



June 2008

Douglas/Ozark County FSA Newsletter

Douglas/Ozark County
USDA Service Center

Phone and FAX numbers

1-800-434-0366 Long Dis-
tance Phone
417-683-4212 EX2 Local
phone
417-683-3054(fax) or

www.fsa.usda.gov

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

County Committee
Gary Harvill: Chairman
Floyd Graham V. Chairman
Marty Clinton: member
E.J. Hampton: member
Marty Morrison: member
Teresa Rodgers: minority ad-
visor

County Committee meets
2nd Thursday monthly

District Director:
James J. Kyle

County Office Staff:
Timothy K. Kennemer
County Executive Director

Amy Peiter: Farm Loan
Manager

Debby Tate: Program Tech.

Elaine Graham: Program
Tech.

Janet Streight: Farm Loan
Program Tech.

County Committee Elections "FSA Counts on You"

From **June 15 through Aug. 1**, farmers and ranchers can nominate eligible peers as candidates for election to the Douglas/Ozark County Farm Service Agency County Committee. Since COC elections happen only once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into *local administrative areas*, or LAAs. Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee.

Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. In counties with three LAAs, one seat is up for election. In combined counties in some years, two seats may be up for election.

An election will be held for the Douglas/Ozark County Committee position for LAA 5 that includes the townships of Pine Creek, Richland, Spring Creek, Bridges, Dawt, Lick Creek, and Bayou. Marty Morrison is currently serving this area.

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 Douglas/Ozark County FSA office. You may also go online and download the form from our Missouri FSA website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/mo>. The document is located under the "I Want To" section on the right side of the screen.

This is an important time for LAA communities, because county committee members make decisions that have significant effects on you and the area's agricultural sector as a whole. For example, committee members make decisions on applications for federal

farm program and disaster payments. Committee members play a vital role by helping local farmers and ranchers manage tough financial times and natural disasters.

Remember, the nomination period runs **June 15 through Aug. 1**. The completed nomination form must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Aug. 1, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 1, 2008. Voting takes place in the fall. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 3. Dec. 1 is the last day to return voted ballots to the county office. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office Jan. 1, 2008.

Sign-up Deadline for LCP and LIP

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) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Sign-up began on Sept. 10, 2007, for the two programs that provide aid to livestock producers who suffered eligible livestock or livestock feed losses between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007, because of a natural disaster.

Controlled Substances

Any person who is convicted under federal law of planting, producing, cultivating, harvesting, growing, or storing a controlled substance will be ineligible to participate and receive payments under USDA programs. Marijuana, opium poppies, and other drug producing plants are controlled substances.

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.

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. Acreage eligible for critical feed use includes acreage that is fully established and devoted to the following CRP practices in Missouri:

- CP1, Establishment of Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes,
- CP2, Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses,
- CP4B, Permanent Wildlife Habitat – Corridors,
- CP4D, Permanent Wildlife Habitat,
- CP10, Vegetative Cover - Grass - Already Established.

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, as determined by CCC, and land within 120 feet of a stream or other permanent water body.

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.

Participants who request a voluntary modification to the CRP contract to allow critical feed use must also obtain a modified conservation plan for haying and grazing management in accordance with NRCS Field Office Technical Guide haying and grazing standards and elect to either hay or graze their contracted acreage.

No payment reduction will be assessed on contracts being utilized for this critical feed use. However, producers will be required

to pay a fee of \$75, per contract, for the modification of their CRP contract before COC approves the modified conservation plan.

CRP participants may request the voluntary modification to the CRP contract **beginning June 2, 2008**, at your local FSA office. For more information about this program, or to see if your acreage is eligible for this program, contact your local FSA office.

Crop Disaster Program Sign-up Continues and Quality Sign-up to Begin Soon

Eligible farmers and producers who suffered crop loss damage between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007, can still apply to receive disaster assistance. FSA continues to accept applications and make payments for quantity losses under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP), for losses that occurred before the end of the 2007 calendar year.

