



April/May 2007

# DeKalb County News

DeKalb County  
USDA Service Center

**DeKalb County FSA**  
1101 S. Polk  
Maysville, MO. 64469  
816-449-2112 (phone)  
816-449-2082 (fax)

**Hours**  
**Monday - Friday**  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**County Committee**  
Ronald Carrel, Chair  
John Burton, Vice-Chair  
David Eulinger, Member  
Ruth A. Owen, Advisor

**Staff**  
G. Eugene Keats, CED  
Darlene Fisher, PT  
Kristy L. Gray, PT  
Amy K. Wells, PT  
Robert Barton, Field  
Daniel White, Field

**Farm Loan Manager**  
Michael Harwood  
Tuesday mornings



## CREP & Continuous CRP Available

There will be no general signups scheduled for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in 2007. The President's FY 2008 Budget assumed no available funding for CRP general signups.

However, environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) or Continuous CRP will still be eligible for enrollment. These targeted programs will remain funded, and continue to provide a heightened environmental benefit on select areas.

Currently, there are four popular practices that receive a lot of attention in DeKalb County. The CP8 Waterway practice addresses erosion in crop fields where a stable outlet for runoff is needed, and where ditches and gullies are forming. The CP21 practice is filter strips along streams or ditches that have drainage most of the time during the year. These grass strips filter the runoff and herbicides before it reaches the stream. The CP22 practice is a riparian buffer strip which can be placed along a stream in cropland or pastureland. It must be planted to trees. This is also designed to protect the stream. The CP33 practice is Habitat Buffer for Upland Birds which is designed for quail habitat. The practice employs the use of shrubby cover, thin grass, and bare ground to enhance the survival of quail, and is a perimeter strip around a crop field. All of the practices except the CP22 require crop history of four years out of six, in the years 1996-2001. Remember the signup for these practices is anytime. Contracts become effective on the first day of the month, and incentives and bonuses are available. Call us for details.

Dates to Remember	
May 28	Office Closed; Memorial Day
May 31	Last date to obtain CCC loan for corn, soybeans, or grain sorghum
June 30	Final date to report small grain acreage for 2007
July 4	Office Closed; Independence Day
July 31	Final date to report spring planted crops and CRP
August 3	End of extended period for DCP signup
Continues	2007 DCP Program Signup
Continues	Farm Facility Loan Signup
Continues	CRP Continuous Signup

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

## No CRP Early Release

There will be no early release of CRP acreage for planting to crops in 2007. A recent crop report indicated that corn acreage will increase 15% to supply a potential of 12.5 billion bushels of corn. Corn planting has been ongoing for a time in the southern U.S. Therefore USDA has decided not to implement early release provisions for CRP.

## 2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) Enrollment is Underway.

The deadline to enroll without penalty has been extended from June 1 to August 3, 2007. Contracts enrolled after August 3 but before September 30, 2007 will be penalized \$100 per farm. Please allow additional time to sign up this year due to needed updates in eligibility for government payments and signature authority. Advance direct payments are available at 22% this year, or you may receive the entire payment in October.

## Conservation Compliance



All participants in USDA programs are required to have a conservation system in place on all the highly erodible land (HEL) that they operate. Several areas where problems can arise with complying with a conservation system are; renting new cropland, purchasing new land, breaking out additional cropland, planting different crops such as soybeans, and changing or removing existing conservation practices.

It is very important that you contact the FSA office before doing any of the above. Also, it is very important that you contact our office before modifying - tiling, draining, dredging, filling, or leveling - any wetland or drainage ditch. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in loss of all Federal payments and eligibility.

### *Policy Changes for Signature Authority*



Due to recent audits and investigations by the Office of Inspector General, county offices are following some new policy changes regarding signature authority. Most producers are aware of the terms “Power of Attorney”, “Signature Authority”, or “Representative Capacity”. For FSA purposes, a producer or someone serving as a representative for an entity (trust, corporation, LLC, etc.) can execute a Power of Attorney form (FSA-211) giving someone the authorization to sign FSA forms on their behalf. The FSA-211 can give authority for all current and future programs or can be more restrictive. This Power of Attorney is only good for the Farm Service Agency; it does not give a legal power of attorney for functions outside of FSA.

