



Gentry/Worth County
FSA NEWSLETTER
July 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 3rd
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 Staff

Charles Meissen,
Manager
Teresa Akers, Officer

Fieldmen

Joe Washburn
Kris Lyle
Bill Grabb

Gentry and Worth County Producers,

I know that my newsletters do not often rate high on most people's must read lists, but I do feel that this is one newsletter that contains much new information and I encourage everyone to take a few minutes to read and study it to make certain you have the information you need to make informed decisions concerning FSA programs and how they can fit with your farming operations.

Since the last newsletter from the office a new farm bill has been enacted, sign up has begun for the 2008 DCP program, Worth County has been approved for 2008 ECP, the crop reporting deadline has been extended, changes have occurred with the Farm Loan personnel that serve the Gentry and Worth county offices, and information on the permanent disaster legislation in the new farm bill concerning programs like SURE and the deadlines concerning it has become available. Sign up has also begun for quality losses to crops under the '05, '06, and '07 Crop Disaster Program and a number of deadlines have been announced for current programs such as LCP and LIP. More detailed information concerning each of these items and more is contained in the various newsletter articles.

The offices had been accepting applications to release CRP acreage for haying and grazing under critical feed use regulations. These regulations allowed for haying or grazing on up to ½ of each field for a fee of \$75 per contract. On July 8, 2008 a Federal Judge granted a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) regarding the Critical Feed Use initiative. This restraining order suspended FSA's authority to process or approve these releases. Producers who were previously approved are no longer authorized to hay or graze CRP acreage beginning on July 16, 2008 under "Critical Feed Use" provisions. Until further notice haying or grazing under Critical Feed Use regulations will be considered an unauthorized activity on CRP land. The Temporary Restraining Order is in effect until modified by the Court. A hearing has been scheduled and hopefully this issue will be resolved shortly. Contact your local FSA office if you have any questions regarding this information.

All these programs running at the same time also means that we are very busy in the office. While we have seldom taken appointments in the past for crop reporting or sign up for the annual farm program it may save time for both you and the office staff if you will call to make an appointment to schedule a time for you to come in. That way we can try to be better prepared to serve you efficiently when you arrive. I thank you in advance for your patience and understanding during this very busy time.

Mark Cadle

2007 ECP

The office wants to remind producers who filed an application for 2007 ECP cost share that they have until **July 30, 2008**, to complete the work and submit the bills associated with the land restoration. All work related to the 2007 storms must be completed by that date or the application will be cancelled. If you have questions regarding your 2007 application, please contact the office at your earliest convenience.

Changes in Farm Loan Program Assignments

Charles Meissen, Bethany, MO., has assumed the responsibilities for the Farm Loan Program in Daviess and DeKalb Counties with the retirement of Mike Harwood. He will be assisted by Teresa Akers, Farm Loan Officer and Pat Barnett, Program Technician. Mr. Meissen and his staff can be contacted by either calling the Gentry or Worth County FSA Offices or the Harrison County FSA Office at 660-425-7635.

DCP Annual Sign-Up June 25 –Sept. 30 2008

The 2008 DCP Signup period started June 25, 2008 and runs through **September 30, 2008**. The rules for 2008 will be basically the same as the 2007 DCP Program. One main change however, is that farms with bases totaling 10 acres or less can not receive payment unless the owner or owners are eligible as a Limited Resource **or** Socially Disadvantaged producer. This requirement is for the Farm **Owner** – if the owner is eligible then anyone sharing on that farm is eligible including any tenants/operators that wouldn't meet the exception. To be eligible the farm must be wholly owned by someone meeting one of the exceptions or an entity that is completely made up of members that meet the exceptions. Farms jointly owned by Husband and wife would only be eligible if both could meet one of the exceptions. A Socially Disadvantaged person is defined as a member of a group who has been subject to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of their identity to a group rather than their individual qualities and a Limited Resource farmer for our area is one whose gross farm sales is less than \$116,800 **and** has a total household adjusted gross income of less than \$19,350 in the previous 2 yrs.

Producers may request a 22% advance DCP direct payment for 2008 beginning in July and final payments will be issued after the first of October. To be eligible to receive payments producers will be required to comply with applicable soil and water conservation and wetland requirements as in the past, use the base acres for an agricultural or conserving use, control noxious weeds on base acres not cropped, file an acreage report and if participating in ACRE, beginning in 2009, a production report.

The '08-'12 crop base acres and farm payment yields in our area will remain the same. Direct Payments and price protection are only slightly less. A few provisions for 2009 – 2012 have changed: the non-farm income cap for eligibility to receive program payments was dropped to \$500,000 and reduces the cap on farm income to \$750,000. Direct & counter-cyclical payments are capped similar to '07 at \$40,000 & \$65,000 but are capped at \$32,000 & \$75,000 if participating in ACRE which is a new **Average Crop Revenue Election Program** with a state-based revenue guarantee based on a 5-year state average yield and a 2-year national average price. It provides payments to farmers when the actual state revenue for a crop is less than its revenue guarantee. Preliminary 2009-12 rules & current regulations can be viewed on our website at www.fsa.usda.gov .

Supplemental Revenue Program (SURE)

There are many questions concerning the disaster portion of the new Farm Bill and the "SURE" program that we do not have answers for at this time. SURE is the acronym for the Supplemental Revenue Program, which is one part of the permanent disaster legislation included in the new farm bill. We do know that to be eligible for payment under this permanent program the producer will be required to have all crops (this would include pasture and all other forage crops) in all counties in which they operate covered by NAP or crop insurance. For 2008 only, producer's will have the opportunity to pay the fees now for both CAT crop insurance and NAP (\$100 per crop) in order to be eligible for SURE assistance. Producers paying these fees will not have coverage under NAP and insurance for 2008, but paying the fees allows them to be eligible for the "SURE" disaster program. We will have the capability to collect these CAT and NAP fees soon. The fees for 2008 must be paid by September 16th for a producer to be eligible for SURE.

