



Gentry/Worth County  
**FSA NEWSLETTER**

April 2008

**Gentry County  
FSA Office**

512 E Hwy 136  
Albany, MO 64402  
660-726-5525  
Office Hours:  
7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**County Committee**

Kenny Hensley  
Mike Sager  
David Waltemath

**Office Staff**

Mary Ann Gibson, PT  
Kathy Ward, PT  
Brenda Walker, PT  
Barbara Ratliff, PT

**Worth County  
FSA Office**

19 West 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Grant City, MO 64456  
660-564-3341  
Office Hours:  
7:15 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.

**County Committee**

Mike Cook  
Vern Mitchell  
Mary Ewing

**Office Staff**

Veronica Craven, PT  
Ann Gilland, PT

**County Executive  
Director**

Mark Cadle

**Farm Loan**

**Program Manager**  
Charles Meissen

**Fieldmen**

Joe Washburn  
Kris Lyle  
Bill Grabb

Since the last newsletter, not a lot has changed concerning our knowledge of this year's farm program. Fortunately the weather has changed a little, it has gotten a little warmer and the ground is not as white. I reported in the last newsletter that the Farm Bill had not passed and it still has not passed. An extension of the last farm bill was passed which authorizes continuation of on-going programs such as CRP and Commodity Loans through April 18, 2008. As soon as program information about a new farm bill is known, future newsletters and news releases will announce the specific details. I encourage you to read this newsletter as there is information available on various disaster programs available for the 2005, 2006 and 2007 crop years. In addition, FSA is required to annually notify producers of many program requirements and policies. This newsletter contains many of those notifications. As always, please contact the office if you have any questions.

Please be safe as you begin your spring field work.

Sincerely,  
Mark Cadle, CED

**Ed Schafer Sworn in as Secretary of Agriculture**

Ed Schafer was sworn in as the 29th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on January 28, 2008.

Secretary Schafer brings a record as an innovative two-term governor of North Dakota to USDA along with extensive private sector experience as both an entrepreneur and a business executive. Schafer served as North Dakota's governor from 1992 to 2000 and made diversifying and expanding North Dakota's economy, reducing the cost of government and advancing agriculture his top priorities in office.

He worked to normalize trading relations with China and develop that nation as an export market for North Dakota farm products. He also led efforts to upgrade North Dakota's communications infrastructure and make high-speed voice and data networks available to farmers, ranchers and rural businesses.

Born and raised in Bismarck, North Dakota, Schafer graduated from the University of North Dakota in 1969 with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and earned an MBA from the University of Denver in 1970.

## CRP Program Participant Reminders

CRP participants are reminded that many CRP contracts now require the producer to perform Mid-Contract Management Practices of burning, spraying or strip disking during various times through out the life of the contract. Failure of the CRP participant to timely complete these management practices is considered a contract violation that can lead to the termination of the contract and repayment of CRP monies. If you are unsure of your requirements contact your local FSA office to answer your questions.

CRP participants are also reminded to report to their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office when there are changes that occur due to transfer of ownership, death, incompetent or missing persons.

The following changes must be reported to the FSA office; changes to banking information for direct deposit payments, mailing address changes, land ownership changes--including land transfers to living trusts, irrevocable trusts, etc. Estates of CRP participants need to contact their local FSA Service Center while the Estate is open to obtain and submit documents needed to ensure earned CRP payments can be issued.

Representatives of deceased CRP participants must inform their local FSA Service Center by submitting one or more of the following applicable documents:

- Copy of death certificate;
- Copy of Court appointment for estate;
- Estate ID number if available; and/or
- Copy of deed transferring ownership to survivor.

Failure to report these changes may result in ineligibility for CRP annual rental payments or termination of CRP contracts, which requires the refund of all payments received under the CRP contract including annual rental payments, cost share and incentive payments plus interest and liquidated damages. It is extremely important that all Conservation Reserve Program Contracts contain accurate information.

CRP Program participants are reminded to take action to report changes immediately to avoid unnecessary delays in program benefits or inaccurate payments. Lastly, contact your local FSA county office if you have any questions regarding the terms and conditions of your CRP contract.

