Farm Service Agency

June 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
Kim Hulett – PT
Bettie Lee – PT
Korissa Robertson – PT
Paula Rinehart - PT
Pat Barnett – PT
Linda Vandivert –PT

Farm Loan Staff
Charles Meissen, Manager
Teresa Akers, Officer

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

County Committee Elections

From **June 15 through Aug. 1**, farmers and ranchers can nominate eligible peers as candidates for election to the Harrison County Farm Service Agency County Committee. Since COC elections happen only once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into *local administrative areas*, or LAAs. Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee.

An election will be held for the Harrison County Committee position for LAA 1 that includes the townships of Lincoln, Hamilton, Colfax, Clay, Washington, Union, Marion, and Madison. Mike Smith currently holds the position and will not be eligible to run again due to term limits.

Any eligible person residing in one of these townships who is interested in running for the County Committee, or would like to nominate an individual to run for the County Committee, must complete a nomination form. The nomination form for County FSA Committee Election (FSA-669A) is available at the Harrison 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.

This is an important time for LAA communities, because county committee members make decisions that have significant effects on you and the area's agricultural sector as a whole. For example, committee members make decisions on applications for federal farm program and disaster payments. Committee members play a vital role by helping local farmers and ranchers manage tough financial times and natural disasters.

Dates to Remember	
Coming Soon	Crop Disaster Quality and Farm Program
June 15	Nomination period for County Committee begins
July 4	Office closed; Independence Day
July 18	Deadline to sign up for Livestock Compensation Program
August 1	Nomination period for County Committee ends
August 15	**Final Extended Deadline** to report all crops and CRP for 2008
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans

Visit our Web site:
http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

Sign-up Deadline for LCP

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). This program provides 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. Producers will choose one year in which to receive benefits. Payments are based on either livestock numbers or the amount of feed loss, whichever is less. The payment rate for adult cows and bulls is $10.66 per head; non-adult beef, $8.00 per head. Other grazing livestock is also eligible. Critical dates of ownership are January 1 of 2005 and 2006, and April 1 of 2007. Non-adult calves must weigh 500 lbs. and must graze after May 1 of the year selected. For more information, contact your local FSA office for program sign-up details.

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 calling the Harrison County FSA Office at 660-425-7635.

2008 Farm Bill Credit Title

Expands Credit Availability for Farmers and Ranchers

Increases the farm ownership loan limit and the operating loan limit to $300,000

Farm Bill Credit Program Facts:

The Beginning Farmer and Rancher Down Payment Loan Program has been changed to better serve producers as follows:

- Fixes the interest rate at 1.5%, or at 4% below the regular direct farm ownership loan interest rates, whichever is greater
- Increases the maximum allowable sales price from $250,000 to $500,000
- Reduces the borrower down payment requirement to not less than 5%
- Changes the term of the loan from 15 years to 20 years.

Contact the FSA Office for details as more information becomes available on the 2008 Farm Bill. To date, policy is being formulated and finalized, software developed and offices are preparing to implement the law.

Final Acreage Reporting Dates Quickly Approaching

Farm Service Agency (FSA), would like to remind producers of the acreage reporting requirements that must be met prior to receiving program benefits. If producers miss the acreage reporting deadline dates, a late filing fee will be charged. The minimum fee is $46.00 per farm.

Producers are required to file an FSA-578, *Report of Acreage,* certification for the farm by the new extended date of August 15 for all crops and CRP. To be considered timely, acreage reports on crops are due in the county office by the earlier of the above, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

It is also very important that producers report crop losses, including those insured under Federal Crop Insurance (FCIC) and Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) within 15 days of the date damage occurred or 15 days from the date damage is apparent. Losses and or damages to crops must be reported after each disaster occurrence and in a timely manner to insure continued eligibility for benefits.

Producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA county office to file the required FSA-578 certification report before the deadline. 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.

State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement

A new continuous signup CRP practice is available in northwest Missouri called SAFE. The practice seeks to address high-value wildlife habitat restoration, specifically bobwhite quail. Whole or partial fields can be enrolled based on crop history of 4 of 6 years, 1996-2001. This period is expected to change with the new farm bill. The practice utilizes dense woody cover or shrub plantings with native grass and forbs, commonly little bluestem, sideoats grama, and alfalfa. At least 10 percent of the acreage will be established in food plots, and management practices will be employed to maintain 25 percent bare ground. Practice length is 14-15 years with a signing bonus of up to $100 per acre. Cost share is available at 50% plus an additional incentive after establishment.

USDA Announces CRP Permitted Use for Livestock Feed Needs

Recently, USDA authorized certain acreage enrolled under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to be available for hay and forage after the primary nesting season ends for grass-nesting birds, **which is after July 15, 2008**. All hay and livestock must be removed by Nov. 10, 2008. This modification for critical feed use is only available in 2008.

CRP participants with certain established vegetative cover may voluntarily have their CRP contract modified by CCC to utilize certain land enrolled in CRP for critical feed use, including haying or grazing. Acreage eligible for critical feed use includes acreage that is fully established and devoted to the following CRP practices in Missouri:

- CP1, Establishment of Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes,
- CP2, Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses,
- CP4B, Permanent Wildlife Habitat – Corridors,
- CP4D, Permanent Wildlife Habitat,
- CP10, Vegetative Cover - Grass - Already established.

The most environmentally sensitive land enrolled in CRP is ineligible for critical feed use. These lands include wetlands, buffers, filter strips and other practices not listed as eligible. In addition, acreage ineligible for critical feed use includes acreage devoted to useful life easements, as determined by CCC, and land within 120 feet of a stream or other permanent water body.

Haying is limited to 50%of each eligible field. If grazing, 25% of each field must remain ungrazed or all of the eligible CRP acreage may be grazed at no more than 75 %of the stocking rate, as determined by NRCS.

Participants who request a voluntary modification to the CRP contract to allow critical feed use must also obtain a modified conservation plan for haying and grazing management in accordance with NRCS Field Office Technical Guide haying and grazing standards and elect to either hay or graze their contracted acreage. No payment reduction will be assessed on contracts being utilized for this critical feed use. However, producers will be required to pay a fee of $75, per contract, for the modification of their CRP contract before COC approves the modified conservation plan. CRP hayed last year has no effect on this policy; however, it is not known for sure if the policy in 2009 will look at 2008 activity.

Other CRP Reminders

The above 2008 policy does not waive or negate the other on-going CRP requirements:

- Management practices are still required as scheduled in your conservation plan. Be very aware of permitted dates and activity after October 1 will count for 2009.
- You can still participate in managed haying/grazing by paying the 25% rental fee, and thereby hay or graze the entire field. You can hay/graze every third year. Dates are July 15-Sept. 30
- Plant required food plots and report them to FSA.

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Crop Disaster Program Sign-up Continues and Quality Sign-up to Begin Soon

Eligible farmers and producers who suffered crop loss damage between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007, can still apply to receive disaster assistance. Sign-up for quality losses under the CDP will begin soon at the county office. 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. The commodity must have sustained a 25% economic loss and does not have to be the entire production. It can be certain loads. Call for more details.

Selected Interest Rates for June 2008	
90-Day Treasury Bill	1.250%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.125%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.875%
Farm Ownership Loans Beginning Farmer Down Payment	4.000%
Emergency Loans	3.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.375%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	3.000%

Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the Farm Service Agency county office staff, and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are necessary.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (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).

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