



# Platte FSA Office News

## Platte County USDA Service Center

**Platte County FSA**  
P.O. Box 1220  
Platte City, Mo 64079  
816 431 2101 (phone)  
816 431 2091 (fax)

### Hours

Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
The office will be closed  
on all Federal holidays.

### County Committee

Diana Blankenship  
Brian Fulk  
Kelly Yulich

County Committee meets  
the 2nd Thursday each  
month at 1:00 p.m.

### Staff

Program Technicians  
Susan Cogan  
Michelle Comer  
Tim Lowery

County Executive Director  
Don Boyer

Farm Loan Manager  
Charlotte Holeman  
660 582 7423 (phone)

Farm Loan Officer  
Thomas Shelton  
660 582 7423 (phone)

## Farm Bill Becomes Law

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 was enacted into law on May 22, 2008. Here is a summary of important annual farm program information for 2008:

- No signup dates have been announced (possibly early July when program software becomes available.)
- Target prices, base acres, payment yields, and payment rates will be the same as last year.
- Advance payments will be available as soon as practical.
- Payment limit, persons determinations, and adjusted gross income limitation rules unchanged from 2007.
- Acreage reports required on all crop ground.
- Compliance with highly erodible and wetland rules from prior Farm Bills still required.
- Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL's) and Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP's) still available.
- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) is a new permanent disaster program available to producers who have crop insurance coverage in 2008 (more details to be released later.)
- Other significant rule changes and program options will take effect for 2009 and these provisions will be announced later.

## CRP Available for Haying or Grazing

On May 27, 2008, Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer announced that USDA has authorized certain acreage enrolled under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to be available for haying and grazing. CRP participants can request to use CRP acreage for critical feed use beginning June 2, 2008.

CRP participants can use their own acreage for haying or grazing or lease the privilege to other producers. Participants who choose this option will be required to pay a \$75 administrative fee per contract and will not be assessed a payment reduction from their annual rental payments.

Eligible land may not be hayed or grazed until after the primary nesting season, which for Missouri, is May 1 through July 15th. In addition, all hay and livestock must be removed from the CRP acreage by November 10, 2008.

Only certain CRP practices are eligible for this release. For more information on CRP haying and grazing eligibility and program provisions, contact our office.

## USDA ANNOUNCES DEADLINE FOR 2005 - 2007 LCP AND LIP SIGN-UP

Livestock producers they have until July 18, 2008, to enroll in the 2005 - 2007 Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Signup 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. LIP provides payments to eligible livestock owners and contract growers who incurred the death of livestock because of a natural disaster. LCP provides payments to eligible livestock owners and cash lessees who suffered feed losses or increased feed costs because of a natural disaster. More information about LCP and LIP is available online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>

Selected Interested Rates 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	4.500%
Commodity Loans	3.000%

### 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. FSA continues to accept applications and make payments for quantity losses under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP), for losses that occurred before the end of the 2007 calendar year.

Also, 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.**

Stored and fed production must have a quality test indicating quality and quantity by January 1 of the year following harvest. For stored production, the price is determined using the local market conditions in effect on the date the production evidence is submitted. For fed production, the value is determined using the local market conditions in effect on the crop's final harvest date. The commodity must have suffered at least a 25% reduction in value to meet the Economic Loss Minimum. The National FSA office is developing a software program to determine whether the producer meets the Economic Loss Minimum.

### County Committee Elections "FSA Counts on You"

From **June 15 through Aug. 1**, farmers and ranchers can nominate eligible peers as candidates for election to the Platte 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.

Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee





member whose three-year term is expiring. In counties with three LAAs, one position is up for election.

An election will be held for the Platte County Committee position for LAA #3 that includes the townships of Weston, Marshall, and Fair. Brian Fulk is currently serving this area.

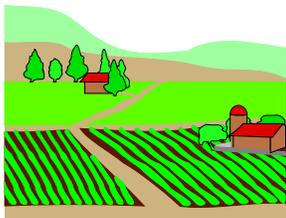
Any eligible person residing in one of these townships who is interested in running for the County Committee, or would like to nominate an individual to run for the County Committee, must complete a nomination form. The nomination form for County FSA Committee Election (FSA-669A) is available at the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

### **State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)**

Owners and operators of certain cropland in designated geographic areas of Missouri may enroll eligible land in a new continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) conservation practice titled State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE), also known as Practice CP38.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will conduct sign-up for SAFE on a continuous (ongoing) basis. Through continuous CRP sign-ups, USDA accepts offers by producers, provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements. Producers can offer land for enrollment in SAFE and other CRP programs at their local FSA county office.



Eligible land is cropland that was planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity during four of the six years from 1996 to 2001. (These years to change when the new farm bill rules are published.) 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. Land must have been owned for one year.

CRP fields that expire September 30, 2008 can be offered by June 1, 2009. Whole fields or partial fields can be offered under this program, but there is a limited amount of acres available.

### **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 Platte County the final planting date for program purposes is June 5<sup>th</sup> for corn; June 20<sup>th</sup> for soybeans and grain sorghum.

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

**New FSA Logos  
Identify Program  
Areas**



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.

Dates to Remember	
June 15	County Committee Nomination period begins.
*now August 15	Final certification date for small grains.
July 4	Office closed for Independence Day
July 18	Livestock Disaster signup ends
August 15	All Crops Reporting Deadline for 2008
Continues	Crop Disaster signup
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous CRP Signup

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