



Caldwell County News

Caldwell County USDA Service Center

Caldwell County FSA
23 West Main St.
Kingston, MO 64650
816-586-2711 (phone)
816-586-2067 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/MO

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

County Committee
Terry Wright
Joe Graham
Kevin Stonum
Colleen Niehaus, Advisor

County Committee
meets 3rd Thursday of
each month

Office Staff
Betty Dunscombe
Debbie Leeper
Carol Gorham
Mary Finch

Fieldman
Mark Burnett

Farm Loan Manager
Michael Harwood

County Director
Debbie Clevenger



Disaster Program Sign-Up Continues

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops.

Losses from natural disasters may qualify for financial assistance if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007, or, in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007. 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.

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.

For more information about CDP and other disaster programs implemented by FSA, visit:
<http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

Voting for County Committee Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election were mailed to eligible voters on November 2, 2007. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 3, 2007. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 3rd. Only one candidate was nominated for this year's election:

Terry Wright is nominated in LAA 3 of Caldwell County, to serve another term as a committee member. Terry resides in rural Braymer and has produced

wheat, corn, soybeans, and cattle for 29 years. He is currently the chairman of the County FSA Committee and an active member of the Braymer United Methodist Church.

Eligible voters in local administrative area 3 who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

Voter Requirements Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, is eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following: an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, *or* a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper; *or*
2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; *and*
3. Eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

Discrimination Prohibited. No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

NEW! Market Gain Reported on IRS 1099-G

Historically, commodity certificate redemptions were not reported to the IRS by FSA. The difference between the loan amount and repayment amount were not classified as a market gain. **However, Beginning with the 2007 calendar year, FSA/CCC will report producer market gains associated with the repayment of a CCC loan, whether the producer repays the loan with cash or uses commodity certificates in exchange of the outstanding loan collateral.** The market gain will be reported on IRS Form 1099-G. IRS Bulletin 2007-33, Notice 2007-63, dated August 13, 2007, provides answers to frequently asked questions

about the tax treatment of market gain associated with the repayment of CCC loans under the non-recourse marketing assistance loan (MAL) program.

Please note that commodity certificate redemptions remain subject to payment limitation policies.



Farm Storage Facility Loans

Low interest rate loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, soybeans and corn.

The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.

All Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required. For details, contact the county office staff.



Operating Loan Applications

Farmers who plan to apply to the Farm Service Agency for annual operating loan assistance this year are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. The earlier an application for loan assistance is filed, the quicker the FSA staff can process your request. In addition, due to budget constraints, farmers that wait until later in the year to apply, often run the risk of finding out that our funding allocations have been utilized already. Farmers should also contact their local FSA office to setup an appointment with a Farm Loan Official for information as to what is required in order to have a complete loan application on file. Decisions on loans can not be made until a complete application is received.

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) began September 10, 2007. LCP compensates livestock producers for feed losses and LIP for livestock

losses, 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 as are producers located in counties contiguous to those counties. Producers in a primary (or contiguous) county that received an Administrator's Physical Loss Notice directly associated with a disaster declaration will also be eligible.

For Caldwell County, the feed losses and the livestock losses had to be a result of losses incurred as a result of the following adverse weather conditions on the following dates:

Drought for periods 1/1/2005 through 12/31/2005 and 1/1/2006 through 12/31/2006; and Tornadoes, Severe Storms, and Excessive Moisture for periods 3/11/2006 through 3/13/2006 and 3/30/2006 through 4/3/2006.

Unauthorized Disposition of Loaned Grain

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producer's name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call the office before any grain under loan is fed or sold.

Conservation Programs Available

Now is the time for farmers to look at their crop fields and determine which acres are unproductive. Whether this is a perimeter of a field, a tree canopy, for instance, or a wet area in the field. These areas may be eligible for an enrollment into a CRP conservation practice. For example, quail buffers, filter strips along ditches and streams or wetlands are available. Farmers should consider the economic benefits from 10-15 year enrollment in CRP.

Annual payments are guaranteed for the length of the contract, where as crop yields and prices don't have those guarantees. Additionally, the conservation practices can benefit wildlife and improve water quality.

Producers should visit their local FSA office to learn more details about conservation and the CRP program and where these practices will fit into the farm operation and landscape. And remember, this is available to all landowners in Missouri.



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 might have to refund all of the payments you've received to date.

Reviewing program implications with your local Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.

e-Forms

To save forms online and submit them to the appropriate USDA Service Center Office requires a USDA eAuthentication Account with Level 2 Access (User ID and password).

If you do not have a current USDA eAuthentication Level 2 Access Account, you can register to obtain one by visiting the USDA eAuthentication Web site at

www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/eauthCreateAccount.html.

After you have register on line, take your official identification (state ID, state driver's license, military ID or passport) to the local FSA Service Center. The staff will verify your identity and validate your Level 2 access.

Submitting an e-Form is convenient. You can access information anytime day or night seven days a week. It's also faster. Forms and applications can be submitted and received in the county office in a matter of minutes, not days or weeks.

Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

Marketing Assistance Loans, LDPs

To be eligible for loans or LDPs, you must comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, report how you use cropland acreage on the farm and ensure that the commodity meets CCC minimum grade and quality standards.

Requesting LDPs or loans has been made easier with the CCC-633 EZ. Complete page 1 of the EZ form indicating your intention to receive LDP benefits **before losing beneficial interest**. Once you've signed the EZ form you can submit an LDP request at any time during the loan availability period — before or after losing beneficial interest.

When it comes to loans, you must have beneficial interest in the commodity on the date you request the loan, and you must retain beneficial interest while the loan is outstanding.

Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if you regain beneficial interest.

For commodities to be eligible for loans or LDPs, 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.

Individuals and entities whose previous 3-year average adjusted gross income, or AGI, exceeds \$2.5 million are ineligible for LDPs and market loan gains unless they can show that at least 75 percent of their AGI comes from agriculture.

The total of LDPs and market loan gains received by a producer is limited to \$75,000 for each crop year. That means \$75,000 for wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, rice, soybeans, other oilseeds, dry peas, lentils and small chickpeas; and, \$75,000 for peanuts, wool, mohair and honey.

You do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program to be eligible for loans or LDPs.

Violating provisions of the loan and LDP program may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans and LDPs.

The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

Census Gives Farmers a Voice In Their Future

America's farmers and ranchers will soon have the opportunity to participate in shaping the future of agriculture. The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will begin distribution of the 2007 Census of Agriculture next month.

According to NASS, the Census of Agriculture provides information that is not available anywhere else – information that benefits agricultural producers and their communities in many ways. Policy-makers use Census data for decisions concerning agricultural and rural programs. Community planners use Census information to target delivery of local services. Companies rely on Census data when determining where to locate their operations. And farmers themselves look at Census data when deciding to make changes in their production strategies.

Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Census is a complete count of the nation's farms and ranches and the people who operate them. The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other topics. It provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation.

NASS will mail out Census forms on December 28, 2007 to collect data for the 2007 calendar year. Completed forms are due by February 4, 2008. Producers can return their forms by mail or, for the first time, they have the convenient option of filling out the Census online via a secure web site at <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/>.

Dates to Remember

Nov. 22	Thanksgiving Holiday. FSA offices closed.
Dec. 3	Last day to return voted ballots in county committee election.
Dec. 25	Christmas Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Jan. 1	New Year's Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Jan. 1	Elected Committee Members and alternates take office.
Continues	Continuous CRP
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans

Visit our website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

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