

April 2008

Greene County News



Greene County USDA Service Center

Greene County FSA
688 S State HWY B
Suite 300
Springfield, MO 65802
PH 417-831-5246
Fax 417-831-4022
www.fsa.usda.gov

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

County Committee
David Trogdon – Chm
Judy Spencer – VChm
Larry White - Mem

County Committee
meets the first
Wednesday of each
month at 10:00 a.m.
in the county office.



Staff
Barbara Ingerson – PT
Brenda Maggard – PT
Sharon Pettibon - FLT
Jim Kyle – DD
Ron Keith – AFLPS
Mark Aycock – FLS
Wyman Miller - CED

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 will need to provide to the 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, 2005 - 2007.

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.

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.

ATTENTION LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) for the disaster events in 2005, 2006 and 2007 is still ongoing.

If you owned or cash leased eligible livestock on January 1st of 2005, 2006 or 2007 and suffered an eligible feed loss, you may be compensated.

Payment rates for some eligible livestock are:

- BEEF (Adult) – \$10.66/head
- DAIRY (Adult) - \$27.72/head
- BEEF & DAIRY (500#'s plus on Jan. 1st) - \$8.00/head

Other eligible livestock include: Buffalo, Beefalo, Sheep, Goats, Equine, Swine, Poultry, Deer and Elk. (Claimed livestock must be for commercial purposes in a farming operation to be considered eligible).

Producers incurring losses in 2005, 2006 and 2007 must choose only one year for which to receive benefits.

If you have any questions, give us a call. If not, get your livestock numbers and come by our office.

Also included is the Livestock Indemnity Program, LIP, for producers who lost livestock as a **direct** result of a declared disaster event. Applicants must



have owned the livestock on the beginning date of the disaster and provide **verifiable** proof of death. If verifiable proof is not available, a third party certification may be used. The owner must provide a written, dated and signed statement that no other proof is available, number of livestock by category when the deaths occurred, physical location in inventory when deaths occurred and documentation that supports reasonableness of the number of livestock in inventory when deaths occurred. The third party certification must provide a written and signed statement giving specific details about how the third party has knowledge of the animal deaths, affiliation to the producer, telephone number and address, number and kind of livestock that died because of the disaster and other specific details for the committee and DD to determine the certification is acceptable.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP Flooding)

Because of flooding on March 17 – 19, Greene County has been approved to implement the ECP program. Sign up for ECP began, April 14, 2008 and runs for 60 days, or until June 13, 2008. For a producer's land to be eligible, the disaster must create new conservation problems that, if untreated, would impair or endanger the land and affect its productive capacity. The damage must also be so costly to repair that Federal assistance will be required to return the agricultural land to productive use. Conservation problems existing prior to the applicable disaster are ineligible for ECP assistance. Funds can be used to remove debris from agricultural farmland that interferes with normal farming operations, restore structures washed out, grade and shape areas covered with sand and gravel, and restore fences.

Applications are being taken at the local FSA office but funds have not been received for this program at this time. Producers must incur at least \$1000.00 of out of pocket expense to be eligible for assistance.



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 April 18, 2008, the President signed into law H.R. 5813 which authorizes FSA to continue administering 2008 crop wool, mohair, and unshorn pelt MALs and LDPs through **April 25, 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 25, 2008**.

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 Non-insured 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>

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.

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%

Report Failed Crop Acreage Prior to Destruction

With spring planting around the corner, the Webster County 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 Wyman Miller Executive Director, Greene County FSA Office. "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.

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.**

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other as individuals for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the County Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency office

Dates to Remember	
April 25	2002 Farm Bill Extension deadline for 2008 LDP's on wool, mohair and unshorn pelts.
April 25	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/

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.