



July 2007

# Christian/Stone/Taney County News

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  
Marie Day, Advisor

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



## COC Candidates Sought

It will soon be county committee election time, and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) is actively looking for producers to be a candidate for the local FSA county committee.

County committee members perform an important function. They represent you and your agricultural interests. They help shape how federal farm programs are implemented on the ground in local communities.

Who do you know who would make a good county committee member? Who do you know who would be able to represent you and your farming interests, as well as your neighbor's interests?

Why not talk to that person and ask if he or she would be willing to serve on the county committee? If he or she says yes, then fill out a nomination form (FSA-669), have the person sign it and then return it to the county office.

If you can't think of another producer to nominate or your prospective nominee turns you down, why not nominate yourself? Serving on the committee will take, on average, one day a month, and you will be providing your agricultural community a vital service.

Committee members are reimbursed for travel expenses and are paid at the rate of a GS-6, step 1, currently \$14.72 per hour.

Visit with the Farm Service Agency county office staff for more information.

## Open House Announcement

Richard E. Reynolds, the County Executive Director for Christian/Stone/Taney County, will be retiring August 3, 2007. Richard has been employed with the Farm Service Agency for 37 years.

Richard began his career in Taney County in 1970. In 1973, the Taney County office was combined with Christian County. In 1994, Stone County was added, and Richard has managed the three counties ever since.

In honor of Richard's many years of dedicated service there will be an Open House held at the USDA Service Center on Wednesday, August 1, 2007 from 10:00am until 3:00pm. There will be a special presentation at 10:30am. Cake and refreshments will be served. Please make plans to attend and visit with Richard.

## Letter to Producers

After more than 37 years as your ASCS/FSA County Executive Director, I have decided to retire on August 3, 2007.

The past 37 years have often been challenging due to the many changes in the organization, farm practices, and farm programs. However, I have been blessed with a great group of farmers, employees, and County Committees.

It has been my pleasure to work for an agency that helps ensure the American farmers can continue to provide an adequate and safe food supply, not only to the American people, but to the world.

I want to thank each of you for the opportunity to serve you in this capacity and for making the past 37 years very enjoyable.

Sincerely,  
Richard E. Reynolds

---

## Crop Certification

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of FSA programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The producer certification deadline for fall-seeded crops is June 30 and for spring-seeded crops, July 31.

### CRP & NAP Certification

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. Crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

### Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting needs to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

### Failed Acreage:

A report of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop. Producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

## Notice to Foreign Landowners

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) 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 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, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

## DCP Enrollment Extended

The June 1, 2007 deadline to enroll in the 2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) has been extended to **August 3, 2007**. Computer problems have caused application processing delays which prompted the enrollment deadline extension. A late-file fee of \$100 per farm will be assessed to the producer for CCC-509's filed after August 3, 2007 and before September 30, 2007.

Advance direct payments for the 2007 crop year are 22%. Advance payments may be requested in any month starting with December 2006. The remaining final direct payment of 78% will be issued to participating producers in October of 2007. For clarification or an appointment, contact your local FSA office.

---

## Farm Operation Changes

### --Farm Reconstitutions

In Farm Service Agency terms, farms are *constituted* to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program. If 2007 DCP direct payments have already been issued on the farm, the reconstitution will be effective for 2008 unless the payments are refunded.

## Haying, Grazing CRP Acres

Producers considering managed haying or grazing of Conservation Reserve Program acres need prior approval from the county committee. Before the committee can allow haying or grazing, there must be an approved haying and grazing plan. The acreage may not be hayed/grazed prior to July 15. Acreage hayed/grazed in either of the last 2 years is ineligible for release this year. A 25 percent payment reduction is assessed for every approved acre hayed or grazed. Other restrictions may apply.

## FSA Farm Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes both direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank, Farm Credit System institution or other lender. FSA loans can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed and supplies. The loans can also be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements.

If you're having trouble getting commercial credit, check with the FSA county office staff about loan eligibility, as well as maximum loan amounts, rates, term and use of proceeds.

## Beginning Farmers, Ranchers

Are you a farmer or rancher who has farmed for less than 10 years? If so, you may qualify for beginning farmer targeted loan funds.

The program is designed to assist these farmers by providing direct and guaranteed loans when they are unable to obtain financing from commercial credit sources.

If you believe this program could be of benefit to you, please contact the county office staff for more information. Our loan officials will welcome your interest.

## Preventing Fraud, Waste

The FSA has joined with the Risk Management Agency to prevent fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to RMA.

Producers can report suspected cases to the county office staff, RMA office, or the Office of the Inspector General.

Selected Interest Rates for July 2007	
90-Day Treasury Bill	4.875%
Farm Operating - Direct	5.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.375%
Limited Resource	5%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4%
Emergency	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility	Contact local FSA Office to obtain July interest rates
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	Contact local FSA Office to obtain July interest rates
Tobacco (TTPP) Discount Rate	Contact local FSA office to obtain July interest rates

Dates to Remember	
July 4	Federal Holiday. Office closed.
July 31	Final certification date for all crops except small grains.
August 1	Deadline to submit COC nomination forms
August 1	Final date to request farm re-constitution for current fiscal year.
August 3	DCP Enrollment Deadline
Sept. 30	Final date for 2007 DCP contract revisions.
August 1	Open House, 10am-3pm

Visit our Web site: <http://www.fsa.usda/mo>

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.