



Caldwell County News

Caldwell County
USDA Service Center

Caldwell County FSA
23 West Main St.
Kingston, MO 64650
816-586-2711 (phone)
816-586-2067 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

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

County Committee
Joe Graham
Kevin Stonum
Terry Wright
Wanda Stubbs,
Advisor

County Committee
meets the last
Thursday of each
month

Staff
Betty Dunscombe
Debbie Leeper
Carol Gorham
Mary Finch

Fieldman
Mark Burnett

Farm Loan Manager
Michael Harwood

County Director
Debbie Clevenger



When Weather Prevents or Damages Crops

When bad weather prevents planting or damages crops, Caldwell County producers are reminded to report the acreage to the FSA office within 15 days of the final planting date of the crop. 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 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.

Thanks to Colleen Niehaus

The Caldwell County Committee and County Office Staff would like to thank Colleen Niehaus for her nine years of dedication serving as the County Committee Advisor. Colleen did a wonderful job and she will be missed by everyone. Colleen served her maximum term and Wanda Stubbs will now serve as the Advisor. Welcome, and congratulations, Wanda!

Sign-Up Continues for USDA FSA Disaster Programs

Eligible farmers and producers who suffered 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) payments for losses that occurred in years 2005, 2006, or 2007. **No ending date has been announced for this signup.** 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>.

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 that 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.

County Committee Elections



The Caldwell County Farm Service Agency is looking for individuals interested in serving on the Caldwell County Committee. This year LAA-2 will be having an election. LAA-2 is comprised of the following townships: Gomer, Hamilton, Kingston, and New York. Any eligible person residing in one of these townships who is interested in running for the County Committee, or would like to nominate an individual to run for the County Committee, must complete a nomination form. The Nomination Form for County FSA Committee Election (FSA-669A) is available at the Caldwell County FSA office. You may also go online and download the form from our Missouri FSA website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/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.

For more information regarding the County Committee elections, talk to Debbie Clevenger, County Executive Director at 816-586-2711, or stop in the office located at Kingston, for details on the types of decisions county committee members make. Or 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 3rd and must be returned by December 1, 2008. The elected Committee Member and Alternates will take office January 1, 2009.

Final Loan and LDP Availability Date

Producers are reminded that the final commodity loan and LDP availability date for 2007 Crop Year Corn, Grain Sorghum, and Soybeans **is May 31, 2008**.

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.

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. For information please visit your FSA office.

Farm Loans for Socially Disadvantaged

Caldwell County Farm Loan Manager, Michael Harwood, 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 Crop Acreage

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.

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.

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. The AD-1026 is the producer’s signed certification that HELC, as well as wetland conservation, provisions will not be violated.

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.

Producers might want to verify with their crop insurance agent as to whether new land brought into production is eligible for insurance. This would include land not farm in the previous 3 years.

New CRP Program-(SAFE)

Caldwell County has begun a new CRP signup known as State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE). Sign-up for the SAFE practice began on May 1st and will continue on an on-going bases until the maximum acres are reached for the practice in Missouri. The “Bobwhite Quail Habitat Restoration” project has 6,250 acres allocated for Missouri producers. Producers can submit offers and enroll acres in contracts for 14-15 years. In exchange, producers receive annual CRP rental payments, incentives, and cost-share assistance to establish habitat-enhancing natural covers on eligible land.

Through Continuous CRP and SAFE, FSA accepts year-round producer offers, provided the land and the producer meet certain eligibility requirements. To be eligible, land must be planted, or considered planted, to an agriculture commodity during four of the six years between 1996 and 2001. The land must be physically and legally capable of being planted, in a normal manner, to an agricultural commodity. Please visit the office for additional information.

New Farm Bill Delayed

We are still waiting on the new Farm Bill. Many producers have stopped by and inquired on the status of signup for 2008. A subsequent newsletter will go out when this office has information pertaining to sign-up for 2008.



Front Row: Dale and Colleen Niehaus
 Middle Row: Betty Dunscombe, Carol Gorham, and Debbie Leeper
 Back Row: Kevin Stonum, Terry Wright, Joe Graham, and Marshall Stonum

Dates to Remember	
May 26	Memorial Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
May 31	Deadline to apply for 2007 commodity loans and LDP's on feed grains, soybeans, pulse crops.
June 15 thru Aug 1	County Committee Nomination period.
June 30	Final certification date for small grains.
July 4	Independence Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
July 31	Final certification date for all crops except small grains.
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program.

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

Congratulations to Michael Harwood, Farm Loan Manager, who will retire on May 31st with 31 years of Service! Happy Retirement!

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