



January 2008

Andrew County News

Andrew County
USDA Service Center

Andrew County FSA
105 Hwy 71 West
Savannah, MO. 64485
816-324-3196 (phone)
816-324-5879 (fax)

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

County Committee
Roger Scott, Chair
Jim Steeby, Vice-Chair
Karen Strasser, Member

Committee meets
3rd Friday of each
Month - 9:30 a.m.

Staff
Bob Caldwell, CED
Sindy Barr, PT
Carrie Noland, PT
Allyson Wells, PT.
John Wheeler, Field

Farm Loan Manager
Charlotte Holeman
Thursday mornings

What's in
This Issue:

DISASTER
PROGRAMS

CCC LOANS
& LDPs

NAP
INSURANCE

EMERGENCY
LOANS

LIVESTOCK AND CROP DISASTER PROGRAMS

LCP compensates livestock producers for feed losses or and LIP for livestock losses occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, due to a natural disaster. Producers in primary counties declared secretarial disaster areas or certain counties declared presidential disaster areas between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, are eligible.

Andrew County producers can sign up for **either 2005 or 2006**, depending on which year the most eligible livestock was owned.

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. **Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.** Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP.

Farm Program for 2008

We have been getting several inquiries about signing up for the 2008 farm program and requesting advance payments. Until Congress approves a new farm bill or extends the current one, we cannot hold a sign up. As soon as we get information about a new or extended farm bill, we will get the word out in another newsletter and news releases.

Visit our Web site:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo>

LDP Deadline on Wool, Mohair and Unshorn Lamb Pelts

Eligible producers have **until Jan. 31, 2008**, to apply for LDPs for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts produced during the 2007 crop year.

Eligible producers must:

- have beneficial interest in the wool or unshorn pelts
- owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of shearing or slaughter
- sold the unshorn lambs for immediate slaughter or slaughtered the lamb for personal use
- comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in.

Power of Attorney

We have a power of attorney form available for those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. This can be done by completing an FSA-211, Power of Attorney.

NAP Insurance Deadline

March 15th is the deadline to buy a NAP policy for crops that are not insurable through multi-peril crop insurance. You can purchase NAP at the FSA Office, \$100 per crop.



Farm Operation Changes --Farm Reconstitutions

When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm **reconstitution** is necessary.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. The reconstitution will be effective for 2008.

County Committee Election

Voters in Platte, Empire and Benton elected Roger Scott to another 3-year term on the Andrew County FSA Committee. Jennifer Nold of Union Star was elected as the alternate for this area.

Controlled Substance: Any person who is 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.

Direct Deposit Mandatory: As of Jan. 1, 1999, all payments issued by the county FSA office will be by direct deposit (electronic funds transfer) to a pre-designated checking or savings account with your financial institution. Forms are available at the FSA office to sign up for direct deposit if you haven't yet. For those already signed up, it is important that we are notified anytime there is a change in your account number or financial institution. If we are not notified, future payments can be delayed or lost for a period of time.

Spousal Signatures

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

Website for Digital Imagery

Landowners who have access to the internet may find the following site of interest. Producers can access 2004 digital imagery for their land by using the map room link at <http://www.cares.missouri.edu/index.asp> There will be no line work on the fields, but it is a good source of current photography. Producers can also access topographical maps, floodplain maps and measure distance and acreages.

Emergency Loans

Producers with losses from the late freeze in April or the flooding in May, can apply for low interest loans through February 26, 2008 for freeze damage, and February 11, 2008 for flood damage. At least a 30% loss in production must have been suffered, or an essential physical loss. Applications will be taken until August 27, 2008 if losses were from the winter storm on December 6, 2008.

CRP NEWS

Over \$1.25 Million was paid to Andrew County producers for 2007 CRP payments.

If you received a letter concerning management practices on your CRP such as burning, disking or spraying, be sure to get the required amount done by the deadline on the chart that was included with the letter.

If you have questions please call our office.

Foreign Landowner 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.

