

**Greene County  
USDA Service Center**

**Greene County FSA**  
688 S State HWY B  
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Springfield, MO 65802  
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[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://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

## FSA COC Nomination Deadline

County committees play a crucial role in helping county office staff implement the 2008 Farm Bill. Due to the importance of county committee members and their roles, producers are encouraged to participate in the 2008 FSA county committee election process by nominating an eligible candidate by the August 1 deadline.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The Nomination Form for County FSA Committee Election (FSA-669A) is available at the Greene 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.

Nomination forms for the 2008 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on August 1, 2008.

FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Committees consist of three members who are elected by eligible local producers. This year the election will be held in Local Administrative Area 2. David Trogdon is the committee person currently serving this area. This area includes the Walnut Grove, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Boone, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Center, Pond Creek and East and West Republic townships.

FSA will mail ballots to producers beginning Nov. 3. The voted ballots are due back at the local county office either via mail or in person by December 1, 2008. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office January 1, 2009.

For more information regarding the County Committee Elections, talk to the Greene Committee, or Wyman Miller, County Executive Director at 417 831-5246 or stop in the office located at 688 S State HWY B, Springfield, MO for details on the types of decisions county committee members make. 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>.

## FSA Farm Loans

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 modified the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Farm Loan programs. For Direct Farm Operating and Farm Ownership loans, the maximum loan amount has been increased to \$300,000.

The FSA Farm Ownership Down Payment Loan program allows eligible family farmers to purchase farms with a 5% down payment, while financing up to 45% of the purchase price with a low interest direct loan from FSA. The remainder of the purchase price would be financed by another lender, who could qualify for a loan guarantee from FSA. Socially Disadvantaged Applicants (SDA) are one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of their identity as a member of the group without regard to their individual qualities. SDA groups include; Women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

The Farm Ownership Down Payment Loan program was modified in several ways:

- Expanded to include Socially Disadvantaged Applicants;
- Interest rate reduced to the Direct Farm Ownership rate less 4% or 1.5% whichever is greater;
- Maximum loan amount changed from \$100,000 to an amount not exceeding 45% of the least of:
  - (a) the purchase price of the farm; (b) the appraised value of the farm; or (c) \$500,000.

**Note:** This would result in a maximum FSA loan amount of \$225,000 and no limitation on the purchase price of the farm.
- Loan term is extended from 15 years to 20 years; and
- Required down payment is reduced from 10% to 5%.

To find out more about the FSA Farm Ownership Down Payment Loan program, contact your local FSA county office to setup an appointment with a loan approval official.

## 2008 Crop Year Loans and LDP's

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 authorizes marketing assistance loans (MAL's) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's) for crop years 2008 through 2012. General provision in effect for the 2007 crop year will remain in effect for the 2008 crop year.

Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.625%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	4.625%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	3.375%

## 2008 DCP Program Sign-up Is Underway

Producers have until September 30, 2008 to sign-up for the 2008 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP). Producers can fill out their 2008 DCP contract at any USDA Farm Service Agency County Office. Sign-up can also be completed online by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/edcp> and clicking on "Access eDCP Service." You can choose payment options, assign crop shares and sign and submit contracts from any computer with Internet access. You can also view and print submitted contract options.

FSA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2008, eligible producers may request to receive an advance payment of 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments as soon as practical after enrollment. Final direct payments will be issued after Oct. 1, 2008. Counter-cyclical payments vary depending on market prices, and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate).

For all eligibility requirements or addition information, contact your local office.

## 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.

For more information, contact your local FSA office for program sign-up details.

Selected Interest Rates for July 2008	
90-Day Treasury Bill	1.625%
Farm Operating Loans -- Direct	3.625%
Farm Ownership Loans -- Direct	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans -- Down Payment	1.500%

## New Crop Certification Deadline

For 2008, the final crop reporting dates will be **extended to August 15, 2008**. Late fees will not be applied if acreage reports are filed by August 15 and all other reporting requirements are met.

Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including prevented planted and failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments. Report of acreage must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted.

## CRP & NAP Certification

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

## Farm Reconstitutions

In Farm Service Agency terms, farms are **constituted** to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm **reconstitution** is necessary.

The reconstitution -- or recon -- is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. To be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program. The 2008 Act provides that a producer on a farm may not receive direct payments, counter-cyclical payments, or average crop revenue election payments if the sum of the base acres of the farm is 10.0 acres or less, except if the farm is wholly owned by either of the following:

- A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher;
- A limited resource farmer or rancher.

## CRP PAYMENT RATES TO BE UPDATED

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices are currently reviewing soil rental rates and local farmland cash rent rates to determine the maximum payment rate for CRP annual payments. This is to guarantee the CRP rental rates are set at market levels to ensure program operations do not distort local rental markets, program costs are minimized, and program benefits are achieved.