**Continuous CRP Available**

USDA has recently indicated there will not be general signups scheduled for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in 2008. The budget for FY 2008 assumes no available funding for CRP general signups.

However, environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Programs (CREP) or Continuous CRP will still be eligible for enrollment. These targeted programs are funded, and will continue to provide a heightened environmental benefit on select areas. Remember, the deadline date for approval for all CRP, including CREP program practices in the 2002 Farm Bill Extension is April 18, 2008.

## Emergency Conservation Program

It has been announced that producers who have made an application for cost-share assistance through the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) due to the heavy rains and flooding must have the work completed by May 1, 2008 to be eligible for cost-share assistance. Due to the weather, we have been behind in making the required field visits. Please be patient as we work to complete this task.

Also, the Gentry and Worth County FSA offices have requested additional funding for ECP and applications that have not been approved to date cannot be approved until additional funding is received. Work can be completed without an approval, but the applicant must understand that cost-share payments will not be made until funding is received and there is always a chance that funding will not be received.

If you know you will not have the work completed by May 1, 2008, you are encouraged to contact the office and withdraw your application.

## Disaster Programs



The office is currently conducting sign-up and processing payments to producers for the Crop Disaster Program and Livestock Compensation Program. Past newsletters have covered these programs in detail. If you have any questions feel free to contact your local office for information.

**Reporting Farm Changes**

It is the producer's responsibility to notify FSA of any changes in their farming operation or entity status throughout the year. Changes that may affect a determination include, but are not limited to, a change in contract shares which may reflect change of land lease from cash rent to share rent; addition or deletion of a farm; change in the structure of the farming operation, such as individual to corporation or trust; change in contributions or inputs such as personal labor, or change in farming interests.

Timely notification of these changes will allow the office to update records prior to a program sign-up.

### **Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)**



Do you need more storage capability for your farming operation? Check with your local FSA office to discuss the possibility of a Farm Storage

Facility Loan. Low cost loans for storage facilities continue to be available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, grain sorghum, corn and soybeans.

The seven-year FSFL's 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 FSFL's are secured with a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85% of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required. A \$45.00 application fee is assessed and other fees are incurred depending on the type of loan being processed

### **Beware of Crop Insurance Rebating Schemes**

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) has received reports from producers and agents that some aggressive marketers have been approaching producers with rebating offers when they purchase crop insurance. These schemes promise lower insurance premiums, refunds, dividends, or items of value tied to crop insurance purchases. Most of these activities are illegal.

RMA reminds all Federal crop insurance program participants that it is now coordinating with state regulators to take appropriate regulatory action against

all those who are found to promote or participate in such schemes. **Producers who are found to participate in illegal rebating activities will not only lose their crop insurance coverage but will also lose eligibility in all USDA programs.** Producers and agents can report suspicions of illegal rebating to the OIG Hotline: 1-800-424-9121.

### **Toll-Free Number for Borrowers**



Direct loan borrowers with USDA's Farm Service Agency can check the status of their accounts around the clock using a new toll-free telephone number.

The toll-free number, 1-888-518-4983, is available in both English and Spanish. The system delivers information on active FSA loans 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

During the first call to the system, borrowers will enter their tax identification number or the Social Security Number associated with the loan. They also will need to enter their ZIP code. Borrowers will create a personal identification number for security. Customers must enter their PIN every time they use the system and may change their PIN. The system menu helps user's access helpful information. The system may also direct borrowers to contact their local FSA servicing office if action is necessary on their accounts.

### **Foreign Buyers Notification**

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transactions to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these requirements.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE  
FARM SERVICE AGENCY  
GENTRY/WORTH FSA OFFICE**

### **Controlled Substance**

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.

### **Direct and Guaranteed Loans Available**

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are available now.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Loan funds are available now — apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner. Most of our loan programs have special funding available for minority, female and beginning farmers.

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the FSA loan officials to arrange an appointment to meet with you and discuss your options.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

May 1	Last day to have work completed on ECP
May 26	Memorial Day – USDA Service Center Closed
May 31	Final availability date for 2007 corn and soybean loans and LDP's

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