



February 2008

# *Buchanan County News*

**Buchanan County  
USDA Service Center**  
3915 Oakland Ave.  
St. Joseph, MO 64506  
816-364-3927 (phone)  
816-232-0370 (fax)  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/)

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

**County Committee**  
Gayle Delaney  
Travis Klein  
Doug Shepherd

**Program Technicians**  
Debbie Johnson  
Beck Kelly  
Gina Smith

**Field Assistants**  
Nate Parry

**Farm Loan Manager**  
Charlotte Holeman

**County Director**  
Craig Everly

## **CROP DISASTER PROGRAM**

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and/or quality losses on 2005, 2006 or 2007 eligible crops. **CDP signup** for quantity losses began **October 15, 2007**. Signup for quality losses will begin in early 2008. An ending date has not been determined yet.

All producers who obtained Federal Crop Insurance with the Risk Management Agency (RMA) or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. NAP is a voluntary program for crops that are not insurable through RMA, such as certain fruits and vegetables. Crops that were not insured through RMA or NAP are not eligible. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible. A payment limitation of \$80,000 per person applies.

Prevented planted acreage will not qualify for CDP unless a loss was submitted and paid through RMA or NAP. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose **only one year** to apply for benefits. Participants may apply for loss benefits on multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

## **LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM**

The new Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) sign-up opened September 10. Eligible ranchers and other livestock producers can apply to receive LCP compensation for feed losses occurring between Jan. 1, 2005 and December 31, 2006 due to a natural disaster. The natural disaster that occurred in Buchanan County during that time period was drought.

All applicants need to provide their livestock numbers of either January 1, 2005 and/or January 1, 2006. These numbers are primarily divided into adult cattle (cows that have calved and bulls 2 years or more) and non-adult cattle (cattle that do not meet the criteria of adult livestock but weigh greater than 500 pounds on January 1 2005 or 2006). The applicant must also submit his pasture acreages which in most cases be obtained by crop reports certified previously.

The LCP program provides monetary assistance for livestock feed losses that occurred because of an adverse weather condition including drought. Eligible applicants may only receive benefits for one year. Producers will be paid the lesser of the total value of pasture loss or a flat payment rate per head (adult livestock-\$10.66, non-adult-\$8.00).

## **2007 CROP LOANS**

Marketing loans are available for 2007 crop corn, soybeans, grain sorghum and wheat. These loans mature nine months after the month of disbursement. Loan rates are as follows:

- Corn - \$1.98 bu.
- Soybeans - \$5.15 bu.
- Grain Sorghum - \$3.53 cwt.

The interest rate for all loans disbursed in January is 4.25%. Measurement service is available through this office to ensure accuracy of the amount of grain stored. For commodities to be eligible for loans 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. This office must be notified before removal or feeding of any grain pledged for loan. This notification can be a phone call.

Even though prices for grain are at high level, the marketing loan is an effective tool to receive funds to pay higher interest loans while retaining the grain for potential price gains. The final date to request a loan on 2007 spring seeded crops is May 31, 2008.

### ***Selling Land?***

If you're planning to sell farmland, there may be some program consequences you should be aware of. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't want to continue the CRP contract, you may have to refund all of the payments you've received to date.

Please consider discussing possible program consequences with the county office staff before selling any land.

## ***Record Changes***

If you have bought, sold or are renting different land, make sure you report the changes to the Farm Service Agency office as soon as possible after they occur. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or recorded land contract. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and fines if you are participating in our programs.

### ***Bank Account Changes?***

As of Jan. 1, 1999, all Farm Service Agency payments are supposed to be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Power of Attorney**

We have a power of attorney form available for those who find it difficult to visit the county office that enables you to designate another person to conduct your FSA business. The form can be completed at this office.

## **COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION**

Producers in Local Administrative Area III conducted an election to determine their representative to the Buchanan County FSA Committee. Gayle Delaney was elected to represent the area. Gayle takes over for Erma Giddens who was required step down from the Committee due to term limits. Congratulations Gayle and a big "Thank You" to Erma who served conscientiously and admirably over the past 15 years.

## **FSA Farm Loans Available For Beginning Farmers or Rancher**

The Farm Service Agency receives a special allocation of funds to make loans to beginning farmers and ranchers. These loans can be used to purchase real estate, livestock, equipment or to finance annual input expenses. To be eligible as a beginning farmer you must not have farmed for more than 10 years, and for real estate loan requests, you must not own more land than 30% of the average farm size in the county you operate. The maximum loan amount is \$200,000 and can be repaid over a period of 40 years for real estate and 7 years for livestock and equipment purchases.

In instances where the purchase price exceeds \$200,000, FSA can make joint financing loans in cooperation with a local lender. Applicants seeking an FSA Beginning Farmer loan to purchase real estate must have been farming for at least three years and not more than ten.

## **Controlled Substance**

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.

## **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.

## **NAP Program**

FSA administers a program called the Non-Insurable Assistance Program or NAP, which is modeled after crop insurance to provide protection against loss for crops on which crop insurance is not available. Examples of crops in this area which are eligible for coverage under this program would include double crop soybeans and most forage crops used for hay, pasture or seed production. The cost of the coverage is \$100 per crop per county with a maximum charge of \$300 per county. If you are interested in protection for non-insurable crops, contact the office. The sales closing date is March 15.

## **Farm Bill Update**

Work by Congress on the 2008 Farm Bill has not been completed at this time and a Farm Bill has not been passed. No annual farm programs are available for enrollment at this time. Watch upcoming newsletters for more information on any upcoming annual farm programs and a signup period.

## **Tobacco Quota Buyout**

Any transfers of Tobacco Transition Program contracts to family members needs to be reported to this office as soon as possible when the successor is known. The process to change the entity and /or shares on a contract takes some time.

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## ***Socially Disadvantaged Farmers***

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.

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
Feb. 18	Washington’s Birthday Holiday. <b>FSA Offices Closed.</b>
Mar. 17	<b>Deadline</b> to purchase a NAP policy.
Ongoing	<b>LCP</b> (Livestock Compensation Program)
Ongoing	<b>CDP</b> (Crop Disaster Program)
Ongoing	<b>CRP</b> – Continuous enrollment
Ongoing	<b>FSFL</b> (Farm Storage Facility Loans)

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