



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**



June 2008

Nodaway County News

**Nodaway County
Farm Service Agency**

Nodaway County FSA

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Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Joyce Ecker, Chairperson
Larry Tobin, Vice Chair
Richard Fletchall, Member

Staff

Tim Dreier, CED
Charlotte Holeman, FLM
Tom Shelton, FLO
Marianne Adkins, PT
Teresa Blackford, PT
Marilyn Buhman, PT
Judy Fast, PT
Tammy Luke, PT
Re'nee Schrader, PT
Lindsey Decker, Intern
Andrew Lance, FA
Eric Redden, FA

Issue Highlights

- Farm Bill Information
- Crop Reporting
- Prevented Planted / Failed Acreage
- ECP Deadline
- Special Accommodations
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- LCP/LIP Deadline
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Nodaway County Producers:

It has been quite a while since I've had any pertinent information to share with the producers of Nodaway County but with the passage of the Farm Bill recently that has changed. Contained in this newsletter are several deadlines on current programs, Farm Bill info, updates on whats to come with the annual program, and a new CRP hay/graze program that can be very beneficial to those participants. I urge each of you to read this newsletter thoroughly so that you can be well informed regarding FSA programs and how they can affect your operation.



Farm Bill Information

Tim Dreier

Late last month Congress overrode the President's veto of the Farm Bill and it became law. While many of the details are still being ironed out we do have a general understanding of how the Bill affects FSA and the programs we administer. Here is a very brief synopsis of what we know thus far:

- The 2008 farm program will be a continuation of the existing program.
- Signup for the 2008 program will begin as soon as software is available which (we are told) should be early July.
- The 2009 program will maintain the programs authorized from the 2002 Farm Bill with minor changes and new options.
- The 2009 program will offer the option to enroll in a new revenue-based counter-cyclical program called the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE).
- Included in the 2009 program is Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance which offers new disaster assistance programs such as: Supplemental Revenue Program (SURE), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- The Bill raised loan limits for Direct FO loans to \$300K and made vast changes on Beginning Farmer Down Payment loans that include better fixed interest rates, 5% down payment amounts, increased sales amounts to \$500K, and 20 year terms.

This is just a brief over-view of the Bill and we are getting more information on how we will administer it daily. The Nodaway County FSA Office will keep you informed on all the new Farm Bill changes as the information trickles down to us.

Crop Reporting

The office is in the process of taking 2008 crop reports. The deadline to report small grains, such as wheat & oats is **June 30th** and the deadline for corn, beans, milo, CRP, and forage crops is **July 31st**. All acreage with NAP coverage needs to be reported by the earlier of the applicable crop reporting deadline or 15 days before harvest or grazing begins. Producers must report all acreage to maintain eligibility for program benefits.



Feel free to contact the office to let us know when you'd like to come in and complete your crop reports. This will allow us to have your farm folders all ready when you arrive and save time for you as well as helping the office staff.

Prevented Planting or Failed Crop Acreage

When weather prevents planting or damages crops, producers are reminded to report that acreage to their local FSA office. Failed acreage must be reported to FSA before destroying and replanting to allow time for a field check. Farmers that are prevented from planting a crop need to report the prevented planting no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date for the crop. In Nodaway County the final planting date for program purposes is June 5th for corn and June 20th for Soybeans.

This simple act of insuring that failed or prevented planting acres are documented in our office could be the determining factor in whether or not a farmer is eligible for future crop disaster program payments. Producers must be able to establish and document to the satisfaction of the County Committee that the crop that failed or was prevented from being planted or replanted through the normal planting period because the area was affected by a natural disaster rather than a management decision. The producer should be able to show that preliminary efforts had been made to plant the crop, such as tilling the land, or orders for the purchase or delivery of seed and fertilizer.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

Work continues around the county to clean up and restore damaged crop ground from the flood of 2007. Originally the State Committee had established May 1, 2008, as the final date to complete all 2007 flood restoration work. However, due to the poor weather conditions in the area that deadline has been extended to **July 30, 2008**.

Producers now have until July 30th to complete ECP restoration practices and submit bills for the 2007 flooding.

Also, the Nodaway County Committee will be looking into the possibility of requesting the ECP program for the flooding the county has experienced in the past couple of weeks. Damage reviews are being made on the extent and type of damage to help better assess the need for the program again this year. If you have crop land that has flooded recently and the damage is so severe that it will require restoration work before it can be cropped again please contact the office.

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 the Farm Service Agency office.

