

# Lewis County FSA

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

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## Farm Service Agency

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### 2008 Crop Reporting Deadline Extended to August 15th.

County offices are taking crop certification on planted and prevented planting acres by **August 15th**. Producers also need to report CRP, permanent hay and pasture acres before this deadline. You will need to bring your planting dates with you. 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

**REMINDER:** Reported acreage, shares and farming entities should be consistent with crop insurance, and crop sales receipts. **When producers report differently than the way they actually operate, they may not be considered eligible for program benefits or may be required to refund benefits.**

### Farm Bill Sign-Up Started June 25, 2008

*The 2008 DCP Signup period started June 25, 2008 and will end September 30, 2008. The 2008 program will be administered exactly like the 2007 DCP. One policy change is: generally farms with less than 10 acres of bases will not be eligible to receive payments unless that farm is wholly owned by socially disadvantaged or limited resource farmers or ranchers.*

*Check with your FSA office to see if your power of attorney and any cash rent agreements are still in effect. A 22% advance can be requested as early as July with final payments issued in October 2008.*

### When Weather Prevents or Damages Crops

When bad weather prevents planting or damages crops, producers are required to report the acreage to the FSA office to receive history or disaster credit. This applies to all crops, whether covered by crop insurance, not covered by insurance, or covered by FSA's Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP).

Producers who have their crops insured through a private crop insurance company are required to contact their insurance agent immediately and advise them of the damaged crops. Additionally, a CCC-576, *Notice of Loss Application*, must be completed in person at the FSA office, and the prevented and/or failed acres reported.

Producers with crops covered under FSA's NAP, need to contact the FSA office within 15 days the damage occurred or within 15 days from the date damage is apparent. The losses can be appraised and production counted before the crop is put into another use, abandoned or destroyed.

Crops not covered with a private insurance or NAP policy still needs to be reported to the local FSA office, to file a Notice of Loss Application no later than August 15, 2008. This will provide FSA with a historical record of your crop should disaster assistance become available.

For more information about reporting prevented planting or failed acres, contact or stop in the FSA office.



## Changes to FSA Operating, Farm Ownership, and Beginning Farmer Loan Programs

The new Farm Bill has already significantly changed FSA loan programs. Loan limits for operating and farm ownership loans have been increased to \$300,000 effective immediately. These loans can be used for short and intermediate term operating financing and real estate acquisition and/or improvement.

There has also been a total overhaul of the Beginning Farmer Down Payment Farm Ownership loan program. Under this down payment program, a beginning farmer may purchase a farm with as little as a 5% down payment, and be eligible for FSA financing on 45% of the purchase price, with conventional financing on the remaining 50%. This FSA loan will carry a fixed 1.5% interest rate for 20 years and cannot exceed \$225,000. There is no limit on the purchase price of the property. FSA may also be able to guarantee the conventional loan, helping lenders offer long-term fixed rate financing at the current low rates.

For more information contact your FSA office or go to [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

## FSA Encourages Socially Disadvantaged Producers

FSA makes and guarantees loans to approved socially disadvantaged applicants (SDA) to buy and operate family-size farms and ranches. A SDA farmer is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a member of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. SDA groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA reserves direct and guaranteed loan funds for SDA persons. Non-reserved funds also can be used by SDA persons. FSA also promotes full participation of SDA producers in FSA programs as well as participation on the FSA county committee. FSA also provides information and assistance to applicants to help them develop sound farm management practices for success in farming, ranching, or other agricultural production.

## County Committee Nominations

From **Jun. 15–Aug. 1, 2008** farmers and ranchers can nominate themselves or eligible peers as candidates for election to the FSA County Committee. It is important for all agricultural producers to be represented especially minority and beginning farmers and ranchers. Committee persons play a vital role by helping local producers manage tough financial times and natural disasters. Nominees need to reside in the administrative area up for election that year (Reddish, LaBelle, and Salem townships). Request nomination forms from your local USDA Service Center or obtain one online at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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. Voting takes place in the fall when ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 3. Newly elected members take office Jan. 1, 2009.



## July Select Interest Rates

- ◆ Farm Operating-Direct 3.250 %
- ◆ Farm Ownership Direct 4.875%
- ◆ Limited Resource 5.00%
- ◆ Farm Ownership-Direct Down Payment or Beginning Farmer 1.5%
- ◆ Emergency 3.75%
- ◆ Farm Storage Facility 3.625%
- ◆ Commodity Loans 3.375%

## Farm Storage Facility Loans

Low interest facility loans (3.625% for July) are available from FSA for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities. The storage is for commodities including wheat, soybeans and corn.

The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL) are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or to remodel existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright and bunker silo-type structures.

All FSFLs are secured by a promissory note and security agreements. 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.

