



DATES TO REMEMBER

May 1

Sign up for Bobwhite Quail Restoration Acres Begins

May 5

(DDAP-III) Dairy Disaster Program ends

May 26

Memorial Day Holiday.

Offices Closed

May 31

Final Date to Request 2007-crop Corn, Soybeans, and Milo Loans or LDPs.

Ongoing

- Farm Storage Facility Loans
- Continuous CRP Signup
- Farm Record Changes



Farm Bill.....

At this time we have not received information on the passage of a new farm bill. Watch future newsletters for additional information.

Breaking New Ground???

- ◆ Do you intend to clear timber areas to create or to expand existing crop areas?
- ◆ Are you converting a pasture field into a crop field?
- ◆ Are there any areas on your farm that you are considering cropping that have not been cropped in recent years?
- ◆ Is there a wet spot in a field that you want to drain to make cropping easier?
- ◆ Are you disturbing a wildlife habitat area of any type?
- ◆ Are you doing anything different on your farm this year?

These are highly erodible and wetlands provision questions that need to be answered by producers to assure that they remain eligible for USDA benefits. Commodity prices are setting record highs and you may be planning on breaking out new ground to plant to a crop during 2008. If you answered yes to any of the questions above take the time to visit the office to complete an AD-1026 form for the fields that you plan to begin cropping.

All participants in USDA programs are required to have 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, 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 fields or drainage ditches. **Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in loss of all federal payments and eligibility.**

SAFE (State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement) Projects Sign up Begins May 1

Owners and operators of certain cropland in designated geographic areas of Missouri may enroll eligible land into a new continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) practice titled State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE), also known as Practice CP38E, beginning May 1, 2008. USDA has approved three SAFE proposals in Missouri to address high priority wildlife needs through habitat restoration. In District 3, the SAFE Project that is available to interested producers is the Bobwhite Quail Habitat Restoration.

Producers within Missouri's SAFE areas can submit offers to voluntarily enroll acres in CRP contracts for 14 to 15 years up to the state maximum of 6,250 acres for the Bobwhite Quail Restoration Project. Enrolled producers will receive annual CRP rental payments, incentive payments, and cost-share assistance to establish habitat.

Eligible acreage is cropland that was planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity during four of the six years from 1996 to 2001. 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.

Through SAFE, producers create a habitat that may involve planting shrubs, trees, grasses, and forbs species that help restore or improve wildlife habitat. This habitat is managed during the life of the contract by strip disking, spraying or burning.

Contact your local FSA office or find more information about SAFE online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>; click on Conservation Programs.



District 3 Service Centers

District Director
Tom Balsler

Audrain County

Mexico, MO
Phone 573-581-1406
Fax 573-581-7283

Clark County

Kahoka, MO
Phone 660-727-3364
Fax 660-727-3089

Knox County

Edina, MO
Phone 660-397-2559
Fax 660-397-3289

Lewis County

Monticello, MO
Phone 573-767-5274
Fax 573-767-5495

Lincoln County

Troy, MO
Phone 636-528-4113
Fax 636-528-9582

Macon County

Macon, MO
Phone 660-385-2616
Fax 660-385-4923

Marion County

Palmyra, MO
Phone 573-769-2235
Fax 573-769-4460

Monroe County

Paris, MO
Phone: 660-327-4137
Fax: 660-327-4507

Pike County

Bowling Green, MO
Phone 573-324-3313
Fax 573-324-2475

Ralls County

New London, MO
Phone 573-985-8611
Fax 573-985-3928

Shelby County

Shelbyville, MO
Phone 573-633-2440
Fax 573-633-1406

Sign-up for DDAP III Ends May 5th

Eligible dairy producers who suffered production losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 may apply to receive benefits, for any of these years, under the Dairy Disaster Assistance Program III (DDAP-III). Producers can sign up at their local USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) service center **until May 5, 2008**.

Producers will need to provide to their local FSA office, the annual marketed production and average number of cows in the dairy herd for 2003 and 2004 to determine base production. To calculate the loss, FSA must also know the dairy's production and the average number of cows in the dairy herd for the applicable disaster years.

Losses will be calculated by comparing the expected base annual production (from 2003 and 2004) and the actual production during the applicable disaster claim year. FSA may adjust calculations when losses are not caused by disaster.



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>.

Crop Reports

County offices are taking crop reports on planted acres. Producers may also report CRP and permanent pasture acres at this time. **REMINDERS:** Check planted acres and crop shares. Acreage, shares and farming entities should be consistent with crop insurance, and crop sales receipts. **When producers report differently than the way they actually operate, they may not be considered eligible for program benefits.**

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Considering constructing new storage structure for 2008? Low interest rate loans, (3.00% for the month of April), 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.

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. Loan approvals expire in four months. This should provide adequate time to construct your facility and submit your bills for the total cost. **(Please remember that we cannot disburse your loan until the facility is done and we have inspected it.)**



Report Failed Crop Acreage Prior to Destruction

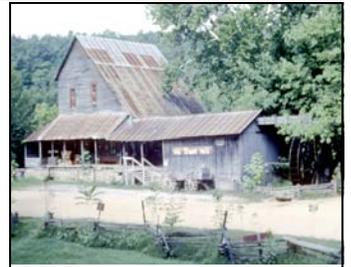
With spring planting around the corner, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages farmers to report failed crop acreage that will not be brought to harvest to their FSA office. Failed acreage must be reported to FSA before destroying and replanting to allow time for a field check.

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. Producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was **prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period.**

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.

Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in loss of all Federal payments and eligibility.



April showers bring.....

Removing CCC Loan Collateral

Producers are reminded, if you have grain under Commodity Credit Corporation loan it cannot be removed or disposed of without prior county office staff authorization or repayment. The county office staff may issue release authorizations based on a telephone or in person request when you are ready to move the grain. A loan violation is subject to monetary and administrative penalties, such as repaying the loan at principal plus interest, liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans and loan deficiency payments.

All commodity loans are subject to spot check. Locking in a market loan repayment rate is not a marketing authorization. If you are planning to move CCC loan grain, contact the county office staff for additional information.

Changing Accounts, Banks?

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically these days, using Direct Deposit. The switch has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. Did you know the chances of having a problem with a payment are 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit? Or, that Direct Deposit can be made within 48 hours?



To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you've made any changes in accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact us so we can update our files.

Farm Record Changes

If you have bought, sold or are renting different land, make sure you report the changes to the staff at your local FSA office as soon as possible so farm records can be updated.

If your legal status has changed from an individual to a trust or other entity such as a LLC, please provide the new tax ID names, numbers and a copy of written signature authority so payments can be correctly issued.

For farm ownership changes, owners will need to provide a copy of the recorded deed or land contract.

United States Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency
District 3
PO Box 215
Shelbyville, MO 63469

Official Business

If your address has changed or have any questions about this newsletter please contact your local FSA office. Your address is pulled from your local FSA office database and mailed out to all producers within in the district.

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.

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.

Continuous CRP Available

USDA has recently 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. Missouri still has acreage available for Conservation Practice CP-33 (5300 acres) statewide and CREP (3500 acres) for selected watershed areas.

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