County Committee Election "FSA Counts on You!"



The Nodaway County Farm Service Agency is looking for individuals interested in serving on the FSA County Committee. This year Local Administrative Area (LAA) #2 will be having an election. It contains the Townships of Atchison, Green, Hopkins, Lincoln, Nodaway, and Union. 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 County Committee, needs to complete a nomination form. The Nomination Form for County FSA Committee Election (FSA-669A) is available at your local FSA office or 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.

Members of socially disadvantaged groups (a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities) are strongly encouraged to complete the Nomination Form for County FSA Committee Election (FSA-669A) and nominate themselves or another eligible candidate. New or beginning farmers are also encouraged to participate in the election process or become candidates for the FSA County Committee themselves.

County Committee members make decisions on applications for federal farm programs and disaster payments. Committee members play a vital role by helping local farmers manage tough financial times and natural disasters. County Committee members serve as a local voice in the administration of federal farm programs.

The nomination period begins June 15th and runs until August 1, 2008. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters November 3rd and must be returned by December 1, 2008. The elected Committee Member and Alternates will take office January 1, 2009.

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.

USDA Announces New Critical Feed Use of CRP 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 participants could request the voluntary modification to the CRP contract beginning **June 2, 2008**, at your local FSA office. For more information about this program, or to see if your acreage is eligible for this program, contact the Nodaway County FSA Office.

A New CRP Practice called SAFE

A new Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) practice became available to area producers on May 1 and is called SAFE- State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement. This new program allows producers in Missouri to qualify for annual CRP payments in return for establishing wildlife habitat restoration areas on eligible cropland acreage. The program allows enrollment of entire fields, not just field borders, and is designed specifically to restore habitat for Bob-White Quail. While FSA will administer the program, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) will be involved for technical determinations.

The contract length for SAFE is 14 to 15 years and the annual payment rate is based on the soil type of the acreage offered. In addition to the regular 50% cost-share for CRP practice establishment additional incentive payments are available, including a one time lump sum sign-up incentive payment equal to \$100 per acre and an additional 40% cost-share payment.

The fields enrolled will be seeded to an approved cover in accordance with a conservation plan to be developed by MDC or NRCS. 10% to 20% of the field will be devoted to wildlife food plots and 1% will be established in a dense woody cover.

As with all CRP practices, the land offered for SAFE must be eligible cropland that has a cropping history and is physically capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity.

Sign-up began on May 1. If you feel you are interested in this or any CRP program contact the Nodaway County office with specific questions.

Reporting Farm and Banking Changes

It is the producer's responsibility to notify FSA of any changes in their farming operation or entity status throughout the year. Changes that may affect a determination include, but are not limited to, a change in contract shares which may reflect a change of land leased from share rent to cash rent; addition or deletion of a farm; change in the structure of the farming operation, such as individual to a corporation or trust; change in contributions or inputs such as personal labor, or change in farming interest.

Also, bank account changes must be reported to the office. Almost all FSA payments are made electronically via direct deposit. It is critical to keep our county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions. If you have changed accounts of institutions that might affect your FSA payments, please contact the office so we can update your files.



Preliminary Information on 2008 – 2012 Farm Program

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008(Act), Pub. L. 110-234, was enacted into law on May 22, 2008. This law authorizes continuing the Direct and Counter-Cyclical (DCP) program for 2008 – 2012. Following are some of the provisions of the new law:

- Crop acreage bases in effect 9/30/2007 will be in effect for 2008 DCP
- Direct and counter-cyclical payments are prohibited if the sum of the base acres on a farm is 10 acres or less
- Advance direct payments will be available at 22% of the payment rate. For 2008, the payment will be made as soon as practical after the producer makes a selection
- Planting flexibility is allowed similar to the 2002 Act.
- Must comply with conservation compliance requirements
- Control noxious weeds
- File an annual acreage report
- For 2008 the same payment eligibility, payment limitation and adjusted gross income rules are applicable. Big changes are coming for 2009 – 2012
- an agricultural disaster relief trust fund (“trust fund”) established
- supplemental agricultural disaster assistance programs.

Stay tuned because more information will be coming on all these programs.

Dates to Remember	
June 15	COC Nominations begin
June 30	Certify small grains deadline
July 4	Closed – Independence Day
July 18	LCP / LIP Sign up deadline
July 30	ECP work deadline
July 31	Certify all crops deadline
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous CRP Program

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	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.375%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	3.000%

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