

June 2008



Webster County News

**Webster County
USDA Service Center**

Webster County FSA
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Marshfield, MO 65706
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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
Sharon Pettibon - FLT
Jim Kyle – DD
Ron Keith – AFLPS
Mark Aycock – FLS
Wyman Miller -CED

Final Acreage Reporting Dates Quickly 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.

Producers are required to file an FSA-578, *Report of Acreage*, certification for the farm by the **June 30 deadline for small grains** and by **July 31 for all other crops except small grains**. To be considered timely, acreage reports on crops are due in the county office by the earlier of June 30 for small grains and July 31 for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

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 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.

Sign-up Deadline for LCP and LIP

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.

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 Webster County Farm Service Agency County Committee. Since COC elections happen only once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into *local administrative areas*, or LAAs. Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee.

Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. In counties with three LAAs, one seat is up for election.

An election will be held for the Webster County Committee position for LAA 2 that includes the townships of Marshfield, West Ozark, East Ozark and High Prairie.

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 Webster County 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.

Remember, the nomination period runs **June 15 through Aug. 1**. The 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. Voting takes place in the fall. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 3. Dec. 1 is the last day to return voted ballots to the county office. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office Jan. 1, 2008.

Sodbuster Regulations

The term “sodbusting” is used to identify the plowing up of erosion-prone grasslands for use as cropland. Sodbuster violations are unauthorized tillage practices on highly erodible lands that converted native vegetation such as rangeland or woodland, to crop production after Dec. 23, 1985.

Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs.

Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production.

If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates on a CPA-026 that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage, before bringing land into production.

In addition, producers and the producer’s affiliates have to file an AD-1026 with the staff in the administrative or control county office before any farm program payments can be made. The AD-1026 is the producer’s signed certification that HELC, as well as wetland conservation, provisions will not be violated.

CONTINUOUS CRP SIGNUP

USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program available to agricultural producers to help them safeguard environmentally sensitive land. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long term, resource conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion, and enhance wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost share assistance.

FSA administers CRP, while other USDA agencies and partners provide technical support. More detailed information on CRP is available in the FSA fact sheet "Conservation Reserve Program."

Environmentally desirable land devoted to certain conservation practices may be enrolled in CRP at any time under continuous sign-up. Offers are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements. Offers for continuous sign-up are not subject to competitive bidding. Continuous sign-up contracts are 10 to 15 years in duration.

To offer land for continuous sign-up, producers should contact their local FSA offices.

A New CRP Practice called SAFE

A new Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) practice became available to area producers on May 1 and is called SAFE- State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement. This new program allows producers in Missouri to qualify for annual CRP payments in return for establishing wildlife habitat restoration areas on eligible cropland acreage. The program allows enrollment of entire fields, not just field borders, and is designed specifically to restore habitat for Bob-White Quail. While FSA will administer the program, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) will be involved for technical determinations.

The contract length for SAFE is 14 to 15 years and the annual payment rate is based on the soil type of the acreage offered. In addition to the regular 50% cost-share for CRP practice establishment additional incentive payments are available, including a one time lump sum sign-up incentive payment equal to \$100 per acre and an additional 40% cost-share payment.

The fields enrolled will be seeded to an approved cover in accordance with a conservation plan to be developed by MDC or NRCS. 10% to 20% of the field will be devoted to wildlife food plots and 1% will be established in a dense woody cover.

As with all CRP practices, the land offered for SAFE must be eligible cropland that has a cropping history and is physically capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity.

Sign-up began on May 1. If you feel you are interested in this or any CRP program contact the office with specific questions.

Reporting Farm Changes

It is the producer’s responsibility to notify FSA of any changes in their farming operation or entity status throughout the year. Changes that may af-



fect a determination include, but are not limited to, a change in contract shares which may reflect a change of land leased from share rent to cash rent; addition or deletion of a farm; change in the structure of the farming operation, such as individual to a corporation or trust; change in contributions or inputs such as personal labor, or change in farming interest.

Preliminary Information about 2008 – 2012 Farm Program

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008(Act), Pub. L. 110-234, was enacted into law on May 22, 2008. This law authorizes continuing the Direct and Counter-Cyclical (DCP) program for 2008 – 2012. Following are some of the provisions of the new law

- Crop acreage bases in effect 9/30/2007 will be in effect for 2008 DCP
- Direct and counter-cyclical payments are prohibited if the sum of the base acres on a farm is 10 acres or less
- Advance direct payments will be available at 22% of the payment rate. For 2008, the payment will be made as soon as practical after the producer makes a selection
- Planting flexibility is allowed similar to the 2002 Act.
- Must comply with conservation compliance requirements
- Control noxious weeds
- File an annual acreage report
- For 2008 the same payment eligibility, payment limitation and adjusted gross income rules are applicable. Big changes are coming for 2009 – 2012
- an agricultural disaster relief trust fund (“trust fund”)
- supplemental agricultural disaster assistance programs.

Stay tuned because more information will be coming on all these programs.

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

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

Note, check to find out if signature is acceptable on a **FAXED form**.

- 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
- Spouses may sign on behalf of each other’s individual interest in a partnership, unless notification denying a spouse that authority is provided to the county office



- 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.

Banking Changes?

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit. Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account 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 have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the County Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency office

Selected Interest Rates for June 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%

Dates to Remember

June 15	County Committee Nomination period begins.
June 30	Final certification date for small grains.
July 4	Independence Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
July 18	Deadline to sign-up for LCP and LIP.
July 31	Final certification date for all crops except small grains.
Continuous	Farm Storage Facility Loan program.

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