

May 2008



Platte County News

Platte County USDA Service Center **Final Loan and LDP Availability Date**

Platte County FSA
P.O. Box 1220
Platte City Mo 64079
816-431-2101 (phone)
816-431-2091 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/MO

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

County Committee
Diana Blankenship
Brian Fulk
Kelly Yulich

County Committee
Meets 2nd Thursday of
each month at 1:00 p.m.

Staff
Susan Cogan
Michelle Comer
Tim Lowery

CED
Don Boyer

Producers are reminded that the final commodity loan and LDP availability date for 2007 Crop Year Corn, Grain Sorghum, Upland Cotton, Rice, Dry Peas, Lentils, Small Chickpeas, Soybeans and Other Oilseeds **will be May 31, 2008.**

Sign-Up Continues for USDA FSA Disaster Programs

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.

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. **No ending date has been announced for LIP, LCP and CDP.** FSA will conduct sign-up and begin making payments for quality losses under CDP later this spring.

More information about CDP, LCP and LIP is available online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

USDA Announces No Partial 2007-Crop-Year Counter-Cyclical Payments for Corn, Grain Sorghum and Soybeans

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced that because market prices are high, producers with corn, grain sorghum, soybeans and/or other oilseed base acres enrolled in USDA's Direct and Counter-cyclical Program will not receive partial 2007-crop-year counter-cyclical payments.



Average market price projections are above levels that would trigger these payments. The 2002 Farm Bill requires that, if triggered, these payments be made for the 2007 crop after the first six months of the marketing year, which began on Sept. 1, 2007, for these commodities.

Conservation Compliance

All participants in USDA programs are required to have a conservation system in place on all the highly erodible land (HEL) that they operate. Several areas where problems can arise with complying with a conservation system are; renting new cropland, purchasing new land, breaking out additional cropland, planting different crops such as soybeans, and changing or removing existing conservation practices.

It is very important that you contact the FSA office before doing any of the above. Also, it is very important that you contact our office before modifying - tiling, draining, dredging, filling, or leveling - any wetland or drainage ditch. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in loss of all Federal payments and eligibility.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Low interest rate loans for storage facilities are still available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, soybeans and corn. The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures. All Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. 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. A minimum down payment is also required. For details, contact the county office staff.

Loans for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

FSA has funding to assist beginning farmers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years;
 - Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm;
 - Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA;
 - Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median farm size; and
 - Also, the applicant must meet the loan eligibility requirements of the program to which he/she is applying.
- **Note:** All applicants for direct farm ownership loans must have participated in business operation of a farm for at least three years.

To find out more about loans for Beginning Farmer and Ranchers and more basic qualifications required, contact your local FSA county office to setup an appointment with a loan approval official.

Report Failed Crop Acreage Prior to Destruction

With spring planting around the corner, the Platte County Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages farmers to report failed crop acreage that will not be brought to harvest to their FSA office. Failed acreage must be reported to FSA before destroying and replanting to allow time for a field check.

"It is very important that farmers report failed acreage that will not be brought to harvest to the FSA office prior to destruction. This simple act of insuring that failed acres are documented could be the determining factor in whether or not a farmer is eligible for future crop disaster program payments."

Form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. For crop losses covered by the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP), producers must contact their local FSA office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. Producers with crop insurance should also contact their local agent when losses occur and before destroying the crop.

Although low yield acreage does not need to be reported to FSA, producers are encouraged to keep good production records on acreage with a low crop yield to document crop losses. If Congress authorizes a crop disaster program in the future, production records may help support

crop loss claims.

Additional information in regard to failed crop acreage or crop losses covered by the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) can be obtained by contacting your local FSA office. FSA program information is also available online at: <http://www/fsa/usda.gov>.

Rural Youth Loans

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes operating loans to individual rural youths age 10 through 20 to establish and operate income producing agricultural related projects. These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H Clubs, FFA, or a similar organization or with a vocational teacher or county extension agent. The project must be an organized and supervised program of work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience in agriculture related skills. Contact your local FSA office for more details.

Banking Changes?

