



Gentry/Worth County  
**FSA NEWSLETTER**  
May 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

Gentry and Worth County Producers,

As I write this newsletter, it has rained today and stopped the progress people were making with crop planting. Hopefully by the time you receive it, planting progress has resumed with an end in sight.

Please take note of the articles on reporting of failed and prevented planting acreage and contact the office promptly to make reports of failed or prevented acreage. Now is a good time to report CRP and forage crops to avoid the rush and long lines at the office when crop planting is completed.

A signup deadline has been announced for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP). That deadline is July 18, 2008. If you owned grazing livestock in Worth or Gentry counties in 2005, 2006, or 2007 and have not completed an application for payment under this program you need to do it now.

A new CRP practice is available for Missouri producers called SAFE. This practice is designed to improve habitat for the bobwhite quail. See the article in the newsletter for more details about this program.

Our County Committee election process is getting underway with nominations being accepted at FSA offices beginning June 15<sup>th</sup>. I encourage everyone to become involved with the election process whether it is just to return a voted ballot or to run for a County Committee position. The County Committee is your local representative in administering federal farm programs. See the article to see which Local Administrative Areas in your county are holding elections this year.

Hopefully by the time I write the next newsletter we will have information on farm programs for 2008. I wish you a safe and productive planting season.

Mark Cadle, CED

**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 a change of land leased from share rent to cash rent; addition or deletion of a farm; change in the structure of the farming operation, such as individual to a corporation or trust; change in contributions or inputs such as personal labor, or change in farming interest.

**Final Loan Availability Date**

Producers are reminded that the final date to obtain a commodity price support loan for 2007 Crop Year Corn, Beans and Milo is June 2. Also, if you are considering a new grain bin or remodeling some existing storage, ask the office staff about a Farm Storage Facility Loan. FSA's interest rates make these programs very attractive at the present time. May's interest rate for facility loans is 3.0% and the rate for commodity loans is 2.625%

## **Prevented Planting or Failed Crop Acreage**

When weather prevents planting or damages crops, producers are reminded to report that acreage to their local FSA office. Failed acreage must be reported to FSA before destroying and replanting to allow time for a field check. Farmers that are prevented from planting a crop need to report the prevented planting no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date for the crop. In Worth and Gentry counties the final planting date for program purposes is June 5<sup>th</sup> for corn and June 20<sup>th</sup> for Soybeans and Milo.

This simple act of insuring that failed acres are documented in our office could be the determining factor in whether or not a farmer is eligible for future crop disaster program payments. Producers must be able to establish and document to the satisfaction of the County Committee that the crop that failed or was prevented from being planted or replanted through the normal planting period because the area was affected by a natural disaster rather than a management decision. The producer should be able to show that preliminary efforts had been made to plant the crop, such as tilling the land, or orders for the purchase or delivery of seed and fertilizer.

### **Crop Reports**

The offices are taking crop reports at this time. In fact now is an excellent time to report CRP, pasture, and hay to avoid having to wait when reporting begins on spring planted crops, such as corn and soybeans. I do wish to remind you to check the planted acres and crop shares on your acreage report. 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 FSA program benefits.

The deadline to report small grains, such as wheat & oats is June 30<sup>th</sup> and the deadline for corn, beans, milo, CRP, and forage crops is July 31. All acreage with NAP coverage needs to be reported by the earlier of the applicable crop reporting deadline or 15 days before harvest or grazing begins. Feel free to contact the office to set up an appointment for a time to complete your crop reports. This allows us to have your farm folders all ready when you arrive and saves time for you as well as helping the office staff.

A new Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) practice became available to area producers on May 1 and is called SAFE- State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement. This new program allows producers in Missouri to qualify for annual CRP payments in return for establishing wildlife habitat restoration areas on eligible cropland acreage. The program allows enrollment of 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 of the acreage offered. In addition to the regular 50% cost-share for CRP practice establishment additional incentive payments are available, including a one time lump sum sign-up incentive payment equal to \$100 per acre and an additional 40% cost-share payment.

The fields enrolled 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 wildlife food plots 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 unless that contract is expiring on September 30, 2008.

