



November/December 2006

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

Lecil Andrews, Chair
Ronald Carrel, Vice-Chair
John Burton, 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



County Committee Election

Just a reminder: Be watching your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters on November 3, 2006. If, for some reason, you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on Dec 4, 2006.



This year in DeKalb County, we will be electing one person to serve on the county committee to represent Local Administrative Area I, Polk, Dallas, and Grant townships. Two persons' names will appear on the ballot, Lecil Andrews, Union Star, who is the current chairperson of the committee, and David Eulinger, Maysville, who has served in an alternate capacity in the past. Both of these gentlemen are active farmers and active in USDA programs.

After receipt of the mail ballots, the county committee will meet on December 8 at 10:00 a.m. to count the ballots. The election is open to the public, and anyone can attend.

County committees are an essential part of Farm Service Agency. The committee makes policy decisions on program administration, acts on cases involving individual farmers, and reviews office operations to ensure that administrative funds are being used efficiently and as intended.

Dates to Remember

Nov. 10	Office Closed; Veterans Day
Nov. 23	Office Closed; Thanksgiving
Nov. 3	County committee election ballots mailed.
Dec. 4	Last day to return voted ballots in county committee election.
Dec. 8	County Committee Election, 10:00 a.m.
Dec. 25	Office Closed; Christmas Day
Continues	2007 DCP Program Signup
Continues	Farm Facility Loan Signup
Continues	CRP Continuous Signup

Visit our Web site:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo>

Electronic LDP Service Available

If you are connected to the Internet, you can apply from home for an Electronic Loan Deficiency Payment, or eLDP, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive approval and payment by direct deposit usually within 48 hours.

To participate in the service, you must meet all eligibility requirements for marketing assistance loans and LDPs for the commodity.

The voluntary eLDP service has stringent security measures to protect your private information.

You must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires an e-mail address and filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification.



Security Guidelines

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has released a booklet entitled "Pre-Harvest Security Guidelines and Checklist 2006" to help agricultural producers enhance security at the farm level. The booklet contains practical measures help to protect against natural disasters, as well as the unintentional or intentional introduction of plant or animal diseases. To get a copy, stop by the county office. More information is available at [:http://www.usda.gov/homelandsecurity](http://www.usda.gov/homelandsecurity)

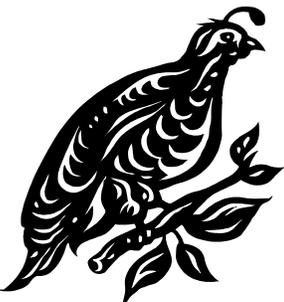
2007 DCP Sign-up Begins Oct 1st

Sign-up began Oct 1, 2006, and must be completed before June 1, 2007. (You can sign your contract after June 1 and before Sept. 30, 2007, but you will be assessed a late-signing fee of \$100.) When you sign the CCC-509, you agree to:

- comply with highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions on all your land. If you are cropping hayland or pasture, you must check for eligibility and may have to file a new AD-1026.
- devote acreage equal to the base acreage to an agricultural or conserving use;
- effectively control noxious weeds and otherwise maintain base acres according to sound agricultural practices;
- file acreage report with respect to all cropland on the farm; and
- notify the county office staff when there is a transfer of or change of interest of a producer.

The DCP contracts are not like the old seven-year Production Flexibility Contracts. You must designate shares and sign a new DCP contract each year.

Please plan to spend more time with the signup process. FSA will be re-determining each person's eligibility for USDA payments.



Sodbuster, Swampbuster

Most Farm Service Agency programs require compliance with sodbuster and swampbuster provisions. These provisions require producers to follow an approved conservation system on all highly erodible land planted to an annual crop as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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.

FSA Farm Loans Available For Beginning Farmers or Rancher

Beginning farmers or ranchers can get a "regular" farm ownership loan by using funds set aside especially for them by the Farm Service Agency. These loans finance up to 100 percent of the land's purchase price (up to the \$200,000 loan limit), and the term of the loan can be up to 40 years.

The interest rate can be 5.625 percent, or the "limited resource" rate of 5.00 percent.

The regular farm ownership loan funds may also be used in joint financing where FSA lends up to 50 percent of the amount financed and another lender provides 50 percent or more. FSA may charge an interest rate of not less than 4 percent with terms up to 40 years. All FLP loans are approved subject to availability of funds.

Qualification: Beginning farmer applicants must have been farming for at least three years and not more than ten. Applicants cannot own real estate that exceeds 30 percent of the average farm size for the county.

Interested in Wildlife?

Missouri still has some acreage available for CP-33 Upland Bird Habitat Practice which is installing field perimeters to enhance quail habitat. Contact FSA, NRCS, or the Missouri Department of Conservation.



FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:



- A married woman shall sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, not Mrs. John Doe
- For a minor, FSA requires the minor's signature and one from an eligible parent
Note, by signing the applicable document, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc
- When signing on one's behalf the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form, or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. Example - John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc. NOTE: Some programs may require full legal name and signature.



- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities
- Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts shall consist of an indicator "by" or "for" the individual's name, individual's name and capacity, or individual's name, capacity, and name of entity.

FSA offices will be monitoring the above as well as all other eligibility requirements very carefully for 2007.



Selected Interest Rates for November 2006

90-Day Treasury Bill	5.125 %
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	4.625 %
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	6.00 %

2006 Corn, Sorghum, Soybean Rates

The 2006 county loan rate for corn, grain sorghum and soybeans are now available on the Farm Service Agency Web site. Point your browser to:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/psd/LoanRate.htm>.

Following enactment of the 2002 Farm Bill, FSA annually has adjusted the county loan rates to reflect market factors affecting each crop. In DeKalb County, the rates are corn, \$1.90; grain sorghum, \$3.21/cwt.; and soybeans \$4.97.

Beginning Farmer Down Payment Ownership Program (10-40-50)

Purpose: Obtain help financing the purchase of a farm up to \$250,000 of the purchase price or the appraised value whichever is less. The applicant must put down 10 percent. The Farm Service Agency finances up to 40 percent of the purchase price. The remaining 50 percent of the purchase price can be financed on contract with the seller or through a conventional lender. The lender can obtain a guarantee from FSA if customer is eligible.

Rates: The FSA loan for 40 percent will be locked in for the full 15 years. Currently the rate is 4 percent. The loan for the balance of 50 percent should be the rate the contract holder or lender would charge an average customer.

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.

LDP RATES AND E-LDP

If you would like to see LDP rates on a daily basis, go to:

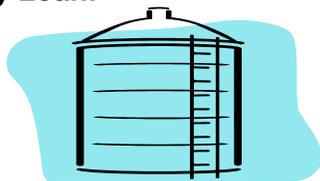
www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/psd

If you would like to be able to do LDP's online, or obtain other information, contact our office or see:

www.eauth.egov.usda.gov

Visit our Web site at:
www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

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



Acreage Spot Check Determinations and Notification

Each year the Farm Service Agency completes spot checks of acreage reports. Acreage reports are the basis for delivery of many farm programs. Acreage spot checks are completed to ensure accurate acreage reports are used for farm programs.

FSA will spot check acreages on over 10 percent of the farms in each county. Color imagery flown in August 2006 will be used to complete all acreage determinations.

All 2006 acreage spot checks will be completed using the FSA Geographic Information System official acreages. After farms are spot checked, a Notice of Determined Acreage will be sent to the farm operator. Producer notifications will be issued by FSA as spot checks are completed. Questions concerning determined acres should be directed to your local FSA office for clarification



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.