service fee at the county office. To download the electronic "*NAP Basic Provisions Document*", form CCC-471 NAP BP, go to: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/cc_471_nap_bp.pdf. The application and service fee must be filed **by March 16th**, the

deadline date for 2008 spring planted crops which include: forage sorghum, oats, potatoes, soybeans, sunflowers and all spring planted specialty crops grown for food.

The service fee is \$250 per crop per county or \$750 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1875 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees.

To qualify, a producer must be a landowner, tenant or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop.

Lamb Checkoff Referendum Program

USDA will offer lamb producers, feeders, and first handlers the opportunity to vote in a nationwide referendum on whether to continue or terminate the Lamb Promotion, Research, and Information Order, authorized under the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996. The referendum will be held Feb. 2-27, 2009 and conducted at USDA's Farm Service Agency (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: Lamb Promotion, Research and Information Order Referendum* from a FSA county office either in person, by mail, fax, or via the Internet at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsmarketingprogram> and then click on the "Lamb Referendum Information" link and then click on the Form "*LS-86-1*".

Persons must vote in the referendum at the FSA county 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 FSA county office where the person owns or rents land. Note, Form *LS-86-1* will only be available on the AMS website between the dates of Feb. 2, 2009 through 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.

Payment Limits & Direct Attribution

For commodity and disaster programs under the new farm bill, the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limitation was reduced from \$2.5 million from all sources to a three-year average **non-farm AGI of \$500,000** such that a person or entity shall not be eligible for such programs if the non-farm AGI exceeds \$500,000. Also, under the new regulations, an individual or entity must have a 3-year average AGI less than or equal to \$750,000 per year from farm income in order to qualify for direct payments issued under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

The definition of income derived from farming, ranching and forestry operations was expanded to include, among other items, such items as the packing, storing and transporting of agricultural commodities; production of livestock products; farm-based production of renewable bio-energy; and in some instances, the providing of operational inputs to farmers, ranchers and foresters.

For conservation programs, the average nonfarm AGI limitation is \$1 million or less for eligibility. However, an individual or entity who has non-farm AGI in excess of \$1 million remains eligible for conservation programs only if 66.66 percent or more of the total AGI is derived from farming, ranching and forestry operations. In addition, the AGI limitation for conservation programs may be waived on a case-by-case basis if it is determined that environmentally sensitive land of special significance would be protected.

Program payments are limited by direct attribution to individuals or entities. A legal entity is defined as an entity created under Federal or State law that owns land or an agricultural commodity, product or livestock. Through direct attribution, payment limitation is based on the total payments received by the individual, both directly and indirectly. Qualifying spouses are eligible to be considered separate persons for payment limitation purposes, rather than being automatically combined under one limitation.

Individuals and entities must be "actively engaged in farming" with respect to a farming operation in order to be eligible for specified payments and benefits. To be "actively engaged in farming," the individual or entity must make significant contributions to the farming operation of: (1) capital, equipment, land, or a combination; and (2) personal labor or active personal management, or a combination.

Under rules in effect since 1988, not every member of a corporation or similar entity had to contribute active personal labor or management. The new interim final rule requires each partner, stockholder, or member with an ownership interest to make a contribution of active personal labor or active personal management. The contribution, whether compensated or not must be regular and substantial, and documented as well as separate and distinct from any other member's contribution. The rule limits the ability of passive stockholders to continue to realize benefits from the entity. For more detailed information contact your local FSA office.

DCP Sign-up Continues

Sign-up for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program continues **until June 1, 2009**. The June 1, 2009 deadline is mandatory for all participants. FSA **will not** accept any late-filed applications.

Online sign-up is available to all producers who are eligible to participate in the DCP Program and can be accessed at: www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp and then click on the "Access eDCP Services" link, under the "I Want to..." section. To access the service, producers must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> and then click on the "Create an Account Page" link, and lastly followed by a visit to the local FSA Service Center for identity verification.

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA began to issue advance direct payments in December 2008. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

Eligible producers for the DCP Program are also eligible to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program or the Counter-cyclical Program. The enrollment period for the ACRE Program will begin in the spring. You may first enroll in the DCP Program, receive advance direct payments and then later modify your enrollment to the ACRE program or you may wait and elect to enroll in DCP and ACRE at the same time in spring 2009.

For more information about DCP, visit your local FSA office or go online to read the DCP factsheet at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/dcp2008.pdf

Crop Disaster Program Sign-up Deadline

The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Crop Disaster Program (CDP) sign-up period for years 2005-2007 will **end Feb. 27, 2009**. The ending date of Feb. 27 applies to the receipt of a signed and completed FSA-840 application along with all supporting documentation and required forms at the applicable county FSA office. Sign-up information and required forms are available at each county FSA office. Late filed applications will not be approved after the Feb. 27 deadline. All application determinations will be made by March 27, 2009. For further questions about CDP and the sign-up deadline, producers may contact their county FSA office or visit FSA's website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

News Release

Want to enhance wildlife on your property? Interested in improving your forest or pond? The Missouri Department of Conservation is offering a one day wildlife and forest management workshop.

The workshop will be held at the new SEMO River Campus, (near the Mississippi River bridge) in downtown Cape Girardeau. The workshop will be march 21, 2009 9:00 am – 3:30 pm. Registration will be 7:30 am to 9:00 am. The workshop is designed for landowners and farmers. There will be accommodations for up to 200 participants.

You can choose from 16 different one hour presentations on a variety of conservation topics that pertain to your land. Techniques and tips from top authorities on many subjects like deer management, wild turkey needs, forest health and management, pond fishing enhancement, small game habitat, cost share options and addressing trespassing problems. A number of the sessions will be offered more than once to provide maximum attendance. There will be a library room supplied with reference publications and technical brochures.

Pre-registration for this course is required.

Lunch will be provided for registered participants.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER BEFORE MARCH 6TH, PLEASE CALL THE SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE IN CAPE GIRARDEAU AT 573/290-5730.

Selected Interest Rates for February 2009

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|--------------------------------------|--------|
| 90-Day Treasury Bill | .125% |
| Farm Operating Loans -- Direct | 2.125% |
| Farm Ownership Loans -- Direct | 3.750% |
| Farm Ownership Loans -- Down Payment | 1.500% |
| Emergency Loans | 3.750% |
| Farm Storage Facility Loans | 1.875% |
| Sugar Storage Facility Loans | 3.125% |
| Commodity Loans 1996-Present | 1.375% |

Dates to Remember

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| Feb. 27 | Lamb Checkoff Referendum Program finishes today. |
| Mar. 16 | Deadline to obtain 2009 NAP coverage on spring planted crops. |
| Mar. 31 | Final Availability for 2008 crop wheat, barley, oats, honey loans and LDPs. |
| May 31 | Final Availability for 2008 spring seeded crops commodity loans |
| Continues | Farm Storage Facility Loan Program. |
| Continues | Continuous Conservation Reserve Program. |

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