



July 2008

# Clinton County News

**Clinton County FSA**  
1800 W HWY 116  
Plattsburg, MO 64477

**Phone:**  
**(816) 539-2136**  
**Fax:**  
**(816) 539-3560**

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

**County Committee**  
Mary Ann Barmann  
Jerald Grimes  
George Silvius

The COC meets the first  
Thursday of each month at  
9:00 a.m.

**STAFF**  
Chris Broderick, PT  
Peggy Rapp, PT  
Norma Stransky, PT  
  
Kent Allen, CED

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- Acreage Reporting, DCP, and LCP Sign Up Deadlines
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- Crop Disaster and Quality Loss Program Sign up

## Sign-up Deadline for LCP is July 18, 2008

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced that livestock producers have **until July 18, 2008**, to enroll in the 2005-2007 Livestock Compensation Program (LCP).

**This program compensates producers for a portion of their pasture loss during 2005, 2006, or 2007.** The livestock must have been produced for commercial purposes as a part of the farming operation. Producers must have owned the livestock on Jan. 1 for 2005, Jan. 1 for 2006, or April 1 for 2007. Ownership of the livestock must have been retained through May 1 of the applicable program year.

The following groups of livestock are eligible for LCP:  
Adult beef cows or bulls,  
Non-adult beef cattle, 500 lbs. or more,  
Adult dairy cows or bulls,  
Non-adult dairy cattle, 500 lbs. or more,  
and Goats, Sheep, Swine and Equine.  
(Confinement operations are not eligible.)

Producer's average adjusted gross income (AGI) can not exceed \$2.5 million for the three years immediately preceding the calendar year for which benefits are being requested. Eligible producers may receive benefits for only one of the program years. Loss of hay or feed grain yields do not qualify for LCP.

**Please call 816-539-2136, ext 2 for complete details and to schedule your appointment to sign up for Livestock Compensation Program.**

## 2008 DCP Signup Begins

The 2008 DCP program signup was recently announced and will run through September 30, 2008. Producers may request **22% advance DCP direct payments** for 2008 beginning in July, and final payments will be issued in October. Farms with 10 acres or less of base are now ineligible for DCP payments, unless the owner is socially disadvantaged or a limited resource producer.

The 2008 Farm Bill runs through 2012. Because the passage of the Farm Bill was greatly delayed, for 2008 the rules will be essentially the same as last year except as noted above. Several provisions for 2009 – 2012 have changed. When FSA procedures are finalized, we will release newsletters detailing the 2009-2012 regulations. Preliminary 2009-12 rules & current regulations can be viewed on our website at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## 2008 Crop Acreage Reporting Deadline Extended for all crops to August 15th

The delays in the announcement of the 2008 Farm Bill and weather conditions have contributed to the extension of the acreage reporting deadline for 2008 only. Acreage reports are required in order to be eligible for program benefits if you participate in DCP, CRP or apply for grain loans or LDP payments. Producers need to report all cropland on the farm including wheat, all planted spring crops, prevented planting, and failed acres, CRP, hay and pasture by August 15th. **You will need to bring your planting dates with you.** Acreage reported after the August 15 deadline will be considered late filed and charged a late filing fee of \$46/farm. **Please call 816-539-2136, ext 2 to schedule your appointment to report your planted acres.**



## CRP "SAFE" Sign up Continues

Sign up for the new Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) practice called SAFE, State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement, is underway. Producers in Missouri can qualify for annual CRP payments in return for establishing wildlife habitat restoration areas on eligible cropland acreage. This program targets entire fields, not just field borders and is designed specifically to restore habitat for Bob-White Quail. While FSA will administer the program, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) will be involved for technical determinations.

The contract length for SAFE is 14 to 15 years and the annual payment rate is based on the 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.

Fields will be seeded to an approved cover in accordance with a conservation plan to be developed by MDC or NRCS. 10% to 20% of the field will be devoted to a wildlife food plot and 1% will be established in a dense woody cover. SAFE cannot be used in the same field as an existing CP-33 (Habitat Buffer for Upland Birds).

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 already be enrolled in CRP.

Please contact the office for complete details.

## Failed & Prevented Planting Acres

Producers need to report prevented planted or damaged crops to receive history or disaster credit. This applies to all crops, whether covered by crop insurance or not. This will provide FSA with a historical record of your crop should disaster assistance become available as it has in past years. Currently Crop Disaster benefits through FSA are only available to producers who are insured under Federal Crop Insurance or have NAP coverage through FSA on uninsurable crops.

