



January 2007

## Christian-Stone-Taney County News

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**Christian/Stone/Taney  
County USDA Service  
Center**

**Christian/Stone/Taney  
County FSA**  
1786 S 16<sup>th</sup> Ave, Ste 101  
Ozark, MO 65721  
417-581-2718 (phone)  
417-485-3863 (fax)  
www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

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

**County Committee**  
John Calhoun - Ch  
Wesley Roller - V. Ch  
George Gatton  
Mike Rauch

**Staff**  
James J. Kyle, DD  
Richard Reynolds, CED  
Donna Nave, PT  
Mary Foreman, PT  
Lexie Thompson, PT

### RETIREMENT OPEN HOUSE!!!

Mary Foreman will be retiring at the beginning of February after almost 29 years with the Farm Service Agency. Mary began her career in the Caldwell County Office in 1978, before transferring to Greene County in 1991. We have been fortunate to have her as an employee at our local office for almost 13 years. Although we are going to miss her and hate to see her go, Mary is most anxious to embark on this new phase in her life. In celebration of her years of service and future retirement, the Christian/Stone/Taney FSA is hosting an Open House to honor Mary on January 25<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the office in Ozark. At 10:30 a.m. there will be a recognition ceremony. Plan on stopping by for some refreshments and give Mary your best! If you can't make the Open House on the 25<sup>th</sup>, we know she'd appreciate your stopping by sometime before February 2nd, or giving her a call at 417-581-2718, Ext. 2.

### Annual DCP Enrollment

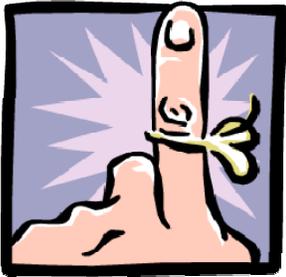
To participate in DCP, producers are required to **designate shares and sign the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program Contract (CCC-509) on a yearly basis.** The annual DCP sign-up period runs from October 1 to June 1 of the applicable program year. To be considered enrolled timely; the CCC-509 must be 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. CCC-509s with signatures obtained after June 1, but by September 30, will be accepted, but the farm will be assessed a late-filed sign-up fee of \$100. All supporting documentation, such as CCC-502, AD-1026, and CCC-526, must be submitted before pay-

ments can be issued. Annual acreage reports indicating uses of all cropland on a farm must be filed by the applicable established reporting dates. Acreage reports filed after the applicable final reporting date may be accepted if all requirements are met and a late-filed fee is paid.

DCP payments are calculated by taking 85 percent of the base acres, multiplied by the farm yield, times the applicable payment rate, times the producer share. Producers may receive an advance of the direct payment, beginning on December 1 of the program year. Final direct payments will be made on or after October 1 following the contract period. Counter-cyclical payments may also be authorized for one or more covered commodities, depending on the projected and actual market prices. Producers may elect to receive up to two counter-cyclical payments per year: (1) the first partial payment, if any, is available after the first six months of the marketing year, and (2) final payment, if any, is made after the end of the marketing year for each eligible crop. Producers who do not elect to take the first advance payments will receive the entire counter-cyclical payment at the end of the marketing year. The amount of a counter-cyclical payment is dependent upon the average of the actual prices received by farmers during the marketing year.

## Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program: CREP

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/crpecont03.htm>



### Program Reminders

#### Foreign Buyers

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 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 requirements.

Farmers in certain new watersheds are able to take advantage of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). CREP is a voluntary land retirement program that helps agricultural producers protect environmentally-sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat, and safeguard ground and surface water. CREP will reimburse farmers for retiring their cropland or pastureland. Program participants will receive annual rental payments, cost-share assistance, and other financial incentives for a period of 14-15 years for installing and maintaining conservation practices. Only certain practices are eligible for the Missouri CREP. For a list of practices and eligibility requirements, contact your local FSA office.

#### 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

#### 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

## Changes in your Financial Institution

As of Jan. 1, 1999, all FSA payments were to be electronically transferred to bank accounts. You should notify FSA when changes occur to your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments could be delayed if routing numbers or account numbers are not accurate.

## Complaint Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA benefits, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree. In most instances, program participants have three options: an informal review; an opportunity for mediation; and appeal to the USDA National Appeals Division. Producers should carefully study their available options and deadlines.

- 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.

## Payment Limitation/Eligibility

USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. Documents and forms to determine eligibility and limitation once completed are reviewed on an annual basis. It is the producer's responsibility to report changes in the farming operation which may affect payment eligibility and payment limitation.

Entities such as corporations, limited partnerships, trusts and estates are required to provide names, addresses, and ID numbers of their members. These entities should also inform every payment under more than one entity.

## Attention Producers, Landowners!

Do you intend to clear timber areas to create or to expand existing crop areas?

Are you converting a pasture field into a crop field?

Are there any areas on your farm that you are considering cropping that have not been cropped in recent years?

Is there a wet spot in a field that you want drained to make cropping easier?

Are you disturbing a wildlife habitat area of any type?

Are you doing anything different on your farm this year?

These are highly erodible and wetlands provision questions that need to be considered each year by producers to assure that they may remain eligible for USDA benefits.

### Selected Interest Rates for January 2007

90-Day Treasury Bill	5 %
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	5.125 %
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.25 %
Limited Resource Loans	5 %
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4 %
Emergency Loans	3.75 %
Farm Storage Facility Loans	4.50%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	6.00%

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PRESORTED STANDARD  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 COLUMBIA, MO  
 PERMIT #230

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
Jan 1, 2007	Newly elected committee persons start their terms
Jan 25, 2007	Stone Co Livestock & Forage Conference at Hurley Baptist Church at 6 p.m.
Feb 13, 2007	Christian Co Livestock & Forage Conference at Clever High School at 6 p.m.
Feb 19, 2007	President's Day Holiday
Feb 26, 2007	Stone Co Dairy Day at Hurley Community Center at 11 a.m.
Mar 8, 2007	Taney Co Livestock & Forage Conference at Forsyth High School at 6 p.m.
June 1, 2007	Last day to sign DCP contracts
Continues	CRP continuous sign up
Continues	CREP signup

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