

March/April 2008

USDA County News



County USDA Service Centers

Grundy Co FSA Office
3415 Oklahoma Ave
Trenton, Mo 64683
660-359-2006

Mercer Co FSA Office
Route 2 Box 317
Hwy 65 N.
Princeton, MO 64673
660-748-4385

Putnam Co FSA Office
28988 US Hwy 136
Unionville, MO 63565
660-947-2439

Schuyler Co FSA Office
200 Green
P.O. Box 249
Lancaster, MO 63548
660-457-3715

Scotland Co FSA Office
Hwy 136 E
Route 1 Box 73H
Memphis, MO 63555
660-465-8517

Sullivan Co FSA Office
23487 Eclipse Dr.
Milan, MO 63556
660-265-3440

CREP & 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.

Sodbuster, Swampbuster

Most Farm Service Agency programs require compliance with sodbuster and swampbuster provisions. These provisions require producers to follow an approved conservation system on all highly erodible land planted to an annual crop as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Be sure to have determinations made on any new land you plan to plant to annual crops. If you plan to plant a different crop on your current cropland, check with NRCS to assure the new crop will qualify under your conservation system.

Swampbuster provisions state that converting a wetland to make possible the planting of a crop will result in the loss of all USDA benefits. To avoid this possibility it is strongly recommended that producers check with NRCS before starting to work in the fields.



Acreage Reporting

Acreage reporting time will soon be here. Please remember that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by the June 30 deadline on small grains, such as wheat and oats, and by the July 31 deadline on all other crops; hay/pasture, corn, soybeans, and CRP.

Acreage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of June 30 for small grains and July 31 for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.



CRP Program Participant Reminder Letter

CRP participants are reminded to report to their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) 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.

NEED GRAIN STORAGE? **Farm Storage Facility Loans**

Low cost loans are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities. All Farm Storage Facility Loans have a seven-year term secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. Information is available on the Farm Service Agency's Web site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/psd/fsfl.htm>

Dairy Disaster Assistance Program Sign-up Begins

Beginning March 5, eligible dairy producers can sign-up for the Dairy Disaster Assistance Program (DDAP-III). DDAP-III will compensate producers for production losses that resulted from cattle and yield losses and produced milk that had to be dumped because of lack of electricity, closed milk plants, damaged containment equipment and other related issues. **Sign-up will conclude May 5, 2008.**

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.** Counties contiguous to such counties will also be eligible.

Under proposed DDAP-III regulations, the following are some of the eligibility requirements producers must meet to receive benefits:

- Producers must have produced and marketed milk any time between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007;
- Producers must have suffered dairy production losses attributed to the declared natural disaster during the eligible period in an approved area.

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. Calculations may be adjusted when losses are not caused by disaster.

Producers will need to provide their annual marketed production and average number of cows in the dairy herd for 2003 and 2004 to determine the base production. To calculate the loss, the dairy must provide the dairy's actual production and average number of cows in the dairy herd for the applicable disaster year(s).

To find out more information about the DDAP- III visit our website at www.fsa.usda.gov .



Could you be missing money? Have you Changed banks?

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.

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.

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 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. Contact your local FSA office for more details.

Crop Insurance Fraud

FSA will be monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse in crop insurance to the Risk Management Agency. Producers should refer all suspected cases to their local office. Stopping waste and abuse is everyone's responsibility.



Removing CCC Loan Collateral

Producers are reminded, if you have grain under Commodity Credit Corporation loan it cannot be removed or disposed of without prior county office staff authorization or repayment. The county office staff may issue release authorizations based on a telephone or in person request when you are ready to move the grain. A loan violation is subject to monetary and administrative penalties, such as repaying the loan at principal plus interest, liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans and loan deficiency payments.

All commodity loans are subject to spot check. If you are planning to move CCC loan grain, contact the county office staff for additional information.

Disaster Program Reminder

Producers who suffered livestock feed/pasture and/or crop losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 are reminded to stop by the office to apply for benefits.

Dates to Remember	
April 18	2002 Farm Bill Extension deadline for 2008 LDP's on wool, mohair and unshorn pelts.
April 18	2002 Farm Bill Extension deadline for Contract Approval for all CRP, including CREP program practices.
May 5	Sign-up deadline for Dairy Disaster Assistance Program.
May 26	Memorial Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
May 31	Final availability date for 2007 crop corn, grain sorghum, soybean loans and LDP's.
Continuous	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.

Selected Interest Rates for March 2008	
90-Day Treasury Bill	3.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.750%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.875%
Limited Resource Loans	5%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.125%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	3.125%

Please visit the
FSA Website:

www.fsa.usda.gov/mo



2007 Loan/LDP Deadline

The final date to request a Commodity Loan or submit evidence for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for 2007 crop corn, grain sorghum or soybeans is May 31, 2007.

Farm Service Agency



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, audiotape, 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.