

June 2008



# County News

Laclede, Camden, and  
Pulaski County  
USDA Service Center

## Sign-Up Will End for USDA FSA Disaster Programs

Laclede, Camden,  
Pulaski County FSA  
1242 Deadra Dr  
Lebanon Mo 65536

417-532-5741  
800-203-4467  
417-533-3689(fax)  
www.fsa.usda.gov/MO

**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**County Committee**  
Homer Jones Jr.  
Camden  
Warren C. Hoffman  
Laclede  
C. Kent Ledbetter  
Pulaski  
Berniece Hamilton  
Minority Advisor

County Committee  
meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of  
each month at 9:00am

**Staff**  
Darrel McCann  
County Director

Program Technicians  
Ava Baker  
Pam Akers

Email:  
darrel.mccann  
@mo.usda.gov

Eligible farmers and producers who suffered livestock, livestock feed and crop losses that occurred before Dec 31, 2007, can still apply to receive disaster payments. **July 18, 2008 is the deadline to sign up for LCP and LIP.**

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) continues to accept applications and make payments for quantity losses under Crop Disaster Program (CDP) that occurred before Dec. 31, 2007. FSA continues to issue Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) payments for losses that occurred in designated disaster counties. FSA will conduct sign-up and begin making payments for quality losses under CDP later this summer. **More information about CDP, LCP and LIP is available online at:** <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>

## Reporting Acreage Crop

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 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by the June 30 deadline on small grains and a July 31 deadline on all other crops.

## County Committee Elections

The Farm Service Agency is looking for individuals interested in serving on the County Committee. This year Pulaski County will be having an election. Any eligible person residing in one of these townships who is interested in running for County Committee, or would like to nominate an individual to run for County Committee, must complete a nomination form. The Nomination Form for County FSA Committee Election (FSA-669A) is available at the FSA office. You may also go online and download the form from our Missouri FSA website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/mo>.

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. Committee members make decisions on applications for federal farm program and disaster payments. Committee members play a vital role by helping local farmers manage tough financial times and natural disasters. County committee members make many other important decisions that affect local farmers such as whether haying and grazing should be allowed on Conservation Reserve Program land.

For more information regarding the County Committee Elections, talk to Darrel McCann, County Executive Director, at the local office, for details on the types of decisions county committee members makes. Or visit the County Committee Elections website to learn more about the County Committee Election process and read over the fact sheets at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.

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

## Continuous CRP



The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is a private lands environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll environmentally sensitive acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources. The Continuous CRP program is a voluntary enrollment program. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment.

To be eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year.

For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments or local Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) availability, please contact your local FSA office.

## COC Member Graduates

Laclede, Camden, Pulaski County Court Office Committee minority advisor, Berniece Hamilton, recently graduated from Southwest Baptist University with a Bachelors of Art and Science in Christian Education. Berniece began taking classes to assist SBU in establishing off campus classes at Lebanon. She said the classes helped to fill the “empty nest” after her two daughters left home.

She loves learning new ideas and concepts. She also enjoys meeting and getting to know the other students. Additionally, Berniece is on the Board of Trustees at SBU. At 76 Berniece may be the oldest student to graduate from SBU.

Berniece operates a cow/calf operation in Laclede County. She has 2 daughters, Joyce Ann and Kathy, and 2 granddaughters, Laura and Rachel.

Congratulations Berniece

## Sodbuster Regulations

The term “sodbusting” is used to identify the plowing up of erosion-prone grasslands for use as cropland. Sodbuster violations are unauthorized tillage practices on highly erodible lands that converted native vegetation such as rangeland or woodland, to crop production after Dec. 23, 1985.

Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs.

Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production.

If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates on a CPA-026 that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage, before bringing land into production.

In addition, producers and the producer’s affiliates have to file an AD-1026 with the staff in the administrative or control county office before any farm program payments can be made. The AD-1026 is the producer’s signed certification that HELC, as well as wetland conservation, provisions will not be violated.