Missouri has received an allotment of 6,250 acres for SAFE. Sign-up began on May 1. If you feel you are interested in this or any CRP program contact the office with specific questions.

### **Preventing Fraud**

FSA has joined with the Risk Management Agency to prevent fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to RMA. Producers can report suspected cases to the county office staff, RMA office, or the Office of the Inspector General.

## **A New CRP Practice called SAFE**

## **Conservation Compliance**

- Do you intend to clear timber areas to create or to expand existing crop areas?
- Are you converting a pasture field into a crop field?
- Are there any areas on your farm that you are considering cropping that have not been cropped in recent years?
- Is there a wet spot in a field that you want to drain to make cropping easier?
- Are you disturbing a wildlife habitat area of any type?
- Are you doing anything different on your farm this year?

These are highly erodible and wetland provision questions that need to be answered by producers to assure that they remain eligible for USDA benefits. All participants in USDA programs are required to have a conservation system in place on all the highly erodible land that they operate. Several areas where problems can arise when complying with a conservation system are; renting new cropland, purchasing new land, breaking out additional cropland, changing a crop rotation, and changing or removing existing conservation practices.

It is very important that you contact the FSA office before doing any of the above and before modifying, tiling, draining, dredging, filling, or leveling any wetland or drainage ditch. Remember, failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations may result in loss of all Federal payments and eligibility.

## IMPORTANT CRP REMINDERS

- **CRP acres need to be certified (reported) in our office each year.**
- Reminders have been sent out for required food plots, be sure to complete and return the forms when the food plots are planted.
- Reminders have also been sent out for required management practices. After you burn, disc or apply chemicals, bring in or send the completed forms we sent you along with any bills you may have.
- If you plan to hay or graze any of your CRP under a managed haying and grazing plan, you need to contact our office and NRCS before you get ready to start. Remember that you can only hay or graze CRP acreage once every three years and there is a 25% payment reduction on the acres actually hayed or grazed
- The only dates haying or grazing can occur is between **July 15<sup>th</sup>** and **September 30<sup>th</sup>**. **The ending date is a change from prior years, haying or grazing is only allowed through September 30<sup>th</sup>.**

## County Committee Elections

Both the Worth and Gentry County Farm Service Agencies are looking for individuals interested in serving on the FSA County Committees. This year Local Administrative Area (LAA) #2 will be having an election in Worth County. It contains Middlefork and Fletchall Townships. LAA #2 in Gentry County will also be having an election. That LAA is comprised of Cooper, Wilson and Huggins Townships. Any eligible person residing in one of these townships who is interested in running for County Committee, or would like to nominate an individual to run for County Committee, needs to complete a nomination form. The Nomination Form for County FSA Committee Election (FSA-669A) is available at your local FSA office or 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.

Members of socially disadvantaged groups (a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities) are strongly encouraged to complete the Nomination Form for County FSA Committee Election (FSA-669A) and nominate themselves or another eligible candidate. New or beginning farmers are also encouraged to participate in the election process or become candidates for the FSA County Committee themselves.

County Committee members make decisions on applications for federal farm programs and disaster payments. Committee members play a vital role by helping local farmers manage tough financial times and natural disasters. County Committee members serve as a local voice in the administration of federal farm programs.

For more information regarding the County Committee Elections, talk to the any member of the Worth or Gentry FSA County Committee listed on the front page of this newsletter or Mark Cadle, County Executive Director at 660-726-5525 or 660-564-3341 or stop in the local office, for details on the types of decisions county committee members make. Or visit the County Committee Elections website to learn more about the County Committee Election process and read over the fact sheets at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.

The nomination period begins June 15th and runs until August 1, 2008. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters November 3<sup>rd</sup> and must be returned by December 1, 2008. The elected Committee Member and Alternates will take office January 1, 2009.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
 AGRICULTURE  
 FARM SERVICE AGENCY  
 GENTRY/WORTH FSA OFFICE  
 512 East Hwy. 136  
 Albany, MO 64402**

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

June 2	Deadline to apply for 2007 commodity loans and LDP's on corn and soybeans
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	Signup deadline for the Livestock Compensation Program
July 31	Final certification date for all crops and CRP except small grains
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

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