

April 2008



Daviess County News

Daviess County USDA Service Center

Daviess County FSA
209 Ash Street
Gallatin, MO. 64640
660-663-3703 (phone)
660-663-3697 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/MO

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Sandra Chrisman
David Cox
Keith Harpster

County Committee
meets 3rd Thursday
at 8:00 A.M.

Staff
Teresa Akers, FLO
Patricia Barnett, PT
Denise Dixon, PT
Glynis Dotson, PT
Beth Strein, PT

FLM
Michael Harwood

CED
Kirby Payne

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.

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, Upland Cotton, Rice, Dry Peas, Lentils, Small Chickpeas, Soybeans and Other Oilseeds **will be May 31, 2008.**

Farm Bill Extended Until April 18th

Last month the President signed a 33-day extension of the current law to allow Congress until **April 18th** to reach an agreement on the next Farm Bill. If Congress fails to reach an agreement on a new Farm Bill that meets the standards that the President set out, he will ask Congress to extend the current law for at least one year.

This extends FSA's authority to administer the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and marketing loan benefits for wool, mohair, unshorn pelts and honey through April 18, 2008.

Extending Wool, Mohair and Unshorn Pelt, and Honey MALs & LDPs

The Farm Bill extension signed by the President on December 26, 2007, authorized the MAL and LDP programs for the 2008 crop of graded and ungraded wool, mohair, and unshorn pelts through March 15, 2008. On March 14, 2008, the President signed into law S. 2745 which authorizes FSA to continue administering 2008 crop wool, mohair, and unshorn pelt MALs and LDPs through **April 18, 2008.**

Since the availability date for 2008 crop honey begins on April 1, 2008, FSA County Offices are authorized to accept 2008 honey MAL and LDP requests **from April 1, 2008 through April 18, 2008.**

Sign-Up Continues for USDA FSA Disaster Programs

Eligible farmers and producers who suffered livestock, live stock 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>.



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;
- 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>

USDA Announces No Partial 2007-Crop-Year Counter-Cyclical Payments for Corn, Grain Sorghum and Soybeans

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced that because market prices are high, producers with corn, grain sorghum, soybeans and/or other oilseed base acres enrolled in USDA's Direct and Counter-cyclical Program will not receive partial 2007-crop-year counter-cyclical payments.

Average market price projections are above levels that would trigger these payments. The 2002 Farm Bill requires that, if triggered, these payments be made for the 2007 crop after the first six months of the marketing year, which began on Sept. 1, 2007, for these commodities.

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.

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. For details, contact the county office staff.



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 Daviess 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 Daviess County Executive Director, Kirby Payne. "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.

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.

Additional information in regard to failed crop acreage or crop losses covered by the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) can be obtained by contacting your local FSA office. FSA program information is also available online at: <http://www.fsa/usda.gov>.

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.

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.

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 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%





Dates to Remember	
April 18	2002 Farm Bill Extension deadline for 2008 LDP's on wool, mohair and unshorn pelts.
April 18	2002 Farm Bill Extension deadline for Contract Approval for all CRP, including CREP program practices.
May 26	Memorial Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
May 31	Deadline to apply for 2007 commodity loans and LDP's on feed grains, soybeans, cotton, rice and pulse crops.
June 15	County Committee Nomination period begins.
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.
Continuous	Farm Storage Facility Loan program.

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

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