Faxed Signatures: Certain faxed signatures shall be accepted for all applicable program forms or other documents approved for faxed signatures, if all other signature requirements are met.



Bob's Corner

In 2007 we saw a late freeze, flood, drought, an ice storm and near blizzard conditions.

Hopefully 2008 will be a little milder year. Even with all that happened, crop yields were surprisingly good and prices were better than in past years.

We are still waiting to see if a new farm bill will be passed, or if the current one will be extended. We will let you know just as soon as we get any information.

The FSA staff wishes you all a happy and prosperous New Year.

Give us a call if you have questions about any FSA programs.

816-324-3196 ext. 2

**Bob Caldwell,
CED**



Loan and LDP Information

Loans or LDPs are available for producers who share in the risk of producing crops. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Producers who have contracted the commodity, sold directly off the field, or immediately fed the commodity should have filed a CCC-633EZ page 1 to maintain eligibility for an LDP. The CCC-633EZ page 1 needs to be signed prior to harvest. Producers who deliver grain under a delayed pricing contract lose beneficial interest upon delivery, in most cases.

Electronic Loan Deficiency Payments (eLDP) are available to producers who have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account. The eLDP is an internet based service allowing producers to request certified LDPs online and, in most cases, receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours.

eLDP services provide greater flexibility to producers allowing them to minimize travel to and from county offices. eLDPs are available 24 hours a day, seven days week, except during routine backup and maintenance.

Commodities harvested for other than grain (such as hay or silage) are also eligible for LDPs. Applications should be made prior to feeding or selling. The maximum eligible quantity is based on actual production of grain for the farm. If actual production is not available, the county committee may assign a yield based on three similar farms in your area. Yield for crops that sustained weather damage will be based on the insurance appraisal.

Interest rates vary monthly and are based on the month of approval. Rates are subject to change Jan. 1.

Loan repayment options, include:

- repay the loan, principal plus interest
- repay the loan at the market repayment rate

- deliver the outstanding quantity to a designated warehouse

When commodities are under loan and used as collateral, they may not be moved without prior consent from the county office. Remember:

"CALL BEFORE YOU HAUL!"

Selected Interest Rates for January 2008

| | |
|--|--------|
| 90-Day Treasury Bill | 3.625% |
| Farm Operating Loans — Direct | 4.375% |
| Farm Ownership Loans — Direct | 5.125% |
| Limited Resource Loans | 5.000% |
| Farm Ownership Loans Beginning Farmer Down Payment | 4.000% |
| Emergency Loans | 3.750% |
| Farm Storage Facility Loans | 3.625% |
| Commodity Loans 1996-Present | 4.250% |

Beginning Farmers, Ranchers Are you a farmer or rancher who has farmed for less than 10 years? If so, you may qualify for beginning farmer targeted loan funds. Check with the Farm Service Agency for this program.

Bank Account Changes

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically these days, using Direct Deposit. 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. Contact us for changes in your account.

ECP FUNDS

The weather has slowed down emergency repair work and inspections by our office. As soon as weather permits, projects need to be completed. The State Committee has set a deadline of May 1, 2008 for work to be completed. Give us a call if you are ready to start a project and we have not made an inspection yet. As you complete the work, bring in the bills and report.

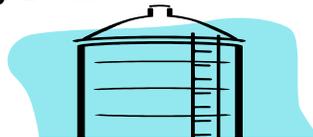
Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the Farm Service Agency county office staff, and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are necessary.



| Dates to Remember | |
|-------------------|---|
| Jan. 21 | Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. FSA Offices Closed. |
| Jan. 31 | Deadline on 2007 LDPs for wool, mohair and unshorn lamb pelts. |
| Feb. 18 | President's Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed. |
| Mar. 15 | Deadline to obtain 2008 NAP coverage on spring planted crops. |
| Mar. 31 | Final Availability for 2007 crop wheat, barley, oats, honey loans and LDPs. |

If you are considering a new grain bin, ask FSA about a Farm Storage Facility Loan!



Socially Disadvantaged Farmers

Loans are available for operating expenses and to purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has priority funding for 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.

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."