

**April 2008**



# ***Polk/Dallas County FSA News***



## **Dairy Disaster Assistance Program Sign-up Underway**



### **USDA-FSA Polk County**

Karen Stillings, County Executive Director  
1333 East Broadway  
Bolivar, MO 65613

417-326-4823 phone  
417-326-6174 fax  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/)

#### **Hours**

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

#### **County Committee**

Byrian Kramme  
Mary Wheeler  
David Agee

County Committee  
meets fourth Thursday  
each month

#### **Staff**

Cathy McNatt, PT  
Cindy Scott, PT  
Rogena Whitney, PT

#### **Farm Loan Staff**

Brian Hedges, Manager  
Kim Mitchell, Officer  
Kelly Arnold, Trainee  
Ella Strode

Dairy producers can now sign-up for the Dairy Disaster Assistance Program (DDAP-III) at their local FSA Service Center. Dairy Disaster Assistance Program (DDAP-III) will compensate producers for production losses that occurred during the period of January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2007.

### **Sign-up will conclude May 5, 2008.**

A producer's operation must be located in a county designated a major disaster or emergency area by the President or declared a natural disaster area by the Secretary of Agriculture **between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007.** Contiguous counties will also be eligible.

Under proposed DDAP-III regulations, the following are some of the eligibility requirements producers must meet to receive benefits:

- Producers shall have produced and marketed milk any time between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007;
- Producers must have suffered dairy production losses attributed to the declared natural disaster during the eligible period;

Losses will be calculated by comparing the expected base annual production (using production data from years 2003 and 2004) and the actual production during the applicable disaster claim year. Calculations may be adjusted when losses are not caused by disaster.

Producers will need to provide their annual marketed production and average number of cows in the dairy herd for 2003 and 2004 to determine the base production. Losses will be calculated by comparing the expected base annual production to the actual production during the applicable disaster claim year(s). Therefore producers will also need to provide the dairy operations actual production and average number of cows in the dairy herd for each applicable disaster year, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Payment rates are based upon the annual average Mailbox milk price for the Marketing Order applicable to the state where the eligible disaster county is located. Missouri has a northern and a southern mailbox milk price rate. \$16 million has been provided in DDAP III program benefits for dairy producers nationwide who have suffered eligible losses.

For more information about the DDAP- III visit our website at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) or contact your local FSA Service Center.

## **ATTENTION LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS**

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) for the droughts in 2005 and 2006 continues. **The year 2007 has also been added as an eligible year for grazing losses.** The disaster for 2007 is the April freeze with the beginning disaster date of April 1, 2007.

If you owned or cash leased eligible livestock on the first date of the declared disaster and suffered an eligible feed loss you could be eligible for program benefits.

Payment rates for some eligible livestock are:

- BEEF (Adult) - \$10.66/head
- DAIRY (Adult) - \$27.72/head
- BEEF & DAIRY 500# or more Jan. 1 2005 or 2006 or April 1, 2007 - \$8.00/head†

**USDA FSA-Dallas  
County**

Karen Stillings, County  
Executive Director  
1225 S. Ash  
Buffalo, MO 65622

417-345-7721 phone  
417-345-7129 fax  
www.fsa.usda.gov

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

County Committee  
Keith Whipple  
Byron Duff  
Jack Dill  
Betty McCarthy

County Committee meets  
second Tuesday each  
month

**Staff**  
Sue Hendrich, PT



**2008 Rainfall**

**POLK COUNTY**  
**MONTH INCHES**

January	1.40
February	4.60
March	7.58
April to date	1.56

**DALLAS COUNTY**  
**MONTH INCHES**

January	2.65
February	5.47
March	7.34
April to date	2.06

Other livestock include Buffalo, Beefalo, Sheep, Goats, Equine, Swine, Poultry, Deer and Elk. Claimed livestock must be used for commercial purposes in the farming operation to be considered eligible.

If you have questions regarding this program, please give us a call. If you have not signed up yet, gather your livestock numbers and contact our office to make application.

***Don't miss this opportunity!***

Please note: If you have already signed up for this program, but owned more livestock in 2007 than the year you previously applied for, you could be eligible for additional payment.

**Livestock Indemnity Program**

The Livestock Indemnity Program is also available for producers who lost livestock as a direct result of the ice storm in January 2007. Applicants must have owned the livestock on the beginning date of the disaster and provide verifiable proof of death. If verifiable proof of death is not available, a third party certification may be used. Third party verification shall consist of a written, signed statement giving specific details about knowledge of deaths, number of deaths, kind of livestock, affiliation of third party to the producer, phone number and address. If you have suffered death loss as a result of ice storm of 2007, please contact the county office for specific verification evidence needed.

To date no deadline has been established for sign up into either of these livestock programs.

**CREP & Continuous CRP  
Available**

USDA has indicated there will not be general signups scheduled for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in 2008. The budget for FY 2008 assumes no available funding for CRP general signups.

However, environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Programs (CREP) or Continuous CRP will still be eligible for enrollment. These targeted programs are funded, and will continue to provide a heightened environmental benefit on select areas. Remember, the deadline date for approval for all

CRP, including CREP program practices in the 2002 Farm Bill Extension is April 18, 2008.

**CRP Program Participant  
Reminder Letter**

CRP participants are reminded to report to their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) when there are changes that occur due to transfer of ownership, death, incompetent or missing persons.

