



September 2007

County FSA News

Christian, Stone and Taney County USDA Service Center

FSA 1786 S. 16th Ave., Ste. 101 Ozark, MO 65781

417-581-2718 phone 417-485-3863 fax

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 Minority Advisor

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

State Staff Donna Nave Program Technician Lexie Thompson Program Technician Jim Kyle District Director Mark Hultgren CED



SIGN-UP DATES FOR NEW LIVESTOCK AND CROP DISASTER PROGRAMS

Sign-up dates for the new Livestock Compensation Program, Livestock Indemnity Program and Crop Disaster Program have been announced. Eligible ranchers and other livestock producers can apply to receive benefits under the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) starting September 10, 2007. Eligible farmers can sign-up for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) beginning October 15, 2007, if they suffered quantity losses to their crops. USDA will announce and conduct CDP sign-up for quality losses as soon as possible.

LCP compensates livestock producers for feed losses or and LIP for livestock losses occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, 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. All counties in Missouri are eligible for all 3 years (2005, 2006, and 2007).

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters 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. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. **Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Non-insured 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% to be eligible for CDP. Contact the county office for details. Crop Disaster

rules are not final at this time.

Livestock Compensation Program

Applicants need to call for appointment.

Appointments are required. Please call (417)581-2718 ext. 2

Livestock producer will need to provide the following information:

Livestock numbers as of 1-1-2005 and 1-1-2006 in the categories listed below. Christian and Stone County producers need to know the amount of the payment they received under the 2006 Livestock Grant Program administered by the State Department of Agriculture. We will print maps for producers to designate grazed acres. Please read the article on record changes.

- Beef adult cows and bulls
- Beef non-adult 500# + but not adult
- Dairy adult cows and bulls
- Dairy 500# + but not adult
- Buffalo/beefalo same as beef
- Sheep all
- Goats all
- Swine <45#
 - 45-124#
 - 125-234#
 - Sows 235# +
 - Boars 235# +

Other livestock may qualify but space limits what I can print. Bring those numbers with you to the office.

For Livestock Indemnity Program producers will need certifications of livestock deaths due to the disaster. If evidence of loss is not available a third party certification is required. Other compensation such as insurance will be a factor in the payment. If you had death losses of livestock due to a disaster between 1-1-05 and 2-28-2007, contact the office for more information.

County Committee Elections

Nominations for the county committee election were due in the county office by August 1, 2007. The next step in the election process is the mailing out of the ballots, which will begin on November 2, 2007. Voters have until December 3, 2007, to return their properly completed ballots to the county office. Elected committee members and alternates take office on Jan. 1, 2008.

Prospective Voter Requirements - Anyone who meets the requirements in either, 1 or 2, as well as Item 3, is eligible to vote for county committee members.

1. Voter is of legal voting age and participates or co-operates in any FSA program, or
2. The voter is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.
3. The voter must also be eligible to participate in any FSA program 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. If you have questions about your voter eligibility, contact your county office staff.

MILCX Extended

On May 25, 2007, the President signed the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act of 2007 (2007 Act) into law. The 2007 Act provides, among other things, allows the continuation of MILCX program benefits through September 30, 2007.

The Farm Service Agency's Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC) compensates dairy producers when domestic milk prices fall below a specified level, and the extended program period is called MILCX.

Eligible dairy producers are those who, beginning Dec. 1, 2001, through Sept. 30, 2007: Commercially produce and market cow milk in the United States; or produce milk in the United States and commercially market the milk outside the United States.

MILCX participants with an existing CCC-580X, who want to change the production start month for the dairy operation from a selected month to September 2007, will use CCC-580M to make that change, according to MILCX production start month change provisions.

The minor programmatic change required by the May legislation will **not** require another signup. The price shortfall percentage for the payment calculation increased from 0 to 34 percent, which makes the Sept.

2007 payment calculation consistent for all other months in FY06 and FY07. MILCX payments to program participants with an approved CCC-580X will continue from the designated production start month selected by the dairy operator, and run through September 30, 2007. All other program provisions remain the same.

NAP Deadline Approaching

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) deadline for fall seeded crops is approaching. NAP is designed to reduce financial losses when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production for an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance.

