



January 2008

# Clinton County News

**Clinton County FSA**  
1800 W HWY 116  
Plattsburg, MO 64477

**Phone:**  
**(816) 539-2136**  
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**(816) 539-3560**

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

**County Committee**  
Mary Ann Barmann  
Jerald Grimes  
George Silvius

The COC meets the first  
Thursday of each month at  
9:00 a.m.

**STAFF**  
Chris Broderick, PT  
Peggy Rapp, PT  
Norma Stransky, PT

Kent Allen, CED

**In This Issue:**

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## Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

Sign-up for the Livestock Compensation Program is currently underway. **This program compensates producers for a portion of their pasture loss during the 2005 or 2006 drought.** (2007 frost damages are not eligible at this time. But this disaster condition is being evaluated, and we are awaiting the final determination.)

The following groups of livestock are eligible for LCP:

- Adult beef cows or bulls,
  - Non-adult beef cattle, 500 lbs. or more,
  - Adult dairy cows or bulls,
  - Non-adult dairy cattle, 500 lbs. or more,
  - and Goats, Sheep, Swine and Equine.
- (Confinement operations are not eligible.)

The livestock must have been produced for commercial purposes as a part of the farming operation. Producers must have owned or cashed leased the livestock on Jan. 1, 2005 or Jan.1, 2006.

Producer's average adjusted gross income (AGI) can not exceed \$2.5 million for the three years immediately preceding the calendar year for which benefits are being requested. Producers cannot receive benefits for both years. Loss of hay or feed grain yields do not qualify for LCP.

A sign-up deadline has not yet been announced. Producers will need to certify to the number of eligible livestock in inventory on Jan. 1, 2005 and Jan. 1, 2006.

**Please call 816-539-2136, ext 2 for complete details and to schedule your appointment to sign up for Livestock Compensation Program.**

## Crop Disaster Program

Earlier this past year Congress passed an Appropriations Act that included a Crop Disaster Program (CDP) intended to provide benefits to farmers who suffered production losses because of a natural disaster occurring in 2005, 2006, or 2007. Sign-up for quantity losses is currently underway. The sign-up for quality losses will begin sometime in calendar year 08.

The following are the basic eligibility requirements: **Producers must have obtained crop insurance on the applicable crop or coverage under the Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program for the disaster year.** Production loss must exceed 35% of the expected production of the insured unit. FSA will use crop insurance loss records obtained through the USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) to determine eligibility. If insurance loss records are not available, the producer must provide verifiable and reliable records to substantiate the loss.

If a qualifying loss occurred in more than one year on the unit, the payment will be based on the year for which benefits are highest. A sign-up deadline has not yet been announced. **Please call 816-539-2136, ext 2 to schedule your appointment to sign up for Crop Disaster Program.**

## 2008 Farm Program

The House and the Senate are currently in the process of finalizing a new farm bill. As soon as the 2008 farm bill receives Presidential approval, the new farm program provisions will be immediately relayed to you through local news releases and in-depth newsletters.



## Faxed Signatures for FSA Programs

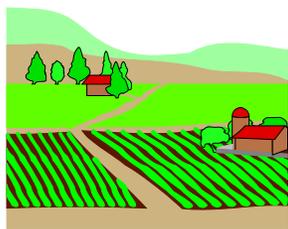
Certain faxed signatures shall be accepted for all applicable program forms or other documents approved for faxed signatures, if all other signature requirements are met.

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO CUT YOUR TIME SPENT IN THE FSA OFFICE BY OVER HALF?

Then Please call 816-539-2136, ext 2 to schedule your appointment prior to visiting us! Scheduling appointments allows us to prepare for your arrival and greatly reduces your waiting time.

## Foreign Landowner 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 Committee Election

This year producers in the FSA Local Administrative Area III, "LAA III", consisting of Shoal, Lathrop and Jackson townships conducted an election to determine their representative to the COC. The results are in, and George Silvius was re-elected to represent LAA III. Mr. Silvius will continue to serve on the COC with Mary Ann Barmann representing LAA I, and Jerald Grimes representing LAA II. 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.

