



July/August 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



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.

This year, the townships of Sherman, Camden, and Adams will be voting by mail ballot for one person to serve a three year term beginning January 1, 2008. Ronald Carrel, Clarksdale, currently serves as the member from that area. He serves as chairperson.

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

Dates to Remember	
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 reconstitution for current fiscal year.
August 3	DCP Enrollment Deadline
Sept. 30	Final date for 2007 DCP contract revisions.

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

No CRP Early Release

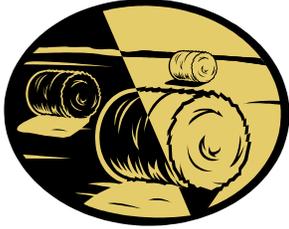
No word has been received on any kind of early release or any special provisions for haying and grazing of CRP due to dry conditions or hay shortages. Most of the decisions regarding emergency provisions are driven by the National Drought Monitor which can be viewed at:

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>
Please see also the related article on haying and grazing of 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.

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. The contract participant will have to release the acreage, and arrangements will have to be made as to how the fee will be paid. It can either be paid in advance, or it can be deducted from the participant's annual rental payment. Particularly in the case of grazing, the participant agrees that if damage to the cover happens, the cover will be re-established at the participant's own expense.



Many producers have asked if there are any special provisions this year due to shortages and dry weather. The answer is simply "not at this time." Last year, under extreme conditions, the fee was reduced. We will just have to wait and see what happens. Remember that if all of one's CRP is hayed this year, it cannot be hayed in the next two years.

Farm Operation Changes --Farm Reconstitutions

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.



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.

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.***



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.

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.



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.



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. Check with the Farm Service Agency for this program.



Selected Interest Rates for July 2007

90-Day Treasury Bill	4.875%
Farm Operating - Direct	5.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.375%
Limited Resource	5.0%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4.0%
Emergency	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility	5.0%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	6.0%

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.

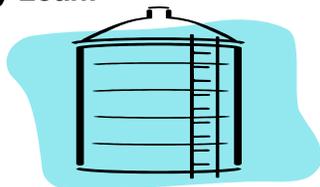
Reasonable Accommodations

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!



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.

If a crop is monitored, FSA will note how the crop was planted, no-till, or minimum till, what fertilizer and herbicide was applied, what the weather conditions were at the time of planting, and how other crops in the immediate area look. Two inspections are made yearly, one after planting, and the other prior to harvest.

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