## Farm Loans for Socially Disadvantaged

Farm Loan Manager Mark Aycock, reminds interested applicants that FSA offers loans for farmers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, applicants might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources. FSA makes two different types of loans, direct and guaranteed. Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$200,000. Guaranteed loans (loans made by a commercial lender where FSA acts as guarantor) can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$949,000. Emergency loans are a type of direct loan for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and Loans for Socially Disadvantaged Applicants are other types of direct loans also available through FSA. (continued on next page)

Socially Disadvantaged Applicants (SDA) are one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of their identity as a member of the group without regard to their individual qualities. SDA groups are Women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Certain FSA loan funds are targeted to beginning farmers and SDA.

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.

**Mark can be reached at 417-468-2088 ext 2. Mark is station in Webster County, but schedules appointments at the Lebanon office.**

## **Foreign Investors Who Hold Agricultural Land**

Foreign investors, who buy, sell or hold a direct or indirect interest in U.S. agricultural land must report their holdings and transactions to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Failure to timely file an accurate report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land. Foreign persons who are buying or selling land must report the transaction **within 90 days of the date of the transaction.**

### **Who Must Report:**

- Individuals who are not U.S. citizens or citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands or the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands;
- Individuals who are not lawfully admitted to the U.S. for permanent residence or who are not paroled into the U.S. under the Immigration and Nationality Act;
- Any organization created under laws of a foreign government or which has located its principle place of business outside the U.S.;
- Any U.S. organization in which a significant interest or substantial control is directly or indirectly held by foreign individuals, organizations or governments; and
- Any foreign governments.

### **What to Report:**

- Each tract of agricultural land in the U.S., its territories, the Northern Mariana Islands and the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands owned by persons required to report; and
- Leaseholds of 10 years or more.

USDA designated the FSA to collect the AFIDA report forms. Individuals wanting to obtain an AFIDA report form (FSA-153) may do so from any FSA County office. The (FSA-153) is available in both English and Spanish translations. You can also go on-line and download the form at:

[http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/Forms/FSA0153\\_010524V02.pdf](http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/Forms/FSA0153_010524V02.pdf)

## **From our Partners in Conservation**

### **The Soil and Water Conservation Districts**

#### **Make the Most of Your Pastures with a Planned Grazing System Program Offered By**

#### **The Soil and Water Conservation Districts**

The Soil and Water Conservation Districts, which is supported by the one-tenth of one percent Parks and Soils Tax, offers a cost share reimbursement program for the installation of a Planned or Rotational Grazing System. This practice provides cost share for the interior fencing and water distribution to create a minimum of four paddocks. The dollar amount available is based on \$90.00 per grazable acre with a maximum cost sharable amount of \$13,500.00.

One of the qualifications for applying for this practice is to have attended a grazing school. Grazing schools are held throughout the state. A list of upcoming schools is available by accessing the website at: <http://agebb.missouri.edu/mfgc.schools.htm> or requesting a copy from your local SWCD. You may contact the **Camden County SWCD at 573-346-5125; Laclede County SWCD at 417-532-6305 or the Pulaski County SWCD at 573-774-4767.**





**Darrel's Comments**

July 18<sup>th</sup> is the last chance to sign up for the Livestock Compensation program which pays producers because of the grazing losses in 2005, 2006 and 2007. If you haven't signed up don't wait too long.

Pulaski County will elect a Committee member this year. Nominations are accepted June 15 until August 1. All producers are encouraged to participate.

The new farm bill has been passed by Congress. No major changes for 2008. Sign up for the crop base program (DCP) should start soon. Exact date is unknown at this time.

Even if the new regulations aren't in place. **Report your crops.** Deadlines are to the right. This is still a requirement for DCP, CRP, GRP, deficiency payments and many other programs.

Visit our website at:  
<http://www.fsausda.gov/mo>

Dates to Remember	
June 15	County Committee Nomination period begins.
June 30	Final certification date for small grains.
July 4	Independence Day Holiday. <b>FSA Offices Closed.</b>
July 15	Final certification date for all crops except small grains.
July 18	Last Day to apply for Livestock Compensation and Indemnity Programs
August 1	Deadline for County Committee Nominations
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program.

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