



July 2008

Polk/Dallas County News

Polk County
USDA Service Center

Polk County FSA
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Bolivar, MO 65613
417-326-4823 (phone)
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www.fsa.usda.gov/MO

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

County Committee
Byrian Kramme
Mary Wheeler
David Agee

County Committee
meets fourth Thursday
month

Staff
Cathy McNatt, PT
Cindy Scott, PT

**Farm Loan
Staff**

Brian Hedges,
Manager
Kim Mitchell, Officer
Kelly Arnold, Farm
Loan Trainee



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 Polk and Dallas County Farm Service Agency County Committee. For election purposes, counties are divided into *local administrative areas*, or LAAs. Each year an election is held in an LAA to select one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee.

An election will be held for the Polk County Committee position for LAA3 that includes the townships of Johnson, Flemington, Campbell, Cliquot, McKinley, North Benton, South Benton, Jefferson and NW Marion.

An election will be held for the Dallas County Committee position for LAA 2 that includes the townships of Jasper, North and South Benton.

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 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.

This is an important time for LAA communities, because county committee members make decisions that have significant effects on you and the area's agricultural sector as a whole. Committee members make decisions on applications for federal farm programs and disaster payments. They play a vital role by helping local farmers and ranchers manage tough financial times and natural disasters.

The nomination period runs **June 15 through Aug. 1**. Completed nomination form must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Aug. 1, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 1, 2008. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office Jan. 1, 2008.

Sign-up Deadline July 18 for Livestock Programs

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.

For more information, contact your local FSA office for program sign-up details.

Controlled Substances

Any person who is convicted under federal law of planting, producing, cultivating, harvesting, growing, or storing a controlled substance will be ineligible to participate and receive payments under USDA programs. Marijuana, opium poppies, and other drug producing plants are controlled substances.

USDA Announces CRP Permitted Use 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,

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Center**

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CED
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Buffalo, MO
65622

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417-345-7721
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**County
Committee**

Keith Whipple
Byron Duff
Jack Dill
Betty McCarthy

County
Committee meets
second Tues
each month

Staff

Sue Hendrich PT

- 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 may 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 your local FSA office.



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 began on June 23rd. For quality losses, producers must first apply for quantity losses. However, producers do not have 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 that shows 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.

For more disaster program information go online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov> or visit your local FSA office.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

Low interest rate loans for storage facilities are 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. For details, contact the county office staff.

Final Acreage Reporting Dates Approaching

Farm Service Agency (FSA), would like to remind producers of the acreage reporting requirements that must be met prior to receiving program benefits. If producers miss the acreage reporting deadline dates, a late filing fee will be charged.

Due to weather conditions and the delay in announcement of the farm bill, producers have until August 15, 2008 to file an FSA-578, Report of Acreage certification for the 2008 crop year.

It is also very important that producers report crop losses, including those insured under Federal Crop Insurance (FCIC) and Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) within 15 days of the date damage occurred or 15 days from the date damage is apparent. Losses and

or damages to crops must be reported after each disaster occurrence and in a timely manner and before disposition of the crop to insure continued eligibility for benefits.

Producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA county office to file the required FSA-578 certification report before the deadline. 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.



FARM BILL SIGNUP BEGAN JUNE 25

The 2008 DCP Signup period started June 25, 2008 and runs through **September 30, 2008**. The rules for 2008 will be basically the same as the 2007 DCP Program. One policy change is that farms with bases totaling 10 acres or less will not be eligible to receive payment unless the owner is eligible as a Limited Resource **or** Socially Disadvantaged producer. This requirement is for the Farm **Owner** – if the owner meets eligibility, then anyone sharing on that farm is eligible including any tenants/operators that wouldn't meet this exception. Contact your local FSA office for additional information on these exceptions.

A 22% advance payment can be requested as early as July with final payments issued in October of 2008.

WHEN WET WEATHER PREVENTS PLANTING OR DAMAGES CROPS

When wet weather prevents planting or damages crops, producers are required to report the acreage to the FSA office to receive history or disaster credit. This applies to all crops, whether covered by crop insurance, not covered by crop insurance, or covered by FSA's Non-Insured Assistance Program, (NAP). **For crop year 2008 prevented planting and failed acreage reports must be filed by AUGUST 15, 2008.**

Producers who have their crops insured through a private crop insurance company are required to contact their agent immediately and advise them of the damaged crops. Producers with crops covered under FSA's NAP policies need to contact the FSA office within 15 days the damage occurred or within 15 days from the date the damage becomes apparent.

Crops not covered with any insurance should still be reported to the local FSA office, to file a Notice of Loss Application no later than August 15, 2008. This will provide FSA with a historical record of your crop should disaster assistance become available. For more information, please contact the FSA office.

Funding Available for Socially Disadvantaged Applicants

The Farm Service Agency can make and guarantee loans to socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family-size farms and ranches. Funds specifically for these loans are reserved each year.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Direct loans may be made to applicants by FSA for both farm operating and farm ownership loans. Guaranteed farm loans also may be made for ownership or operating purposes, and may be made by any lending institution subject to Federal or state supervision (banks, savings and loans, and units of the Farm Credit System) and guaranteed by FSA. FSA typically guarantees 90 or 95 percent of a loan against any loss that might be incurred if the loan fails.

Persons who are primarily and directly engaged in farming and ranching on family-size operations may apply.

Socially disadvantaged loan applicants *do not* receive automatic approval. In addition to being members of a socially disadvantaged group, individual applicants under this program must meet *all* requirements for FSA's regular farm loan program assistance, including:

- Have a satisfactory history of meeting credit obligations;
- Have sufficient education, experience and/or training that indicates the managerial ability to assure reasonable prospects of success;
- Be a citizen of the United States (or a legal resident alien), including Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and certain former Pacific Island Trust Territories;
- Be unable to obtain credit elsewhere at reasonable rates and terms to meet actual needs; and

2008 Rainfall Data as recorded at the county Office

POLK

Month Inches

Jan	1.40
Feb	4.60
March	7.58
April	7.26
May	6.67
June	10.70

DALLAS

Month Inches

Jan	2.65
Feb	5.47
March	7.34
April	6.89
May	7.57
June	6.51

- Possess legal capacity to incur loan obligations.

Contact the local Farm Service Agency county office or USDA Service Center staff for more information.

Selected Interest Rates for July 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%

Dates to Remember	
June 15	County Committee Nomination period began.
June 23	CRP Critical Feed Loss Program signup began.
June 25-Sept. 30	2008 DCP Signup period.
July 4	Independence Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
July 18	Deadline to sign-up for LCP and LIP.
August 1	County Committee Nominations Due
August 15	Final certification date for all 2008 crops, including forage, seed and CRP.
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.

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