



May/June 2008

## Christian/Stone/Taney FSA News

Christian/Stone &  
Taney County  
USDA Service Center

**FSA**  
1786 S. 16<sup>th</sup> Ave., Ste. 10  
Ozark, MO 65781  
(417)581-2718 phone  
(417)485-3863 fax  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/OH](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/OH)

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

**County Committee**  
Wesley Roller  
Mike Rauch  
John Calhoun  
George Gatton  
Marie Day

County Committee  
meets the second  
Wednesday of each  
month at 9:30 AM

**Staff**  
Donna Nave - PT  
Lexie Thompson - PT  
Jim Kyle - DD  
Mark Aycock - FLM  
Mark Hultgren - CED



### 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 will need to provide to the 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, 2005 - 2007.

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 re-

quired 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. 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.

### 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 up-right 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. For details, contact the county office staff.

## ATTENTION LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) for the droughts in 2005 and 2006 is ongoing. We have paid many producers, but I know there are producers that still have signed up. If you have not applied, please call our office to schedule an appointment.

If you owned or cash leased eligible livestock on January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2005 or 2006 and suffered an eligible feed loss; you can be compensated.

Payment rates for some eligible livestock are:

**BEEF (Adult) – \$10.66/head**  
**DAIRY (Adult) - \$27.72/head**  
**BEEF & DAIRY (500#'s plus on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>) - \$8.00/head**



Other eligible livestock include: Buffalo, Beefalo, Sheep, Goats, Equine, Swine, Poultry, Deer and Elk. (Claimed livestock must be for commercial purposes to be eligible).

Producers incurring losses in 2005 and 2006 must choose only one year for which to receive benefits. Also if a producer selects to receive LCP benefits for 2006 and they participated in the Livestock Assistance Grant Program (LAGP), their benefits will be reduced by the dollar amount they received from the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

If you have any questions, give us a call. If not, get your livestock numbers and schedule an appointment.

### DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!

#### 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.

#### Report Failed Crop Acreage Prior to Destruction

With spring planting around the corner, the Christian/Stone/Taney County 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," said Mark Hultgren Executive Director, Christian/Stone/Taney County FSA Office. "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."

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.

#### Crop Reports

The Christian/Stone/Taney County office is taking crop reports on planted acres. Producers may also report CRP and permanent pasture acres at this time. **REMINDERS:** Check planted acres and crop shares. Acreage, shares and farming entities should be consistent with crop insurance, and





crop sales receipts. **When producers report differently than the way they actually operate, they may not be considered eligible for program benefits.**

## **SAFE (State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement) Projects Sign up Begins May 1**

Owners and operators of certain cropland in designated geographic areas of Missouri may enroll eligible land into a new continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) practice titled State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE), also known as Practice CP38E, beginning May 1, 2008. USDA has approved three SAFE proposals in Missouri to address high priority wildlife needs through habitat restoration. In Christian/Stone/Taney, the SAFE Project that is available to interested producers is the Bobwhite Quail Habitat Restoration.



Producers within Missouri's SAFE areas can submit offers to voluntarily enroll acres in CRP contracts for 14 to 15 years up to the state maximum of 6,250 acres for the Bobwhite Quail Restoration Project. Enrolled producers will receive annual CRP rental payments, incentive payments, and cost-share assistance to establish habitat.

*Eligible acreage is cropland that was planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity during four of the six years from 1996 to 2001.* The land must be physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. Land designated as marginal pastureland does not qualify for SAFE.

Through SAFE, producers create a habitat that may involve planting shrubs, trees, grasses, and forbs species that help restore or improve wildlife habitat. This habitat is managed during the life of the contract by strip disking, spraying or burning.

Contact your local FSA office or find more information about SAFE online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>; click on Conservation Programs.

## **SDA Seeks Public Comment on Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)**

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is offering members of the public an opportunity to voice opinions about the recently revised information collection system associated with the report of acreage for the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). The revision is to correct the average time to complete the form that increases the total number of burden hours in this information collection. Interested individuals have until close of business on **May 2, 2008**, to submit comments for consideration. NAP provides financial assistance to producers who have suffered a production loss of an eligible crop or were prevented from planting an eligible crop as a result of natural disasters. Eligible crops are commercial crops or other agricultural commodities for which catastrophic risk protection is not available and that are produced for food or fiber.

### Comments are invited on:

- Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- The accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments should include the volume, date and page number of the issue of the Federal Register. The public can comment by:

- E-mail to: [jantrice.chappell@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:jantrice.chappell@wdc.usda.gov);
- Fax: (202) 720-4941;
- Regular Mail to: USDA Farm Service Agency, ATTN: Jantrice Chappell, Agriculture Program Specialist, CPS, Farm Programs, Production Emergencies and Compliance Division, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0517, Washington, DC 20250-0523; and
- For further questions, contact Jantrice Chappell at (202) 720-3637.

The Information Collection: Report of Acreage, Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program Federal Register can be found at: <http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocumentDetail&o=09000064803e4e6a>



Selected Interest Rates for April 2008	
90-Day Treasury Bill	2.250%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.250%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.875%
Farm Ownership Loans Begin- ning 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%

Dates to Remember	
April 25	2002 Farm Bill Extension deadline for 2008 LDP's on wool, mohair and unshorn pelts.
April 25	2002 Farm Bill Extension deadline for Contract Approval for all CRP, including CREP program practices.
May 26	Deadline to obtain 2008 NAP coverage on spring planted crops.
May 26	Memorial Day Holiday. <b>FSA Offices Closed.</b>
May 31	Deadline to apply for 2007 commodity loans and LDP's on feed grains, soybeans, pulse crops.
June 15	County Committee Nomination period begins.
June 30	Final certification date for small grains.

## FSA Signature Requirements

Proper signatures on Farm Service Agency contracts, applications and forms must be submitted before the document will be considered as filed. All entities, including revocable and irrevocable trusts, corporations, partnerships, estates, etc., must provide evidence of signature authority stipulating those individuals who are authorized to represent the entity. FSA cannot accept signatures without such documentation on file. Examples of acceptable evidence include trust agreements, corporate charters or resolutions, partnership agreements and court orders of appointment. Spouses can sign for each other on most program documents unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office staff. An FSA-211 may be filed to delegate signature authority for FSA program purposes to another individual.

Visit our website at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/oh](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/oh)

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, audiotope, 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.