September 30th is the final date for producers to apply for NAP coverage in Missouri on wheat. November 20th is the final date for grapes, peaches, and apples

Producers who had NAP coverage may choose to continue coverage on the same crops for next year, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crops.

Producers who choose to add or delete a crop from the previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471, with signatures, and pay the applicable service fee.

Producers with NAP coverage are required to **1)** file a Notice of Loss within 15 days of when a loss is apparent; **2)** timely file acreage reports; and **3)** keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods.

Interest Rates for September

Farm Operating - Direct	5.5%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.75%
Farm Ownership - Direct down payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4.00%
Emergency	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility	
Commodity Loans 1996 to Present	

Dates to Remember

Sept. 10	LCP and LIP Sign-up begins
Sept. 28	Deadline for filing succession-in-interest
Oct. 1	2008 Fiscal Year begins
Oct. 8	Columbus Day - Office Closed
Oct. 15	CDP Sign-up begins

Succession-in-Interest

If you have made any changes that affect your interest in base acres since you signed your last Direct and Counter-cyclical Program contract, you must report these

successions-in-interest to the county committee by Sept. 30, so that a final determination can be made on who is program eligible on the property.

Changes that qualify as a succession-in-interest:

- Sale of land
- Change of operator or producer, including a an increase or decrease in the number of partners
- Foreclosure, bankruptcy or involuntary loss of farm.
- Change in producer shares to reflect changes in the producer's share of the crop(s) that were originally approved on the contract.

If a succession-in-interest has taken place, you, as the "predecessor," are required to refund any advance DCP payments you received for the affected base acres before a payment can be made to the "successor."

Not reporting a succession-in-interest can result in contract termination and a loss of program benefits for all producers involved.

A CCC-509, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program Contract, with all succession changes must be complete with all signatures by Sept. 30 for payments to be distributed.

Note: *Changes that require a reconstitution must be reported to the county committee by Aug. 1 of the fiscal year in which the change occurred.*

Beginning, Small and Limited Resource Farmers & Ranchers:

Do You Require Financial Assistance to Fund Conservation Program Initiatives?

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) have worked together to make conservation programs more available to beginning, small, and limited resource farmers. As producers move from initial contract development into the implementation stage under NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentives Program, many face the inability to acquire the initial capital investment of their cost-share portion needed for contract implementation.

To help producers implement conservation measures, FSA has several loan programs available to assist with up-front costs. FSA makes direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit otherwise. A primary objective of FSA's farm loan programs is to assist small, beginning, and socially disadvantaged (minority and female) producers. In fact, a portion of FSA's loan funds are reserved for beginning and socially disadvantaged producers. These loan programs are not new and have been used successfully in conjunction with conservation programs throughout the United States.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov and

www.nrcs.usda.gov

Payment Limitations

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 that may affect payment eligibility and payment limitation.

The following limitations apply to Direct and Counter-cyclical Program payments for each contract year. For all covered commodities (except peanuts): \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments. For peanuts: \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments.

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program has a \$450,000 payment limitation.

The Conservation Reserve Program annual limit is \$50,000 per person.

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 identify every payment under more than one entity.

Adjusted Gross Income - Effective through 2007, an individual or entity shall not be eligible for certain program benefits during a crop, program or fiscal year if both of the following apply.

- The three-year average of the adjusted gross income for the individual or entity exceeds \$2.5 million; and
- Less than 75 percent of the average AGI is derived from farming, ranching or forestry operations.

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 program.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, rice, 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.

Reporting Losses

If you had any failed crop acres, give serious thought to report them before destroying crop evidence. If Congress authorizes a crop disaster program in the future, proof of failed acreage may be required for your participation.

It's important to report failed acreage not brought to harvest to the county office staff prior to destruction. Ensuring that failed acres are documented could be the determining factor in whether you are eligible for future crop disaster program payments.

If you are experiencing low crop yields, you should keep good production records, but you don't need to report this acreage right now.

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), you must contact the FSA county office staff within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent. Producers with crop insurance should contact their local agent when losses occur and before destroying the crop.

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