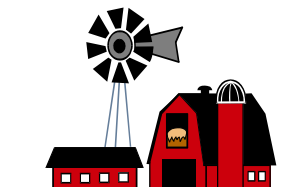
The following changes must be reported to the FSA office; changes to banking information for direct deposit payments, mailing address changes, land ownership changes--including land transfers to living trusts, irrevocable trusts, etc. Estates of CRP participants need to contact their local FSA Service Center while the Estate is open to obtain and submit documents needed to ensure earned CRP payments can be issued.

Representatives of deceased CRP participants must inform their local FSA Service Center by submitting one or more of the following applicable documents:

- Copy of death certificate;
- Copy of Court appointment for estate;
- Estate ID number if available; and/or
- Copy of deed transferring ownership to survivor.

Failure to report these changes may result in ineligibility for CRP annual rental payments or termination of CRP contracts, which requires the refund of all payments received under the CRP contract including annual rental payments, cost share and incentive payments plus interest and liquidated damages. It is extremely important that all Conservation Reserve Program Contracts contain accurate information.

CRP Program participants are reminded to take action to report changes immediately to avoid unnecessary delays in program benefits or inaccurate payments. Lastly, contact your local FSA county office if you have any questions regarding the terms and conditions of your CRP contract.



## Toll-Free Number for Borrowers

Direct loan borrowers with USDA's Farm Service Agency can check the status of their accounts around the clock using a new toll-free telephone number.

The toll-free number, 1-888-518-4983, is available in both English and Spanish. The system delivers information on active FSA loans 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



During the first call to the system, borrowers will enter their tax identification number or the Social Security Number associated with the loan. They also will need to enter their ZIP code. Borrowers will create a personal identification number for security. Customers must enter their PIN every time they use the system and may change their PIN. The system menu helps user's access helpful information. The system may also direct borrowers to contact their local FSA servicing office if action is necessary on their accounts.

## County Committee Meetings

The three member Polk County Farm Service Agency committee meets once a month. The committee has established 9:00 a.m. on the fourth Thursday each month as its regular meeting time at the Polk County FSA office as its meeting place. We will post a notice on the county office bulletin board if the committee must reschedule the time or place of its next meeting. County committee members are:  
Byrian Kramme, Mary Wheeler and David Agee.

### ***Dallas County Committee Advisor Appointed***



The four member Dallas County Committee also meets once per month. The committee has established 10:00 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month as its regular meeting time at the Dallas County Office. Committee members are Keith Whipple, Byron Duff, Jack Dill and recently appointed Minority Advisor Betty McCarthy. Betty was appointed to her first consecutive term which began on March 1, 2008.

Advisors play an important role by providing diverse viewpoints and by representing the interests of minorities and women in decisions made by county committees.

## 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 Bill Extended Until April 18<sup>th</sup>

Last month the President signed a 33-day extension of the current law to allow Congress until **April 18<sup>th</sup>** to reach an agreement on the next Farm Bill. If Congress fails to reach an agreement on a new Farm Bill that meets the standards that the President set out, he will ask Congress to extend the current law for at least one year.

This extends FSA's authority to administer the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and marketing loan benefits for wool, mohair, unshorn pelts and honey through April 18, 2008.

## FARM RECORDS CHANGES

Any ownership, operator or address changes should be reported to the FSA office to keep our records up to date. This includes changes in ownership from individuals to Trusts, LLC's or other entities.

## FARM LOANS

The Farm Service Agency makes Direct Operating and Direct Farm Ownership Loans to eligible family-size farmers and ranchers who are unable to obtain financing from commercial credit sources.

Direct Operating Loan funds may be used to purchase livestock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance, or finance other farm operating expenses. Also, Operating Loans can be

used to pay for minor improvements to buildings, costs associated with land and water development, family subsistence, and to refinance farm debts under certain conditions. The limit on Direct Operating Loans is \$200,000.

Direct Farm Ownership Loan funds may be used to purchase farm land, construct or repair buildings and promote soil and water conservation. Eligible applicants must have participated in the business operations of a farm or ranch for at least 3 years. The limit on Direct Farm Ownership Loans is \$200,000.

Repayment terms vary according to the type of loan made, the collateral securing the loan, and the applicant's ability to repay. Monthly interest rates vary based on the Federal Government's cost of borrowing. The April full note interest rate on the Direct OL is 3.25% and Direct FO is 4.875%. These are considered fixed rates for the term of the note.

To discuss eligibility and program conditions in further detail or receive a direct loan application packet, contact your local FSA office or call the Polk County FSA Office at 417-326-4823, ext. 106. The Polk County FSA Office located in Bolivar, serves as the Farm Loan Team Headquarters for the counties of Cedar, Dade, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Polk and St. Clair.

Dates to Remember	
April 18	2002 Farm Bill Extension
May 5	Deadline to apply for Dairy Disaster Assistance Program
May 26	Memorial Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
May 31	Deadline to apply for 2007 commodity loans and LDP's on feed grains, soybeans, pulse crops.
Continues	Livestock Compensation Program, Livestock Indemnity and Crop Disaster Program Signup.
Continuous	Farm Storage Facility Loan program.  Conservation Reserve Program Continuous Signup and CREP

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