Also, sign-up for quality losses under the CDP will begin soon at the county office. For quality losses, producers must apply for quantity loss to be eligible to apply for a quality loss. However, producers do not need to qualify for a quantity loss. In addition, the requirement for Crop Insurance or NAP coverage still applies. Quality loss participants will be required to provide actual production evidence. The actual production evidence will need to show the quantity, price AND quality factors.

Stored and fed production must have a quality test indicating quality and quantity by January 1 of the year following harvest. For stored production, the price is determined using the local market conditions in effect on the date the production evidence is submitted. For fed production, the value is determined using the local market conditions in effect on the crop's final harvest date. The commodity must have suffered at least a 25% reduction in value to meet the Economic Loss Minimum. The National FSA office is developing a software program to determine whether the producer meets the Economic Loss Minimum.

For more disaster program information go online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov> or visit your local FSA office.

Final Acreage Reporting Dates Quickly Approaching

Farm Service Agency (FSA), would like to remind producers of the acreage reporting requirements that must be met prior to receiving program benefits. If producers miss the acreage reporting deadline dates, a late filing fee will be charged.

Producers are required to file an FSA-578, *Report of Acreage*, certification for the farm by the **June 30 deadline for small grains** and by **July 31 for CRP and all other crops except small grains**. To be considered timely, acreage reports on crops 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.

It is also very important that producers report crop losses, including those insured under Federal Crop Insurance (FCIC) and **Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) within 15 days of the date damage occurred or 15 days from the date damage is apparent**. Losses and or damages to crops must be reported after each disaster occurrence and in a timely manner to insure continued eligibility for benefits.

Producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA county office to file the required FSA-578 certification report before the deadline. 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.

Selected Interest Rates for June 2008	
90-Day Treasury Bill	1.250%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.125%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.875%
Farm Ownership Loans — Beginning Farmer Down Payment	4.000%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.375%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	3.000%

FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- A married woman shall sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, not Mrs. John Doe
- For a minor, FSA requires the minor's signature and one from an eligible parent
- Note, by signing the applicable document, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc
- When signing on one's behalf the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form, or be a variation that

does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. Example - John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc

- FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the acceptable program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information.

Examples of documents **not** approved for FAXED signatures include:

- Promissory note
- Assignment of payment
- Joint payment authorization
- NAP actual production history and approved yield record
- Acknowledgement of commodity certificate purchase
- Financing statement
- UCC financing statement

Signature Requirements Continued...

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities
- All members of a general partnership must sign for the general partnership unless an individual is authorized to act on the behalf of the general partnership and bind all members
- Spouses may sign on behalf of each other's individual interest in a partnership, unless notification denying a spouse that authority is provided to the county office
- Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts shall consist of an indicator "by" or "for" the individual's name, individual's name and capacity, or individual's name, capacity, and name of entity.

Dates to Remember	
June 15	County Committee Nomination period begins.
June 30	Final certification date for small grains.
July 4	Independence Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
July 18	Deadline to sign-up for LCP and LIP.
July 31	Final certification date for all crops except small grains.
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.

Foreign Investors Who Hold Agricultural Land

Foreign investors, who buy, sell or hold a direct or indirect interest in U.S. agricultural land must report their holdings and transactions to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Failure to timely file an accurate report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land. Foreign persons who are buying or selling land must report the transaction **within 90 days of the date of the transaction.**

Who Must Report:

- Individuals who are not U.S. citizens or citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands or the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands;
- Individuals who are not lawfully admitted to the U.S. for permanent residence or who are not paroled into the U.S. under the Immigration and Nationality Act;
- Any organization created under laws of a foreign government or which has located its principle place of business outside the U.S.;
- Any U.S. organization in which a significant interest or substantial control is directly or indirectly held by foreign individuals, organizations or governments; and
- Any foreign governments.

What to Report:

- Each tract of agricultural land in the U.S., its territories, the Northern Mariana Islands and the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands owned by persons required to report; and
- Leaseholds of 10 years or more.

USDA designated the FSA to collect the AFIDA report forms. Individuals wanting to obtain an AFIDA report form (FSA-153) may do so from any FSA County office. The (FSA-153) is available in both English and Spanish translations. You can also go on-line and download the form at:

http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/Forms/FSA0153_010524V02.pdf

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