



December 2006

Adair County News

**Adair County
USDA Service Center**

Adair County FSA
2410 S Franklin St
Kirkville, MO 63501
660-665-3274 (phone)
660-665-0266 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/**

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Burrell Harris
David Kittle
Frank Collop
Rosena Davison

County Committee meets
1st Wednesday of each
month

Staff
Program Technicians
Penny Boulware
Margaret Bunch
Barb Snyder
Jennifer Triplett

County Executive Director
Philip Ayers

Farm Loan Manager
Curt Corbett

Annual DCP Enrollment

To participate in DCP, producers are required to **designate shares and sign the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program Contract (CCC-509) on a yearly basis.** The annual DCP sign-up period runs from October 1 to June 1 of the applicable program year. To be considered enrolled timely, the CCC-509 must be submitted by June 1 of the applicable program year. In cases where a farm is reconstituted, all resulting farms will need to enroll (signatures obtained) if the producers intend to participate. All supporting documentation, such as CCC-502, AD-1026, and CCC-526, must be submitted before payments can be issued. Annual acreage reports indicating uses of all cropland on a farm must be filed by the applicable established reporting dates.

Producers may receive a 22% advance payment. Final direct payments will be made on or after October 1 following the contract period

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Is your farm in a CREP watershed? Adair County producers in the Salt River, Hazel Creek, and Forest Lake watersheds are being given the opportunity to enroll acres in a new expanded Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. CREP is a land retirement program that is much like CRP. Signup has begun, is continuous, and will end when 40,000 acres have been enrolled. Eligible acreage is limited to 100 acres of upland per producer. There is no limit on smaller acreages such as filter strips and buffer strips along streams in cropland and marginal pastureland. Program participants will receive annual payments for 14-15 years. In addition, CREP participants will

receive various financial incentives for enrolling. For additional information, contact the Adair County FSA Office. (P.S. There is an excellent article about CREP on Page 5 in the December edition of the Missouri Conservationist.)

Continuous CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is a private lands environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

The Continuous CRP program is a voluntary enrollment program. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment.

To be eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year.

For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments or local Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) availability, please contact your local FSA office or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/crpcont03.htm>.

Maintaining the Quality of Grain under Loan

This year's large grain crop has its obvious upside, but there is a downside too. Many producers are hard pressed to find adequate storage for every bushel harvested. Overfilled grain storage bins can lead to grain quality problems.

Bins are ideally designed to hold a level volume of grain. When bins are overfilled and grain is heaped up, airflow is hindered and the chance of spoilage increases.

Producers who take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored grain as collateral should remember that they are responsible for maintaining the quality of the commodity through the term of the loan.

For information about grain storage options visit <http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/cropsystems/M1080-FS.pdf> or contact your local extension office.

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule. Spouses may not sign FSA-211s on behalf of each other or sign on behalf of the other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Spouses must have a power of attorney on file or sign personally for claim settlements, such as promissory notes, and on security documents for price support loans.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

A spouse's authority to sign documents on behalf of the other spouse does not entitle the

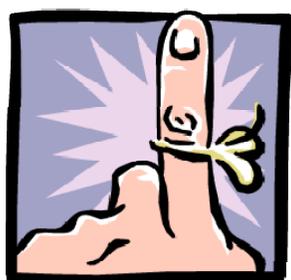
spouse to review or receive agency records of the other spouse.

Loans for Beginning Farmers, Socially Disadvantaged

FSA is authorized to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person whom:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average farm size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Socially disadvantaged groups are Hispanics, American Indians, African Americans, Asians, Pacific Islanders and women.



Program Reminders

Selected Interest Rates for December 2006

90-Day Treasury Bill	5 %
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	5.125 %
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.375 %
Limited Resource Loans	5 %
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4 %
Emergency Loans	3.75 %
Farm Storage Facility Loans	%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	%

What's New with the Adair County SWCD

The Adair County Soil and Water Conservation District staff is green, but growing. With three new employees being hired on in only the past two years, the office has taken on a whole new look. This staff is composed of Denise Matthews, District Manager; Grant Phillips, District Technician; and Debby Wilhelm, Information Education Specialist. All of the new staff is anxious to get to know and start working with the great cooperators of Adair County.

The latest project, they have been working on is an application for an Agricultural Nonpoint Source Special Area Land Treatment (AgNPS SALT) grant, that could possibly provide district farmers with an extra \$750,000 dollars over the next seven years. The AgNPS SALT program is offered through the Missouri Department of Natural Resource's Soil and Water Conservation Program.

This program provides direct technical and financial assistance to producers with land identified and prioritized as having water quality impairments caused by agricultural nonpoint source pollution problems. We have identified the Upper North Fork of the Salt River Watershed as our area of focus. Success of this project is dependent on the cooperation of numerous partners using a variety of tools to accomplish project goals.

We will be having an AgNPS SALT informational meeting on Tuesday, December 12, 2006. If you have any questions or are unsure if you live/own land in this watershed, please contact our office at 660-665-3274 ext. 3.

Rural Development Funds Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Programs

An informational meeting about the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Improvement Program is scheduled for January 18, 2007, at the USDA Rural Development state office located at 601 Business Loop 70 West, Suite 235, Columbia, Missouri 65203. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. and cover the 9006 Energy program and the application process.

"The Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvement Program provides Missouri agricultural producers and rural busi-

nesses the opportunity to harness the renewable energy resources available on farms and fields across our state", said Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development. "The program can also provide increased economic development opportunities for Missouri."

Section 9006 of the current Farm Bill established the Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements loan and grant program to encourage agricultural producers and rural small businesses to create renewable energy systems and to promote energy efficiency. The funds support a wide range of technologies encompassing biomass (including both bio-fuel and anaerobic digester projects), geothermal, hydrogen, solar, and wind energy, as well as energy efficiency improvements. In addition to agricultural energy efficiency projects related to grain drying and irrigation, rural small businesses may use the program to assist with funding energy efficient improvements to buildings and industrial applications.

Since the program was established in 2003, USDA has provided \$87.3 million in grants and \$34.3 million in loan guarantees to 844 applicants in 36 states. Missouri benefited in 2005 with three grants totaling \$751,288, including funds to purchase two high-efficiency grain drying bin systems. In 2006, Missouri received one grant of \$500,000 to assist with the cost of constructing a 3-million gallon biodiesel plant. During Fiscal Year 2006, \$17.5 million was awarded nationwide for competitive grants and approximately \$4.6 million in guaranteed loans. The grant applications are typically due in late spring and compete with other applications from across the nation. The guaranteed loan funds are available throughout the year.

Agricultural producers and rural small businesses are eligible to apply. The grant request may not exceed 25% of the eligible project cost. Renewable energy grant applications can be for a minimum of \$2,500 and a maximum of \$500,000. For energy efficiency projects, the maximum grant is \$250,000. The program can also be used to guarantee up to 85% of loans made by commercial lenders to finance renewable energy or energy efficiency projects. The maximum amount of a guaranteed loan made to a borrower is \$10 million.

Applications for projects must be submitted to the Missouri Rural Development State Office, 601 Business Loop 70 West, Suite 235, Columbia, Missouri 65203. Detailed information



about application and program requirements for last year was included in the February 13, 2006, publication (page 7509) of the Federal Register. Additional information is available at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farbill/index.html> or by calling 573-876-0995.

Those interested in attending the informational meeting on Thursday, January 18, 2007, are encouraged to make a reservation by contacting Matt Moore by calling 573-876-0995.

Dates to Remember	
Dec. 25	Christmas Day Holiday
Jan 1, 07	New Year Holiday
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans

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