As a result a large majority of State Rental Rates may be adjusted as a result of this review process. Producers should consider these soil rental rate changes before agreeing to terms of new contracts. Soil rental rates are expected to be updated sometime in August or September.

USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program available to agricultural producers to help them safeguard environmentally sensitive land. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long term, resource conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion, and enhance wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost share assistance.

FSA administers CRP, while other USDA agencies and partners provide technical support. More detailed information on CRP is available in the FSA fact sheet "Conservation Reserve Program."

Environmentally desirable land devoted to certain conservation practices may be enrolled in CRP at any time under continuous sign-up. Offers are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements. Offers for continuous sign-up are not subject to competitive bidding. Continuous sign-up contracts are 10 to 15 years in duration.

To offer land for continuous sign-up, producers should contact their local FSA offices.

### **BUY-IN WAIVER FOR SUPPLEMENTAL AGRICULTURAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

The 2008 Farm Bill requires producers who wish to participate in the new disaster programs to have crop insurance or non-insured crop disaster assistance (NAP) coverage for the land for which assistance is being requested, and for all farms in all counties in which they have an interest. Since the 2008 Act was enacted after the application periods had closed for those programs, producers who did not have such coverage could not comply with this requirement in order to be eligible for the new disaster programs. However, the 2008 Act authorizes a waiver that allows producers to pay a fee, called a "buy-in" fee, to be eligible for this new disaster assistance. The buy-in fee for 2008 eligibility only for either the catastrophic risk protection insurance (CAT) or NAP is \$100 per crop, but not more than \$300 per producer per administrative county, or \$900 total per producer for all counties less any previously paid fees for CAT and/or NAP. Producers can contact their local administrative FSA County Office to file the application for waiver and pay the applicable fees.

Producers who meet the definition of "Socially Disadvan-

taged, Limited Resource," or "Beginning Farmer or Rancher," do not have to meet the Risk Management Purchase Requirement, and, therefore, are not required to pay the buy-in fee.

Contact the local FSA office for additional information.

### **DAIRY DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

DDAP-III payments have been calculated. Request received far exceeded the \$16 million available for payments. Therefore, using the alternative payment method, DDAP-III payments were factored as follows:

- dairy operations with losses less than or equal to the 20 percent loss will **not** receive DDAP-III benefits
- dairy operations with losses greater than 20 percent in each applicable disaster year will receive a payment equal to 37.28 percent of the applicable payment rate, times their eligible losses in each applicable disaster year exceeding 20 percent.

### **Foreign Landowner Notification**

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) 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 transaction to FSA with 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, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

### **2008 Wool, Mohair, Unshorn Pelt LDP's**

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 authorizes 2008 crop marketing assistance loans (MALs) and loan deficiency payments (LDPs). A beneficial interest exception for 2008 crop wool, mohair and unshorn pelt producers who lost beneficial interest in 2008 crop before June 5, 2008 may apply for a LDP until July 11, 2008.



### NRCS Announces EQIP Sign-Up Opportunity

Missouri Landowners can apply July 21 to September 19, 2008 for natural resources conservation assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced.

EQIP promotes agricultural production and environmental quality. Through EQIP, farmers and ranchers receive financial and technical assistance to help install structural conservation practices and to implement management systems that promote conservation.

State Conservationist Roger Hansen says that beginning with this sign up, limited-resource farmers, beginning farmers and socially disadvantaged farmers are eligible for increased rates of financial assistance. Also new, Hansen says, is that financial assistance is available for new practices that improve air quality or conserve energy.

Hansen says some tasks associated with this sign up, such as scoring and ranking, cannot be completed until there is a final EQIP rule. The rule will provide new guidance for the EQIP program and will incorporate the 2008 Farm Bill changes. However, NRCS can accept applications, screen them and develop conservation plans while the new rules are pending.

To apply for EQIP or to get more information about EQIP and other NRCS programs, contact the NRCS office serving your county. Greene County – 417-831-5246, ext. 3. Webster County – 417-468-4176, ext.3. You can also get information about NRCS programs online at <http://www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov/programs>.

### Dates to Remember

July 18	<b>Deadline</b> to sign-up for LCP and LIP.
Aug. 1	<b>Last day</b> to file County Committee Nomination forms.
Aug. 1	<b>Final date</b> to request farm reconstitution for current fiscal year.
Aug. 15	<b>Final certification date</b> for all crops. Late fees will be assessed after Aug. 15.
Sept. 1	Labor Day Holiday. <b>FSA Offices Closed.</b>
Sept. 16	<b>Final date</b> for the SURE, EALHF, LFP or TAP programs.
Sept. 30	Continue all CRP operations.
Sept. 30	<b>Deadline</b> to sign-up ends for 2008 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program.
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan program.
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program through September 30 <sup>th</sup> , under previous authorities.

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