



Shelby County News

October 2008

Shelby County
USDA Service Center

Shelby County FSA
PO Box 215
210 E Main St
Shelbyville, MO 63469
573-633-2440 (phone)
573-633-1406 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

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

County Committee
Lloyd Timbrook
J C Douglass
Charles Snider
Delores Thrasher

County Committee
meets 3rd Wednesday

Staff
Beth Stiefel, CED
Julia Perrigo
Mary McCoy
Lisa Houston

Field Assistants

E L Prange Jr
Jerry Myers

Final Payments for 2008 DCP

Enrolled producers were mailed their final direct payment to be deposited directly into personal bank accounts on October 7th.

The direct payment for a crop equals 85 percent of the farm's base acreage times (x) the farm's direct payment yield times (x) the direct payment rate.

Shelby County producers received \$2,085,199 in final direct payments.

County Committee Elections

Just a reminder: Be watching your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters in LAA 3 starting on November 3, 2008. LAA 3 consists of townships Salt River, Lentner, Jefferson and S 1/2 of Clay. If, for some reason, you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on December 1, 2008. Elected committee members and alternates take office on Jan. 1, 2009.

Any person who meets the Prospective Voter requirements in 1 or 2 below as well as 3 is eligible to vote.

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either:
 - An individual; or
 - The authorized representative of an entity.
2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm.
3. Participates or cooperates in any U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) program that is provided for by law.

Discrimination Prohibited - No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status. If you have any questions about your voter eligibility, please contact your local FSA office.

Emergency Conservation Program

Due to flooding and heavy rains that occurred during June and July 2008, the following practices will be available under Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) for Shelby County producers.

EC1 – Removing debris from farmland; EC2 – Grading, shaping, re-leveling or similar measures; EC3 – Restoring permanent fences; EC4 - Restoring conservation structures and other measures.

Land eligibility will be determined based on an on-site inspection of damage, taking into account the type and extent of damage. For land to be eligible, the disaster must have created new conservation problems that, if untreated, would impair or endanger the land and materially affects its productive capacity. Under the program, cost-share monies would be available for the practices mentioned above.

To qualify for cost-share assistance producers must have suffered at least \$1,000 of eligible cost-share under ECP. Levees or land between the levee and the river are not eligible for cost-share under ECP. Sand deposits must be at least 6" in depth to qualify. Land on which cost-share assistance is received must maintain its agricultural use for a minimum of 10 years following the year the practice is completed.

Signup for ECP will be September 15th - November 13th. Producers should apply for assistance at the Shelby County FSA Office before beginning repairs or removing debris from their acreages.

CRP Payments

Enrolled producers were mailed their annual CRP rental payment to be deposited directly into personal bank accounts on October 6th.

Shelby County producers received \$1,082,695 in annual rental payments.

FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- A married woman shall sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, not Mrs. John Doe
- For a minor, FSA requires the minor's signature and one from an eligible parent
Note, by signing the applicable document, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc
- When signing on one's behalf the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form, or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. Example - John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc
- FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the acceptable program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information. Examples of documents **not** approved for FAXED signatures include:
 - Promissory note
 - Assignment of payment
 - Joint payment authorization
 - NAP actual production history and approved yield record
 - Acknowledgement of commodity certificate purchase
 - Financing statement
 - UCC financing statement
- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities
- All members of a general partnership must sign for the general partnership unless an individual is authorized to act on the behalf of the general partnership and bind all members

- Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts shall consist of an indicator "by" or "for" the individual's name, individual's name and capacity, or individual's name, capacity, and name of entity

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

Marketing Assistance Loans

Marketing Assistance loans are commodity loans available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the term of the loan.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires you comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, report how you use cropland acreage on the farm and ensure the commodity meets CCC minimum grade and quality standards.

For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program to be eligible for commodity loans.

Shelby County loan rates:

Wheat	- \$2.33 bu
Corn	- \$2.01 bu
Gr Sorghum	- \$3.36 cwt
Soybeans	- \$5.13 bu.

Annie's Project

The Knox County University of Missouri Extension is sponsoring an educational program called Annie's Project. The six week class is targeted toward farm women which covers a variety of topics including: Human Resources and Time Management, Business Plans, How Property is Titled, Leases and Legal Issues, Financial Records, Financial Documentation, Retirement & Estate Planning, Risk Management, and Insurance. Registration is due by October 29th with classes running November 3rd thru December 8th. If you are interested stop by the Shelby County FSA Office for a brochure or contact Karisha Devlin @ 660-307-2179.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

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 or bunker 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.

FSA Farm Loans Available For Beginning Farmers or Rancher

Beginning farmers or ranchers may obtain a farm ownership loan by using funds set aside especially for them by the Farm Service Agency. These loans can be up to the \$300,000 loan limit, and the term of the loan can be up to 40 years.

The interest rate is set the first of each month, and is currently 5.125 percent. The rate for limited resource producer is 5.000 percent.

Farm ownership loan funds may also be used in joint financing where FSA lends up to 50 percent of the amount financed and another lender provides 50 percent or more. FSA may charge an interest rate of not less than 4 percent with terms up to 40 years.

Selected Interest Rates for October 2008	
90-Day Treasury Bill	1.750%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.750%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.125%
Farm Ownership Loans -- Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.250%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	3.00%



NAP Coverage Closing Date Extended

Since the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 was announced so late defining the 2009 risk management NAP Coverage requirement for the Supplemental Disaster Programs, the National Farm Service Agency (FSA) office has extended the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage purchase date for 2009 only. **As a result, the State Committee established NAP application closing dates that fall before December 1, 2008 have been extended to December 1, 2008, for the 2009 application crop year.**

Please note that extending the 2009 NAP application deadlines to December 1, 2008, does not modify the definition of coverage period. NAP coverage will not begin until the later of the following dates:

- 30 calendar days after the date CCC-471 is filed; and
- The date the crop is planted not to exceed the final planting date.

NAP was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

The application deadline date for the 2009 NAP coverage for winter wheat, barley, apples, canola, peaches, grapes, greens (spinach), honey, Christmas trees, ginseng, aquaculture, floriculture, mushrooms, ornamental nursery, turfgrass sod **for Missouri, is December 1, 2008.** For 2009-2012, the NAP Service Fees have increased from: \$100 to \$250 per crop; \$300 to \$750 per county; \$900 to \$1,875 per producer for all counties.

Producers who already have coverage on 2008 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2009, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

For more information on NAP coverage, please contact your local Farm Service Agency office.



Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants.

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, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

If producers believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Dates to Remember	
Oct. 29 – 31	Staff will be out of office for Farm Bill Training
Nov. 3	County committee ballots mailed to voters
Nov. 11	Veterans Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Nov. 27	Thanksgiving Day Holiday FSA Offices Closed.
Dec. 1	Last day to return voted ballots to the local FSA office.
Dec. 1	Application deadline for 2009 NAP coverage for Fall Crops.
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan program.
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program.

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