

March 2008

Webster County News



Webster County USDA Service Center

Webster County FSA
1202 Banning Street
Marshfield, MO 65706
PH 417-468-2088
Fax 417-468-7334
www.fsa.usda.gov

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

County Committee
Darrell Ragsdale – Chm
Carolyn Leonard – VChm
Joe Bill Day- Mem

County Committee
meets the first
Thursday of each month
at 9:00 a.m. in
the county office.

Staff
Cheryl Grass – PT
Sue Price – PT
Sharon Pettibon - FLT
Jim Kyle – DD
Ron Keith – AFLPS
Mark Aycock – FLS
Wyman Miller -CED



Dairy Disaster Assistance Program Sign-up Begins

Beginning March 5, eligible dairy producers can sign-up for the Dairy Disaster Assistance Program (DDAP-III) at your local FSA Service Center. DDAP-III will compensate producers for production losses that resulted from cattle and yield losses and produced milk that had to be dumped because of lack of electricity, closed milk plants, damaged containment equipment and other related issues.

Sign-up will conclude May 5, 2008.

A producer's operation must be 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**. Counties contiguous to such counties will also be eligible. Producers in counties declared disasters by the President may be eligible, even though agricultural loss was not covered by the declaration, if there has been a FSA Administrator's Physical Loss Notice covering such losses.

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

- Producers must 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 in an approved area.

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. 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. To calculate the loss, the dairy must provide the dairy's actual production and average number of cows in the dairy herd for the applicable disaster year(s).

To find out more information about the DDAP- II visit our website at www.fsa.usda.gov or to apply for the program, contact your local FSA Service Center.

NAP Coverage Deadline

March 17th is the last day for producers to apply for Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage using Form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, and pay the service fee at the county of office. The application and service fee must be filed **by March 17th**, the deadline date for 2008 spring planted crops which include: forage sorghum, oats, potatoes, soybeans, sunflowers and all spring planted specialty crops grown for food.

The service fee is \$100 per crop per county or \$300 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$900 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees.

To qualify, a producer must be a landowner, tenant or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop.

Honey Loans Available

Marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments for 2007 crop year honey are available **until March 31, 2008**. The national loan rate for honey is \$0.60 per pound. Market prices currently exceed the loan rate; so LDP's are not available right now.

To be eligible for a loan, the producer must have produced honey in the United States during the calendar year for which the loan is requested, and extracted the honey on or before Dec. 31 of the applicable crop

year; have continuous beneficial interest in the honey through date of repayment of the loan; and been responsible for the financial risk of keeping the honey. Producers are responsible for maintaining the quality of farm-stored honey during the term of the loan.

The honey must be produced in the United States by an eligible producer, from an approved floral source, and stored in approved containers. The containers must be marked with the producer's name, type of honey, number of container and net weight. Pre-loan inspections are required before the loans can be disbursed. Honey used as collateral may not be disposed of without approval of the county office staff.

CREP & 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. Remember, the deadline date for approval for all CRP, including CREP program practices in the 2002 Farm Bill Extension is March 15, 2008.

Not Too Late To Return Your 2007 Ag Census Form

The 2007 Census of Agriculture, the only source of consistent and comprehensive agricultural data for every state and county in the nation, was mailed out to agricultural producers across the United States last December with a Feb 4th due date for return. Officials at the National Agricultural Statistics Service say that while the deadline has passed, completed forms are still being accepted.

Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the Census provides detailed data covering nearly every facet of U.S. agriculture. Government organizations, lawmakers, town planners and individual farm operations can use this vital information to help them plan for future

facilities, services and community growth.

Producers can return their forms by mail or, for the first time, they have the convenient option of filling out the Census online. For more information about the Census, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov. The Census is your voice, your future and your responsibility.

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.

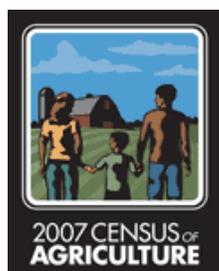
The following changes must be reported to the FSA office; changes to banking information for direct deposit payments, mailing address changes, land ownership changes--including land transfers to living trusts, irrevocable trusts, etc. Estates of CRP participants need to contact their local FSA Service 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.



Selected Interest Rates for March 2008

90-Day Treasury Bill	3.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.750%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.875%
Limited Resource Loans	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans Beginning Farmer Down Payment	4.000%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.125%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	4.250%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	3.125%



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.

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.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

ATTENTION LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) for the disaster events in 2005, 2006 and 2007 is ongoing. If you have not applied, don't let this program slip by.

If you owned or cash leased eligible livestock on January 1st of 2005, 2006 or 2007 and suffered an eligible feed loss, you may be compensated.

Payment rates for some eligible livestock are:

- **BEEF (Adult) – \$10.66/head**
- **DAIRY (Adult) - \$27.72/head**
- **BEEF & DAIRY (500#'s plus on Jan. 1st) - \$8.00/head**

Other eligible livestock include: Buffalo, Beefalo, Sheep, Goats, Equine, Swine, Poultry, Deer and Elk. [\(Claimed livestock must be for commercial purposes in a farming operation to be considered eligible\).](#)

Producers incurring losses in 2005, 2006 and 2007 must choose only one year for which to receive benefits. Also if a producer selects to receive LCP benefits for 2006 and they participated in the Livestock Assistance Grant Program (LAGP), their benefits will be reduced by the dollar amount they received from the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

If you have any questions, give us a call. If not, get your livestock numbers and come by our office.

Also included is the Livestock Indemnity Program for producers who lost livestock as a **direct** result of a declared disaster event. Applicants must have owned the livestock on the beginning date of the disaster and provide verifiable proof of death. If verifiable proof is not available, a third part certification may be used. The

owner must provide a written, dated and signed statement that no other proof is available, number of livestock by category when the deaths occurred, physical location in inventory when deaths occurred and documentation that supports reasonableness of the number of livestock in inventory when deaths occurred. The third party certification must provide a written and signed statement giving specific details about how the third party has knowledge of the animal deaths, affiliation to the producer, telephone number and address, number and kind of livestock that died because of the disaster and other specific details for the committee and DD to determine the certification is acceptable.

No deadline has yet to be established for sign up in the LCP and LIP programs

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

March 24, 2008 is the deadline for producers to apply for assistance to help repair and/or replace fences and remove debris from farmland due to the January tornado. Producers must incur at least \$1000.00 out of pocket expense to be eligible. Clean up from houses, barns and other outbuildings is not eligible.

Applications are being taken but funds have not been received for this program at this time.

Dates to Remember	
Mar. 15	2002 Farm Bill Extension deadline for 2008 LDP's on wool, mohair and unshorn pelts.
Mar. 15	2002 Farm Bill Extension deadline for Contract Approval for all CRP, including CREP program practices.
Mar. 17	Deadline to obtain 2008 NAP coverage on spring planted crops.
Mar. 31	Final Availability for 2007 crop wheat, barley, oats, honey loans and LDP's.
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.
Continuous	Farm Storage Facility Loan program.

Visit our website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/

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