Producers who have their crops insured through a private crop insurance company should contact their insurance agent immediately and advise them of the damaged crops. Also a Notice of Loss Application must be completed in person at the FSA office, and the prevented and/or failed acres reported.

It is important that producers file a Notice of Loss Application to report crop losses before the disposition of the crop and within 15 days of the date damage occurred or 15 days from the date damage is apparent.

## County Committee Nominations

Aug. 1 is the deadline for farmers to nominate themselves or eligible peers as candidates for election to the FSA County Committee. It is important for all agricultural producers to be represented, especially minority and beginning farmers. Committee persons play a vital role by helping local producers manage tough financial times and natural disasters. Nominees this year need to reside in Local Administrative Area I, which includes the townships of Lafayette, Atchison, and Hardin. Nomination forms are available from your local USDA Service Center. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> and must be returned by Dec. 1. Newly elected members take office Jan. 1, 2009.

## USDA Announces CRP Permitted Use for Livestock Feed Needs

Recently, USDA authorized certain acreage enrolled under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to be available for hay and forage after the primary nesting season ends for grass-nesting birds, **which is after July 15, 2008. All hay and livestock must be removed by Nov. 10, 2008.** This modification for critical feed use is only available in 2008.

**Prior to haying or grazing, producers will be required to pay a fee of \$75, per contract, for the modification of their CRP contract.** No payment reduction will be assessed on contracts being utilized for this critical feed use.

Haying is limited to 50% of each eligible field. If grazing, 25% of each field must remain ungrazed or all of the eligible CRP acreage may be grazed at no more than 75% of the stocking rate, as determined by NRCS.

CRP participants with certain established vegetative cover may voluntarily have their CRP contract modified by CCC to utilize certain land enrolled in CRP for critical feed use, including haying or grazing. The most environmentally sensitive land enrolled in CRP is ineligible for critical feed use. These lands include wetlands, buffers, filter strips and other practices not listed as eligible. In addition, acreage ineligible for critical feed use includes acreage devoted to useful life easements, and land within 120 feet of a stream or other permanent water body.

**Please call 816-539-2136, ext 2 for complete details and to schedule your appointment to sign up for the critical feed use option.**

## 2005 – 2007 Crop Disaster & Quality Loss Program

### Bank Account Changes

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically these days, using Direct Deposit. To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions. Please contact us regarding changes in your account.

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO GREATLY REDUCE YOUR TIME SPENT IN THE FSA OFFICE?

If so, please call 816-539-2136, ext 2 to schedule your appointment prior to visiting us! Scheduling appointments allows us to prepare for your arrival and **greatly** reduces your waiting time.



Eligible producers who experienced crop losses from 2005 through 2007 may still apply to receive disaster assistance with FSA's Crop Disaster Program (CDP). You may select only one year for all crop losses. **Producers must have had crop insurance or Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage to be eligible.**

Beginning June 23<sup>rd</sup> these crops are also eligible for a quality loss payment on crops that suffered at least a 25% reduction in value to meet the minimum economic loss. Quality loss eligibility is figured by the load as long as the damage was caused by an eligible disaster condition.

Quality loss participants will be required to provide total actual production evidence for all harvested production per unit, including all production without quality problems. The actual production evidence will need to show price, quantity, and quality factors with verifiable production evidence showing the grading factors which attributed to the poor quality must be submitted. The quality loss program applies only to production harvested as grain.

More disaster information is at:

<http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>

## Crop Insurance Fraud

FSA will be monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse in crop insurance to the Risk Management Agency. Producers should refer all suspected cases to their local USDA office.

## 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.

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.

## Removing CCC Loan Collateral

Producers are reminded, if you have grain under Commodity Credit Corporation loan it cannot be removed or disposed of without prior county office staff authorization or repayment. The county office staff may issue release authorizations based on a telephone or in person request when you are ready to move the grain. A loan violation is subject to monetary and administrative penalties, such as repaying the loan at principal plus interest, liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans and loan deficiency payments.

All commodity loans are subject to spot check. Locking in a market loan repayment rate is not a marketing authorization. If you are planning to move CCC loan grain, please call the county office staff before you HAUL!

### Dates to Remember

July 4	Independence Day Holiday– Office Closed
July 18	Deadline to apply for the 05, 06 and 07 Livestock Compensation Program.
August 15	Crop Acreage Reporting Deadline for all 2008 crops.
September 30	2008 DCP Sign Deadline
Ongoing	05, 06 & 07 Crop Disaster & Quality loss Sign Up

### Special Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meeting or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations please call the local FSA county office.

### Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) programs in which either has an interest. In most cases, this option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

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.