## Sign-up for LCP and LIP to End July 18th



Signup for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) resulting from the drought in 2005, 2006, and recently added 2007 will end **July 18, 2008**. This program began in September 2007 to compensate livestock producers for feed loss. If you owned or cash leased eligible livestock on January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2005 or 2006 or April 4, 2007 and have not yet applied, you may be compensated for your feed loss. Eligible livestock include: Beef and Dairy Cattle, 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). Signup is also ending for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) for producers who lost livestock as a direct result of the winter storms in December 2006 and January 2007. **Note: If you had any livestock which died in feedlots in other states notify our office and we will forward your LIP application to the appropriate office.**

## Crop Disaster Quality Loss Sign-up Begins

Eligible producers who suffered crop loss damage between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007, are eligible to sign up for quality losses (for example –low test weight wheat) under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP), for losses that occurred before the end of the 2007 calendar year. Producers must apply for quantity loss to be eligible to apply for a quality loss. A quality loss can be based on a single scale ticket, however total production evidence will need to be provided in entirety. 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.

## SAFE (State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement)

### *Conservation Reserve Program*

Owners and operators of certain cropland in designated geographic areas of Missouri may enroll eligible land into a new continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) practice titled State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE), also known as Practice CP38E, beginning May 1, 2008. USDA has approved three SAFE proposals in Missouri to address high priority wildlife needs through habitat restoration. The SAFE Project that is available to Lewis County produces is the Bobwhite Quail Habitat Restoration.



Producers within Missouri's SAFE areas have already voluntarily enrolled approved offers of more than 2,000 acres in CRP contracts for 14 to 15 years up to the state maximum of 6,250 acres for the Bobwhite Quail Restoration Project. Enrolled producers will receive annual CRP rental payments, incentive payments, and cost-share assistance to establish habitat.

Acreage must meet cropping history to be eligible for enrollment. The land must be physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. Land designated as marginal pastureland does not qualify for SAFE.

Through SAFE, producers create a habitat that includes food plots and may involve planting shrubs, trees, grasses, and forbs species that help restore or improve wildlife habitat. This habitat is managed during the life of the contract by strip disking, spraying or burning.

Find more information about SAFE online.

## Lewis County FSA

### County Staff

Mary Ann Evans  
Pam Hunolt  
Lisa Logsdon  
John Wheeler—CED  
Randy Scoggin

### County Committee

Doug Lay—Chairman  
Dale Stice—Vice Chairman  
Daniel Warning—Member  
Linda Rutledge—Advisor

County Committee meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 8:00 AM

### Hours

Monday-Friday  
7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### District Director

Tom Balsler  
Shelby County

### Farm Loan

Kurt Shelangoski  
Bill Bonine  
Clark/Lewis County

## EQIP

Program policy for the FY 2009 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) is coming soon. See NRCS for additional details. EQIP is a voluntary conservation program which can provide technical and financial assistance to implement a variety of conservation practices on cropland, pasture, forest, and wildlife acres.

United States Department of Agriculture  
 Farm Service Agency  
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Official Business

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**Dates to Remember**

**July 18**

Deadline for LCP and LIP.

**August 15**

Deadline to Report All Crops and Land Uses.

**September 30**

Deadline to signup for DCP

**Ongoing**

- ◆ **Update Farm Changes-Take Trust Papers to Office**
- ◆ **Crop Disaster**
- ◆ **Farm Facility Loans**
- ◆ **EQIP**



**A Change to CRP Permitted Use for Livestock Feed Needs**



If You recently submitted an application to use the Critical Feed Use (CFU) initiative to hay/graze acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Below is information received from our Missouri State FSA Office.

A Federal Judge has granted a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) effective July 8, 2008, regarding the Critical Feed Use (CFU) initiative. Accordingly, all authority is suspended to process or approve form CRP-1M, Modification to Allow Critical Feed Use. Furthermore,

as of July 8, 2008, persons with CRP contracts for which form CRP-1M have been approved must be immediately notified that any CFU activity must immediately cease and that any such activity will, until further notice, be considered an unauthorized activity on CRP land. This TRO is in effect until modified by the Court. A Hearing has been scheduled.

As indicated, the Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) has suspended the authority to use the Critical Feed Use haying/grazing provision. Because of this TRO, you are no longer authorized to hay/graze your CRP acreage beginning on July 16, 2008, under the "Critical Feed Use" provisions. Hopefully, the issue will be resolved shortly. However, please do **not** hay or graze any acreage released under Critical Feed Use provisions until further notice. Give us a call if you have any questions.

**Flood and Wet Weather 2008**

Wet weather has influenced spring planting in not a good way for crop year 2008. Floods have completely destroyed several acres in Lewis County and has created a tremendous amount of variation in corn and soybean fields. We estimate there were approximately 3600 acres of cropland affected by the Mississippi river north of Canton and there were 4850 acres affected south of Canton. Below is our actual precipitation for the months of April, May, June, and July compared to our 30 year average.

	April	May	June	July
30 Year Avg.	3.38	4.99	3.49	4.37
2008, inches	4.88	2.77	15.08	4.88
% of 30 Yr. Avg.	127%	56%	432%	112%

We are looking into applying for ECP (emergency conservation program) to help with debris removal and grading, shaping, and re-leveling of ground.