Many producers operate as an entity (trust, corporation, LLC, etc.) and will be required to submit documents to FSA confirming the legal formation of the entity, and who has the legal representative capacity to sign on behalf of the entity. In the case of a corporation, a board meeting may be required with

minutes documenting who the members have given signature authority to. Also, the documents provided need to show if the person with representative capacity can re-delegate on a FSA-211 to another individual to sign. Husbands and wives automatically have authority to sign for each other unless written notice is given to FSA. ***In any case, regardless of what type of operation you have, proper signature authority must be on file before you can sign up for any FSA program.***

## Eligibility Updates

Eligibility for government payments is being updated for many producers this year. Periodically, we need to look at corporation shareholders, members of joint ventures and partnerships, and beneficiaries and trustees of trusts. It is quite common for producers to put land and other assets into living trusts, life estates, and other entities for estate planning purposes. In these cases, FSA has to know who the people are so that the proper combinations of “persons” can be made, whether they may be involved in other farming operations, and they may have to sign certain forms in order for the entity to be paid. Farming operations must be kept up to date as to owned and leased interests, and what kinds of contributions are being made to the operation. This “picture” of the farming operation allows FSA to make determinations of “actively engaged” and “persons”. Please be patient, because much of the work we do this year will not have to be repeated unless there are changes to the operation.

## Website for Digital Imagery

Landowners who have access to the internet may find the following site of interest. Producers can access 2004 digital imagery for their land by using the map room link at <http://www.cares.missouri.edu/index.asp> There will be no line work on the fields, but it is a good source of current photography. Producers can also access topographical maps, floodplain maps and measure distance and acreages.

## 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 office. Stopping waste and abuse is everyone's responsibility.

## Acreage Reporting

Acreage reporting time will soon be here. Please remember that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by the June 30 deadline on small grains and a July 31 deadline on all other crops. Acreage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of June 30 for small grains and July 31 for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.



Selected Interest Rates for April 2007	
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	5.25 %
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.50 %
Limited Resource Loans	5.0 %
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4.0 %
Emergency Loans	3.75 %
Farm Storage Facility Loans	4.50%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	6.00%

## Toll-Free Number

Direct loan borrowers with USDA's Farm Service Agency can now check the status of their accounts around the clock using a new toll-free telephone number.

The toll-free number, 1-888-518-4983, is available in both English and Spanish. The system delivers information on active FSA loans 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

During the first call to the new system, borrowers will enter their tax identification number or the Social Security Number associated with the loan. They also will need to enter their ZIP code. Borrowers will create a personal identification number for security. Customers must enter their PIN every time they use the system and may change their PIN. The system menu helps users access helpful information. The system may also direct borrowers to contact their local FSA servicing office if action is necessary on their accounts.

### *Bank Account Changes*

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically these days, using Direct Deposit. In most cases the switch has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. Most of the problems with direct deposit happen when producers close or change accounts but forget to notify the county office. 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. Contact us for changes in your account.

## Financial FACTS for agriculture's future

Respond to USDA's Agricultural Resource Management Survey and let the financial facts be known for agriculture's policies and programs.



## Changes in Farming Operations

If there has been any change to your farming operation such as transferring title of the land to a trust, selling land, changing rental arrangements or producer shares, forming entities, building on CRP acreage, be sure to contact the FSA Office. **This is very important.**



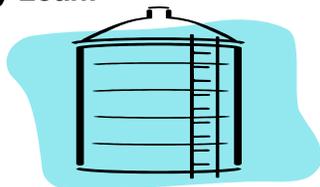
## ***Reasonable Accommodations***

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the Farm Service Agency county office staff, and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are necessary.



**FSA continues to encourage producers to be able to access their own records online by a process called e-authentication. As we move further into the computer age, you will be able to access more of your records from your home without coming to the office. You can complete forms and applications, review your payments, and at some time, get photography. If interested, contact the local office.**

**If you are considering a new grain bin, ask FSA about a Farm Storage Facility Loan!**



## ***CRP Reporting & Maintenance***

Remember it is your responsibility to maintain your CRP acreage by the rules applicable to the signup in which it was enrolled. The best place to review these practices is to look at your copy of the Conservation Plan you signed before the contract was approved. Different sign ups have had different rules, so do not rely on word of mouth. All contracts enrolled or re-enrolled after 01/01/2003 required management practices at some time during the contract period. These same contracts do not allow for mowing at all. Any mowing on these contracts must be requested in writing, and approved by the COC in advance. Remember all CRP acreage must be reported on a 578 crop report form at this office each year prior to July 31.

**After July 15, managed haying and grazing is available for most CRP. You can hay or graze every three years for a fee of ¼ of the rent.**

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.