



January 2008

Christian/Stone/Taney FSA News

**Christian, Stone and Taney County
USDA Service Center**

FSA
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Ozark, MO 65781

(417)581-2718 phone
(417)485-3863 fax
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Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee:
John Calhoun
Taney County
Wesley Roller
Christian County
Mike Rauch
Christian County
George Gatton
Stone County
Marie Day
Advisor

Committee meets the second Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM

County Office Staff:
Donna Nave
Program Technician

Lexie Thompson
Program Technician

Gail Steadman
Program Technician

Jim Kyle
District Director

Mark Hultgren
County Executive
Director

Mark Aycock
Farm Loan Manager
(417)468-2088

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to John Calhoun! John was re-elected to represent farmers from Jasper, Branson, Swan, Beaver, Scott, Oliver, Big Creek and Cedar Creek Townships on the county committee. John was elected to his 2nd consecutive term.

The election results for Local Administrative Area 4 are:

John Calhoun — Elected to the county committee (COC),
Joseph S Smith — 1st alternate to COC,
John E Dees — 2nd alternate to COC

Congratulations to Wesley Roller! Wesley was re-elected to represent farmers from Cassidy, Riverside, Linden, West Benton, East Benton, West Finley, East Finley, McCracken, Sparta, Bruner, Oldfield, North Linn, Chadwick, Lead Hill, South Linn, Garrison and Seneca townships on the county committee. Wesley was elected to his 2nd consecutive term.

The election results for Local Administrative Area 2 are:

Wesley Roller — Elected to the county committee (COC),
Brian Bonebright — 1st alternate to COC,
Donald Gullett — 2nd alternate to COC

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation. The committee members will hold their organizational meeting in January to determine who will serve as the county committee chairman and vice-chairman.

ATTENTION LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) for the droughts in 2005 and 2006 is well underway. This month, we will start issuing payment to producers in Christian, Stone and Taney counties with approved applications. If you have not applied, please call our office to schedule an appointment.

If you owned or cash leased eligible livestock on January 1st of 2005 or 2006 and suffered an eligible feed loss; you can be compensated.

Payment rates for some eligible livestock are:

- BEEF (Adult) – \$10.66/head
- DAIRY (Adult) - \$27.72/head
- BEEF & DAIRY (500#'s plus on Jan. 1st) - \$8.00/head

Other eligible livestock include: Buffalo, Beefalo, Sheep, Goats, Equine, Swine, Poultry, Deer and Elk. (Claimed livestock must be for commercial purposes to be eligible).

Producers incurring losses in 2005 and 2006 must choose only one year for which to receive benefits. Also if a producer selects to receive LCP benefits for 2006 and they participated in the Livestock Assistance Grant Program (LAGP), their benefits will be reduced by the dollar amount they received from the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

If you have any questions, give us a call. If not, get your livestock numbers and schedule an appointment.

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!

Dairy Disaster Assistance Program Sign-up Begins

Beginning Dec. 3, 2007, eligible dairy producers can sign-up for the Dairy Disaster Assistance Program (DDAP-III) at your local FSA Service Center. DDAP-III will compensate producers for production losses that resulted from cattle and yield losses and produced milk that had to be dumped because of lack of electricity, closed milk plants and damaged containment equipment.

DDAP-III will provide \$16 million in financial assistance to producers who suffered dairy production losses because of natural disasters. A producer's operation must be in a county designated a major disaster or emergency area by the President or declared a natural disaster area by the Secretary of Agriculture **between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007**. Counties contiguous to such counties will also be eligible. Producers in counties declared disasters by the President may be eligible, even though agricultural loss was not covered by the declaration, if there has been a FSA Administrator's Physical Loss Notice covering such losses.

Eligibility Requirements

Under proposed DDAP-III regulations, the following are some of the eligibility requirements producers must meet to receive benefits:

- Producers must have produced and marketed milk any time between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007;
- Producers must have suffered dairy production losses attributed to the declared natural disaster during the eligible period in an approved area; and
- Producers must provide proof of monthly milk production commercially marketed by all persons in the eligible dairy operation during the applicable milk marketing calendar year and claim period (Jan. 2, 2005 - Feb. 27, 2007).