For 2009 and future years the fees would have to be paid by the regular sales closing deadlines and the producer would actually have coverage for NAP and/or Insurance.

SURE will not offer payments for specific crop losses, but rather will provide assistance for overall Revenue losses on a farm which is computed based on all commodities produced. Producers can be eligible if in a county that has a Secretarial Disaster Designation or are adjacent to one or if the producer has a greater than 50% loss regardless of county designation. The SURE program will not offer any immediate payments to producers who are suffering from the current weather conditions. Payments could not be computed until marketing prices and farm revenue can be computed sometime next year.

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. Eligible livestock include: Beef, Dairy Cattle, Sheep, Goats, Swine, Equine and Poultry. (Claimed livestock must be for commercial purposes in a farming operation to be considered eligible. The average payment for an adult cow is \$10.66/head and for 500+lb calves is \$8.00/head).

Crop Disaster Sign-up Continues and Quality Sign-up Begins

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 has begun at the county offices. **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 more disaster program information go online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) for 2008

The Worth County Committee recently submitted a request to have the ECP program approved in Worth County for the recent flooding occurring in June of 2008 and the local FSA office has been informed that the request has been approved.

A sign up to implement the 2008 ECP program for Worth County will begin on **July 14th and run through September 12th** for producers who suffered damage to cropland due to the flooding experienced in June. The 2008 program will be administered much the same as the 2007 version with some slight variations on cost share rates. Some of the provisions are as follows:

- Must have at least \$1000 worth of damage
- Sand must be at least 6" in depth and ½ acre in size
- Drainage ditches must be silted in from this years storms not previous years
- 75% of the average cost will be cost shared on eligible practices
- Field inspections must be done by our office **BEFORE** the work is complete

2008 Crop Acreage Reporting Deadline Extended to August 15th

The delays in the announcement of the 2008 Farm Bill and weather conditions have contributed to the extension of the 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, fruits and vegetables, hay and pasture by August 15th. You will need to bring your planting dates with you.

Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage & prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Acreage reported after the Aug 15 deadline will be considered late filed and a measurement service fee (minimum \$46/farm) will be charged for a field visit to verify physical evidence.

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) has also extended the date for insured producers to file their insured acreage reports to Aug 15 but encourages producers to file reports at their earliest opportunity so claims can be worked. When reporting to RMA & FSA producers should identify any land coming into production that has not been cropped in the last 3 years to insure you meet sodbuster requirements. (Land that expired from CRP is considered to have been cropped during the time in was in CRP.)

Failed & Prevented Planting Acres: Producers need to report prevented planted or damaged crops the FSA office 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 (FCIC) or have Non-insured Assistance Program (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.

REMINDER: Reported planted acreage and prevented planted & failed 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 be considered ineligible for program benefits or may be required to refund benefits. Producers may want to report your PP acres to your crop insurance agent first as RMA eligible PP acres for payment may be different than allowed PP acres for FSA (FSA max PP ac is max ac planted in any one of last 4 years)

Dates to Remember

July 14	'08 ECP signup begins
July 18	LCP/LIP Deadline
July 30	'07 ECP work deadline
August 1	COC Nomination ends
August 15	Crop Report Deadline
Sept. 16	SURE fee deadline
Sept. 30	2008 DCP deadline

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

USDA Announced CRP Release For Livestock Feed Needs

Recently, USDA had authorized certain acreage enrolled under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to be available for hay or pasture after the primary nesting season ended for ground-nesting birds, **which, in northern Missouri, is after July 15, 2008**. This modification was under critical feed use initiatives and was only available in 2008. **Prior to haying or grazing, producers would have been required to pay a fee of \$75**. No payment reduction would have been assessed on contracts being utilized for this critical feed use. Haying was limited to 50% of each eligible field. If grazing, 25% of each field must have remained ungrazed or all of the eligible CRP acreage could have been grazed at no more than 75% of the stocking rate, as determined by NRCS. **All hay and livestock was to be removed by Nov. 10, 2008**.

The most environmentally sensitive land enrolled in CRP was ineligible for critical feed use. These lands included wetlands, buffers, filter strips and other practices. In addition, acreage ineligible for critical feed use included acreage devoted to useful life easements, and land within 120 feet of a stream or other permanent water body.

On July 8, 2008 a Federal Judge granted a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) regarding the Critical Feed Use (CFU) initiative. Accordingly, all authority is suspended to process or approve the release of CRP for this purpose. Producers who have been previously approved are being notified that any CFU activity must immediately cease and that any such activity will, until further notice, be considered an unauthorized activity on CRP land. The Restraining Order is in effect until modified by the Court. A hearing has been scheduled and hopefully the issue will be resolved shortly.

At this time some options do exist for producers to hay or graze CRP acreage under the managed haying and grazing provisions contained in their conservation plan of operations. This option would require a payment reduction of 25% of the contract price on the acres actually hayed or grazed and only acreage not hayed or grazed in the last 3 years would be eligible for release.

Please call 660-726-5525 in Gentry County or 660-564-3341 in Worth County with any questions you have concerning this information. Do not hay or graze any acreage released under Critical Feed Use provisions until further notice.

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