If you have changed banks and not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in producer's account such as type account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

Selected Interest Rates for April 2008

90-Day Treasury Bill	2.250%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.250%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.875%
Farm Ownership Loans Beginning Farmer Down Payment	4.000%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.000%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	4.250%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	2.625%

FSA Signature Requirements

Proper signatures on Farm Service Agency contracts, applications and forms must be submitted before the document will be considered as filed. All entities, including revocable and irrevocable trusts, corporations, partnerships, estates, etc., must provide evidence of signature authority stipulating those individuals who are authorized to represent the entity. FSA cannot accept signatures without such documentation on file. Examples of acceptable evidence include trust agreements, corporate charters or resolutions, partnership



agreements and court orders of appointment. Spouses can sign for each other on most program documents unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office staff. An FSA-211 may be filed to delegate signature authority for FSA program purposes to another individual.

New CRP Practice (SAFE) Available

SAFE – State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement, signup is now ongoing and will continue until the State allocation of 6,250 acres is enrolled. Platte County producers can qualify for annual CRP payments for restoring habitat for Bob-White Quail. This program targets entire fields, not just field borders. FSA will administer the program, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) will be involved in writing the conservation plan and for technical determinations.

The contract length for SAFE is 14 to 15 years. Contracts take effect on the 1st day of the month following approval. The first annual payment will be prorated from when the contract takes effect until September 30. The remaining annual payments are for the full year October 1 through September 30. Annual payment rates will be determined by soil types. 50% cost share and additional incentive payments are available, including a lump sum incentive payment equal to \$100 per acre and an additional 40% cost share.

Fields will be seeded to an approved cover in accordance with a conservation plan to be developed by you and MDC or NRCS. This plan will have 10% to 20% of the field devoted to food plot(s) and 1% in dense woody cover. The remainder of the field will be seeded to an approved cover(s).

Land offered for SAFE must have a cropping history and be physically capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. SAFE cannot be used in the same field with an existing CP-33 (Habit Buffer for Upland Birds).

Crop Acreage Reporting

Even though we currently do not have a Farm Program producers need to make crop acreage reports to ensure maximum eligibility when and if a Farm Program is passed by Congress and signed by the President, or the old Farm Program is extended

Beware of Crop Insurance Rebating Schemes

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) has received reports from producers and agents that some aggressive marketers have been approaching producers with rebating offers when they purchase crop insurance. These schemes promise lower insurance premiums, refunds, dividends, or items of value tied to crop insurance purchases. Most of these activities are illegal.

RMA reminds all Federal crop insurance program participants that it is now coordinating with state regulators to take appropriate regulatory action against all those who are found to promote or participate in such schemes. **Producers who are found to participate in illegal rebating activities will not only lose their crop insurance coverage but will also lose eligibility in all USDA programs.** Producers and agents can report suspicions of illegal rebating to the OIG Hotline: 1-800-424-9121

IMPORTANT CRP REMINDERS

- CRP acres need to be certified in our office each year.
- Reminders have been sent out for required food plots, be sure to complete and return forms when the food plots are planted.
- Reminders have also been sent out for required management practices. After you burn, disc or apply chemicals, bring in or send the completed forms we sent you along with any bills you may have.
- If you plan to hay or graze any of your CRP under a managed haying and grazing plan, you need to contact our office and NRCS before you get ready to start. A reminder that you can only hay or graze every three years and there is a 25% payment reduction on the acres hayed or grazed
- The only dates haying or grazing can occur is between **July 15th** and **September 30th**. **The ending date is a change from last year.**



Since our last newsletter, not a lot has changed concerning the status of the Farm Bill. As soon as program information is known for 2008, future newsletters and news releases will announce the details and sign-up information.

Again producers are reminded that acreage reports will need to be completed by July 31 for all spring seeded crops.

Dates to Remember	
May 26	Memorial Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
May 31	Deadline to apply for 2007 commodity loans and LDP's on feed grains, soybeans, cotton, rice and pulse crops.
June 15	County Committee Nomination period begins.
June 30	Final certification date for small grains.
July 4	Independence Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
July 31	Final certification date for all crops except small grains.
Continuous	Farm Storage Facility Loan program.

Visit our website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.