



December 2007

Missouri Producer

Missouri Farm Service Agency

Parkade Center, Suite 225
601 Business Loop 70 W
Columbia, MO 65203
www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

Hours

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

State Committee

Don Fischer, Chairman
Julie Hurst
Craig Westfall
Barbara Wilson
Dan Jennings Jr.

Staff

Tim Kelley, State Executive Director
Patty Dick, Administration
Dan Gieseke, Farm Loans
Bo Wendleton, Compliance
Gerald Hrdina, Conservation
Everette Wood, Price Support
Mike Lafolette, Production Flexibility

USDA Designated 22 Missouri Counties as Primary Natural Disaster Areas

The U.S. Department of Agriculture designated 22 Missouri counties as primary agricultural natural disaster areas, making certain farmers and other agricultural producers in the counties eligible for low-interest emergency loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA).

The following counties were designated as primary natural disaster areas, due to damages and losses caused by drought that occurred from April 4, 2007 and continuing. Those counties are: Bollinger, Iron, Pemiscot, St. Francois, Butler, Jefferson, Perry, Ste. Genevieve, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Reynolds, Stoddard, Carter, Mississippi, Ripley, Washington, Dunklin, New Madrid, Scott, Wayne, Howell and Oregon.

Counties eligible because they are contiguous to those listed above are: Crawford, Dent, Douglas, Franklin, Ozark, Shannon, St. Louis and Texas.

All counties listed above were designated natural disaster areas on October 29, 2007, making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low-interest emergency loans from USDA's FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. To qualify, farmers must be unable to obtain credit from commercial sources. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part or all of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the emergency loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

USDA has also made other programs available to assist farmers, including the Emergency Conservation Program, Federal Crop Insurance and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.

Interested farmers should contact their local FSA county office for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs.

Dates to Remember	
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Dec. 25	Christmas Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Dec. 31	Last day to apply for NAP Coverage for potatoes.
Dec. 31	Contract Approval deadline for all CRP, including CREP program practices.
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 LDPs for wool, mohair and unshorn lamb pelts.

Census Gives Farmers A Voice in Their Future

America's farmers and ranchers will soon have the opportunity to make their voices heard and help shape the future of agriculture for years to come.

This opportunity will come to their mailboxes in the form of the 2007 Census of Agriculture.

Conducted every five years by the USDA, 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.

"The Census of Agriculture provides information that is not available anywhere else – information that benefits agricultural producers and their communities in myriad ways," said Tim Kelley, FSA State Executive Director.

"For instance, policy-makers factor Census data into decisions concerning agricultural and rural programs. Community planners use Census to document needs and target services to rural residents. Companies rely on Census data when determining where to locate their operations. And farmers themselves can use Census data to help make critical decisions about their businesses," Kelley said.

NASS will mail 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 completing the Census online via a secure web site. As usual, all information supplied via the Census is kept strictly confidential and is only combined with other reports to generate state and county totals.

"We're committed to making this Census the best count ever. It's about the future of agriculture and rural communities in our state," said Gene Danekas, Director of the NASS Missouri Field Office. "Regardless of how large or small their operation is or what kinds of products they produce, Missouri farmers and ranchers will help themselves and their communities by completing the Census of Agriculture and returning it promptly," he added.

"We want farmers and ranchers to know: the Census of Agriculture is their voice, their future and their responsibility," Danekas said.

For more information about the 2007 Census of Agriculture, please

Selected Interest Rates for December 2007	
90-Day Treasury Bill	4.00%
Farm Operating Loans - Direct	4.750%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct	5.375%
Limited Resource Loans	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4.000%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	4.125%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	4.750%

contact the NASS Missouri Field Office at 800-551-1014 or visit www.agcensus.usda.gov online.

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: www.fsa.usda.gov or contact your local FSA Service Center.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Low interest rate loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, 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 & bunker 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. For details, contact the county office staff.

FSA Seeks Public Comment on Dairy Disaster Assistance Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently announced that dairy producers and the public have **until Dec. 26, 2007**, to comment on a proposed rule concerning the new Dairy Disaster Assistance Program III (DDAP-III). USDA has published the proposed rule in the *Federal Register*.

The proposal sets forth rules governing how this program will be administered. Comments may be made on proposed eligibility requirements, proof of production history, loss determinations, payment rates, payment rate calculations, appeals and other program provisions. Also, the proposal outlines the differences between this program and similar dairy disaster assistance programs carried out by USDA in recent years.

Comments should include the volume, date and page number of the issue of the Federal Register. The public can comment by:

- E-mail to: Danielle.Cooke@wdc.usda.gov;
- Fax: (202) 690-1536;
- Regular Mail to: Grady Bilberry, Director, Price Support Division (PSD), Farm Service Agency (FSA), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), STOP 0512, Room 4095-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-0512;
- Hand delivery or courier to Grady Bilberry at the above address; or
- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

The DDAP-III program proposed rule can be found at:
http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/ddapiii_proposedrule.pdf.

FSA/CCC Will Report Market Gain on IRS 1099-G

Beginning with the 2007 calendar year, FSA/Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) will report producer market gains associated with the repayments of a CCC loan, whether the producer repays the loan with cash or used commodity certificates in exchange of the outstanding loan collateral. The market gain will be reported on IRS form 1099-G.

LDP Deadline on Unshorn Wool, Mohair and 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 pelts, owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. Producers must also comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in.

To qualify for payment, pelts must have been produced by an eligible producer from live unshorn lambs of domestic origin in the United States.

Unauthorized Disposition of Loaned Grain

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producers name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call the office before any grain under loan is fed or sold.

Farm Loan Program Rules Streamlined

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) is enhancing operations by simplifying and reorganizing regulations and handbooks, and updating forms associated with its Farm Loan Programs (FLP). FSA's FLP will be modernized Jan. 1, 2008, to make it easier for farmers and producers to apply for loans. As part of FLP streamlining, FSA is revising loan making and servicing requirements and procedures to better serve its customers.

Direct Loan Programs streamlining includes:

- Improving customer service by reducing the amount of paperwork needed from applicants and borrowers -- cuts nearly in half the number of forms required;
- Making requirements more concise which reduces the number of pages in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) necessary to administer FLP by more than 80 percent;
- Simplifies procedures by eliminating redundancies and making information more readily accessible to applicants, borrowers and employees; and
- Increases government efficiency, helping to fulfill the President's Management Agenda.

Further information about FSA is available at local FSA offices and online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> then click on "Farm Loan Programs" for FLP and streamlining information.

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