



March 2008

Harrison County Newsletter

Harrison County
USDA Service Center

Harrison County FSA
1400 N. 41st Street
Bethany, MO 64424
(660) 425-7635 – phone
(660) 425-3536 – fax

Hours:
Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee:
Michael Smith
Ryan Klindt
Glenn Dale Cox

Staff:
Tony Thompson – CED
Charles Meissen – FLM
Kim Hulett – PT
Bettie Lee – PT
Korissa Robertson – PT
Paula Rinehart - PT
Pat Barnett - PT
Linda Vandivert –PT

USDA Issues Disaster Payments For Crop, Livestock And Feed Losses

Recently, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) began issuing payments to tens of thousands of farmers and ranchers across the country who suffered losses because of natural disasters.

USDA is currently processing about \$1 billion in payments under the Crop Disaster Program, Livestock Compensation Program and Livestock Indemnity Program. Sign-up for these programs is ongoing and no deadline has yet been established. The programs provide payments to agricultural producers who suffered crop, livestock and feed losses in 2005, 2006, and 2007. Producers must choose one year for which to receive payments.

Recent changes have been made in policy and producers are no longer limited to crops that existed or natural disasters that occurred before February 28, 2007. Basically, this means that the entire 2007 year is now eligible for the above programs.

Farmers and ranchers can apply to receive benefits through these and other disaster programs by visiting their local FSA service center. Find more information about FSA disaster programs online at:
<http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

Financial Inquiries

As we begin the new year its time to start thinking about gathering financial records and filling out a 1040. Currently, producer financial information is not available on the USDA Customer Statement under FSA Benefits Sum-

mary. Producers can view his or her financial information on the Financial Inquiries website using their Level 2 account authorization. Producers who want to inquire about a particular electronic deposit, program payment, debt or 1099G should go to www.fsa.usda.gov and select Online Services, then Financial Inquiries for FSA Producers.

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) programs in which either has an interest. In most cases, this option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Glenn Dale Cox! Glenn Dale was elected to represent farmers from Bethany, Butler, Cypress, Dallas, Jefferson, and White Oak townships on the county committee.

The Harrison County FSA would like to thank Jan Hagler for her 3 years of service on the County Committee. Her hard work and dedication was greatly appreciated.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation. County Committee's provide a vital role in the overseeing of the administration of federal agriculture production, farm loan, conservation, price support and emergency programs on a local level.



Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

The NAP program provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters. Producers may want to re-visit the NAP program. One of the eligibility requirements for 2005/ 2006/2007 Crop Disaster Program was that the crop be covered by crop insurance or coverage under the NAP program. Some of the more common crops that is applies to would be hay and seed crops, pecans and in some counties, double-crop soybeans.

To be eligible, crops must be non-insurable and agricultural commodities for which CAT crop insurance is not available and must be any of the following commercially produced crops: crops grown for food or fiber; crops grown for livestock consumption; crops grown under a controlled environment, such as mushrooms; specialty crops, such as honey; value loss crops such as Christmas trees and sod; and seed crops. Eligible producers must apply for coverage of non-insurable crops and pay the applicable service fees by the sales closing date. The service fee is \$100, not to exceed \$300 per producer per county, not to exceed \$900 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

The sales closing date for most crops in Missouri is March 15, 2008. This includes grass hay, alfalfa, seed crops, grazing, forage sorghums, vegetable crops, pecans and double-crop soybeans (where applicable). Acreages and production must annually be reported. Notices of Loss must be filed within 15 days of when the damage to the crop becomes apparent or in the case of prevented planting, within 15 days of the final planting date.

The NAP unit structure is by unique crop interest in a county and is either 100% share or a shared interest with other producers. Coverage is 50% of the expected production based on the approved yield and reported acreage. Price is 55% of the average market price for the crop. For more information on the NAP program, contact your local FSA office.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal law of planting, producing, cultivating, harvesting, growing, or storing a controlled substance will be ineligible to participate and receive payments under USDA programs. Marijuana, opium poppies, and other drug producing plants are controlled substances.

Faxed Signatures

Certain faxed signatures shall be accepted for all applicable program forms or other documents approved for faxed signatures, if all other signature requirements are met.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act 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, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

March 2008 CCC lending rates are:

- 1995 and prior crop year commodity loans: 2.125 % per annum.
- 1996 and subsequent crop year commodity loans: 3.125 % per annum.
 - Local Depository Earnings: 2.125 % per annum.
 - Farm Storage Facility Loans: 3.125 % per annum.
 - Sugar Storage Facility Loans: 4.250 % per annum.

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 their local Farm Service Agency office.

Power of Attorney

We have a power of attorney form available for those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. This can be done by completing an FSA-211, Power of Attorney. The form is available at your local USDA Service Center or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>.

Forms obtained and completed outside the USDA Service Centers offices must be notarized. To find out more, call the office.

Loans for Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has targeted funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants. A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

For detailed information on loan eligibility or the different loan programs available, contact your local FSA office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Application for FSA Loans

Farmers and ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Filing early will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible so that planting decisions can be made. Failure to apply early can result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications that must be processed in date order. Contact Charles Meissen, Farm Loan Manager, for more details and assistance in applying.

New Farm Bill

Authority to hold an annual signup for Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) expires with 2002-2007 Farm Bill on September 30, 2007. At this time we have not received information on the passage of a new farm bill, Watch this newsletter for additional information.

Crop Reports

County Offices are taking crop reports on planted acres of wheat, barley, and oats. Producers may also report CRP and permanent pasture acres at this time.

Emergency Conservation Programs (ECP)

The State Committee has mandated that producers who have made an application for cost-share assistance through the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) due to the damage caused by the heavy rains and flooding last spring must have the work completed by **May 1, 2008**, to be eligible for cost-share assistance. Please contact the office if you are ready to start a project and we have not made an inspection yet. As you complete the work, bring in the bills and report.

Dates to Remember	
Mar 15	Sales Closing Date for 2008 NAP coverage on spring planted crops
Mar. 31	Final Availability for 2007 crop wheat, barley, oats and honey loans and LDP's.
May 31	Final Availability for 2007 crop corn, grain sorghum and soy-bean loans and LDP's
Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm Facility Loans • Update Farm Changes • CRP Continuous Signup • Small Grain, CRP, permanent grass Reporting • Disaster Programs

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.