## Farm Storage Facility Loans

Do you need more storage capability for your farming operation? Check with your local FSA office to discuss the possibility of a Farm Storage Facility Loan. Low cost loans for storage facilities continue to be available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, grain sorghum, corn and soybeans.

The seven-year FSFL's 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 FSFL's are secured with a promissory note and security agreement.

The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85% of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required. A \$45.00 application fee is assessed and other fees are incurred depending on the type of loan being processed. Interested producers may call the office for complete details.

## NAP Insurance Deadline

March 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to buy a NAP policy for crops that are not insurable through multi-peril crop insurance. You can purchase NAP at the FSA Office, \$100 per crop.

## 2007 Crop Loans

Marketing loans are available for 2007 crop corn, beans, milo and wheat. These loans mature nine months after the month of disbursement. Loan rates are as follows:

- Corn - \$1.91 bu
- Soybeans – \$5.00 bu
- Grain Sorghum - \$3.33/cwt
- Wheat - hard \$3.11 bu , soft \$2.53

Measurement service is available through this office to ensure accuracy of the amount of grain stored. For commodities to be eligible for loans 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. The office must be notified before removal or feeding of any grain pledged for loan. In other words, **"CALL before you HAUL"**

Even though prices for grain are at high levels, the marketing loan is an effective tool to receive funds to pay higher interest loans while retaining the grain for potential price gains. The final date to request a loan on 2007 spring seeded crops is May 31, 2008. Interested producers should call the office for complete details.

## LDP Deadline on Wool, Mohair and Unshorn Lamb Pelts

Eligible producers have **until Jan. 31, 2008**, to apply for LDPs for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts produced during the 2007 crop year.

Eligible producers must:

- have beneficial interest in the wool or unshorn pelts
- owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of shearing or slaughter
- sold the unshorn lambs for immediate slaughter or slaughtered the lamb for personal use
- comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in.

### **Bank Account Changes**

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically these days, using Direct Deposit. To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions. Please contact us regarding changes in your account.

### **Powers of Attorney**

We have a power of attorney form available for those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. This can be done by completing an FSA-211, Power of Attorney. The form is available at your local USDA Service Center or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>.

### **Controlled Substance**

Any person who is producing, cultivating, harvesting, growing, or storing a controlled substance will be ineligible to participate and receive payments under USDA programs. Marijuana, opium poppies, and other drug producing plants are controlled substances.



## **Loans for Socially Disadvantaged**

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has targeted funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants. A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

### **Applications for FSA Loans**

Farmers and ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Filing early will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible so that planting decisions can be made. Failure to apply early can result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications that must be processed in date order. Contact your local FSA Loan Approval Official for more details and assistance in applying.

**For detailed information on loan eligibility or the different loan programs available, please call our FSA Farm Loan officer, Mike Harwood, at 660-663-3703.** Mike administers the farm loan programs for Clinton, Daviess, and DeKalb County. His headquarters office is located in Gallatin, but appointments are available at your local FSA office.

## **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 mailed 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/>.

### **Crop Insurance Fraud**

FSA will be monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse in crop insurance to the Risk Management Agency. Producers should refer all suspected cases to their local USDA office.

### Dates to Remember

Jan 21	Martin Luther King Jr's. Birthday - Holiday Observed
Jan 31	Deadline on 2007 LDPs for wool, mohair and unshorn lamb pelts.
Feb 18	President's Day Holiday, Office Closed.
Mar 15	Deadline to obtain 2008 NAP coverage on spring planted crops.
Mar 31	Final Availability for 2007 crop wheat and honey loans / LDPs
Ongoing	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Ongoing	Crop Disaster Sign Up
Ongoing	Livestock Compensation Sign Up

### Special Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meeting or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations please call the local FSA county office.

### Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) programs in which either has an interest. In most cases, this option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

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.