



October 2007

# *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**  
Erma Giddens  
Travis Klein  
Doug Shepherd

**Program Technicians**  
Debbie Johnson  
Beck Kelly  
Allyson Wells

**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 or 2006 eligible crops or 2007 wheat. **CDP signup** for quantity losses is scheduled to begin **October 15, 2007**. Signup for quality losses will begin in January 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.

For 2007, losses from natural disasters may qualify for financial assistance only if the crop was planted or prevented-planted before Feb. 28, 2007. 2007 spring-planted crops are not eligible. 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 lessor 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 October is 5.25% which is subject to change January 1, 2008. 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.

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.

## **Reporting Farm Changes**

It is the producer's responsibility to notify the Farm Service Agency of *any* changes in his or her farming operation or entity status throughout the year. Changes that may affect a determination include a change in contract shares of a contract which may reflect change of land lease from cash rent to share rent or from share rent to cash rent; modification of a variable/fixed bushel rent arrangement; a change in the size of the producer's farming operation by the addition or deletion of a farm; a change in the structure of the farming operation, including any change in the member's shares; a change in the contributions of farm inputs of capital, equipment, active personal labor, or active personal management; and a change of farming interest not previously disclosed on CCC-502 or update, including the farming interests of a spouse or minor child.

### ***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.

## ***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.

## ***Farm Loans Available From Farm Service Agency***

FSA wants to assist applicants begin or continue in agriculture production. Loan programs are available to producers seeking to finance annual operating expenses, to purchase livestock and/or machinery, and to purchase farmland.

### **To be eligible producers must:**

Be a legal resident of the United States  
Have the legal capacity to incur the loan  
Actively operate the farm themselves  
Be unable to obtain financing from another source

## ***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.

## ***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:

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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 and FAXED forms contact this office.

---

### ***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.

<u>Dates to Remember</u>	
Ongoing	Livestock Program Signup
Oct 15	CDP Sign-up begins
Nov. 2	County committee ballots mailed to voters
Nov. 12	Veterans Day Holiday
Nov. 22	Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Dec. 3	Last day to return county committee election ballots
Ongoing	Continuous CRP
Ongoing	Farm Storage Facility Loans

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.