To find out more information about the DDAP- III visit our website at: ww.fsa.usda.gov or contact your local FSA Service Center.

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA County office staff if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to

your account and routing numbers.

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM (ECP) WATER WELLS & PIPELINES

A lack of moisture over an extended period of time has caused producers in southern Taney County to suffer from the effects of drought conditions. Producers in Taney County experiencing severe drought conditions may be eligible for cost share assistance under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). At this time Christian and Stone County do not qualify for this program.

Taney County producer qualifying for the ECP assistance may receive cost share for permanent measures on 50 percent of the total eligible cost.

Approved Practices and measures include:

- Installing pipelines or other facilities for live-stock water.
- Construction and deepening wells for live-stock water.

Producer experiencing severe drought conditions requiring outside assistance to provide supplemental emergency livestock water may contact the office.

To be eligible for cost share, practices should not be started until a request has first been filed at the FSA office, and an onsite inspection of the problem area has been made.

Signup for the ECP program began Monday, **January 7th** and will end on **January 27th**.

Customer Statements

January signals the beginning of a new year, and a time to gather financial records and start thinking about filling out a 1040. Producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will have a little online help in that they will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement. The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's at your fingertips and available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs; information on farm loans; and conservation plan and land unit information.

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.

What is Continuous CRP?

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program allows participants to voluntarily enroll acreage in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

Eligible landowners enter into 10- to 15-year contracts in return for receiving annual rental and perhaps maintenance, incentive and cost share payments.

To be eligible, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. If eligibility requirements are met, the Farm Service Agency 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, please contact the county office staff or visit: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=crp>.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other as individuals 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.

New County Executive Director for Christian, Stone and Taney County

If we haven't already met I would like to introduce myself to you. My name is Mark Hultgren and I am the new County Executive Director (CED) for Christian, Stone and Taney County. The County Committee hired me in July following the retirement of Richard Reynolds after 37 years of service. I have some big shoes to fill, but I am excited about beginning my career with FSA in Christian, Stone and Taney County.

I grew up near Willard, Missouri where I was active in 4-H and FFA. I graduated from Southwest Missouri State University a.k.a. Missouri State University with a degree in Agriculture Economics.

My work experience prior to FSA includes: District Sales Manager of livestock feeds/animal health products and an Agriculture Loan Officer. I began my career with FSA in the fall of 2003 as a County Operation Trainee (COT). After completing the training program, I was hired as the CED for Cooper County in central Missouri. I served in this position until starting in Christian, Stone and Taney County in August of 2007. I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to work in such a great area.

Please feel free to stop by the office and say hello sometime. I look forward to meeting each of you. Please let me know if I can do anything to help you better understand one of our programs.

Mark Hultgren
Christian/Stone/Taney County CED

Dates to Remember	
Jan. 1	New Year's Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Jan. 1	Elected Committee Members and alternates take office.
Jan. 21	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Jan. 31	Deadline on 2007 LDP's for wool, mohair and unshorn lamb pelts.
Feb. 18	George Washington's Birthday FSA Offices Closed

Direct and Guaranteed Loans Available

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are available now. Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan. Loan funds are available now — applying early is important so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner. Most of our loan programs have special funding available for minority, female and beginning farmers. FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

Waiting on a Farm Bill

Authority to hold an annual signup for the Direct and Countercyclical Program (DCP) expired with the old farm bill on September 30, 2007. The U.S. House of Representatives passed their version of a new farm bill in July and the U.S. Senate is currently considering their version. The remaining steps to implementation are passage of a farm bill in the Senate, agreement and passage of a conference version between the House and Senate, signature by the President, and publication of new rules in the Federal Register. Looking at that timeline, a signup before early spring is unlikely. However, program provisions and signup dates will be provided through this newsletter as soon as they become available.

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