



October/November 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. Caylor, PT  
Robert Barton, Field  
Daniel White, Field

Farm Loan Manager  
Michael Harwood  
Tuesday mornings



## Crop Disaster Program Signup

Legislation passed by Congress in May of 2007 has initiated the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) which provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops. The quantity portion of the program will be administered first in county offices. Losses from natural disasters may qualify for financial assistance if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007, or, in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007. This would include wheat planted for 2007 which may have been affected by the April freeze. All insured crops grown in years 2005 and 2006 are covered under drought disaster declarations. Producers must choose **only one year** to apply for benefits. Participants may apply for loss benefits on multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. The CDP will pay for disaster losses under its own provisions, so the program does not necessarily pay in the same manner the insurance company did. The disaster payment will have a factor applied. Production from the insurance company will be used. Yields will be the higher of the APH (insurance) or county yields which are based on actual history. The county yields are corn 97, soybeans 32, wheat 50, and grain sorghum 81. The signup is open with an undetermined deadline. For more information contact the Farm Service Agency office.

Dates to Remember	
On-going	Crop Disaster and Livestock Programs
Nov. 2	County committee ballots mailed to voters
Nov. 12	Veterans Day Holiday
Nov. 22	Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Dec. 3	Last day to return county committee election ballots
Continues	Continuous CRP
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans

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

## Final DCP and CRP Payments For 2007

Enrolled producers should have received their final payment for the Direct Counter Cyclical Program and their CRP payments sometime during the first few weeks of October.

Producers who did not elect to receive an advance direct payment will receive their entire direct payment for the year in one lump sum after the end of the fiscal year (Sep. 30).

The direct payment for a crop equals 85 percent of the farm's base acreage *times* (x) the farm's direct payment yield *times* (x) the direct payment rate.

If there are any unearned advance counter-cyclical payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the final Direct and Counter-cyclical Program payments you are about to receive.

Many of the CRP payments had had reductions this year, so producers will want to check their payments closely. Producers with multiple contracts may not receive all payments at the same time. Contact the office with questions.

## Haying, Grazing CRP Acres, and Management



This could be termed the year of CRP haying and grazing, as many producers took advantage of these provisions. There were about 300 contracts which were hayed or grazed. Spot checks are currently occurring on 25% of those contracts. The date to hay has passed, and all grazing activity must be completed and cattle and hay bales removed from the acreage by November 13. Please do not store hay bales in CRP field fence rows because this may constitute a violation of your contract. Acreages are usually measured to the fences. If you have not reported the acres actually hayed or grazed, please do so, as it may affect your payment. Producers are reminded that any acreage hayed or grazed in 2007 cannot be hayed or grazed until the year 2010.



Producers who have contracts enrolled after October 1, 2003 are completing management practices as needed. Letters have been sent to producers in signups 29, 30, and 31, informing them of the need to begin and complete management practices. Each conservation plan is unique due to the type of practice on the field, so the years will differ. Please pay close attention to your conservation plan, as it gives you the specific dates to perform the practices. Management practices are conducted on a fiscal year basis, October 1 through September 30.

## Farm Operation Changes

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. If you have sold or purchased land, contact the county office. The administrative changes need to be made before enrolling in any 2008 programs. If land changes involve CRP, new contracts and conservation plans need to be completed. Producers will need to agree on division of payments.



## 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.

## LIVESTOCK DISASTER PROGRAMS

The new Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) sign-up has opened. Eligible livestock producers can apply to receive LCP compensation for feed losses or LIP for livestock losses occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, due to a natural disaster. DeKalb County is eligible for the years 2005 and 2006 under drought. The program is similar to livestock programs in the past, as it looks at livestock numbers and grazing losses, calculates a dollar value for both, and pays the lesser of the two. Producers will apply for benefits for both years and the program will determine the best benefit. Numbers of livestock owned or cash leased as of January 1 of 2005 and 2006 will key the process. Most species of livestock are eligible for the program. The main category of livestock will be beef cattle. They will be divided into adult cattle, that is, cows that have had at least one calf, and bulls 2 years of age, and non-adult cattle that weigh at least 500 pounds on January 1 of the designated year. This means calves carried over January 1 must weigh 500 pounds. They will be eligible if they grazed anytime after May 1 of that year. For example, calves sold in February will not be eligible because they did not graze after May 1. The grazing is also important because grazing losses will be computed for pastures where grazing occurred during the disaster year. Generally, a producer will choose the year with the most cattle. The program will pay on the lesser value of the calculated grazing or feed loss, or a flat rate for livestock. Producers will certify a grazing loss % for the year. Payment rates are adult beef, \$10.66, non-adult beef \$8.00; dairy adult cows and bulls, \$27.72, non-adult dairy, \$8.00; all sheep and goats, \$2.67; and equine, \$7.89. Eligibility of equine and other livestock depends on its use. Sales must be part of the farming operation and show as farm income.



## 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 starting on November 2, 2007. If, for some reason, you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office. Completed and signed ballots must be postmarked by December 3, 2007. The election is public and will be held on December 7, 2007. One person will be elected to represent LAA II, the townships of Adams, Camden, and Sherman, for a term of three years. Currently, Ronald Carrel, Clarksdale, serves as county committee member and serves as Chairperson.



### 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.

## Power of Attorney for FSA Programs

FSA has the ability to establish a representative role for an individual to submit applications on behalf of an owner or producer. The individual entitled to act for the owner or producer must have an unlimited power of attorney on file with the Farm Service Agency. This is useful particularly in cases of absentee landowner, and family operations.

### Selected Interest Rates for October 2007

90-Day Treasury Bill	4.875%
Farm Operating - Direct	5.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.5%
Limited Resource	5.0%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4.0%
Emergency	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility	4.375%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	5.25%

## Marketing Assistance Loans

With harvest progressing, producers are reminded of the marketing assistance loan program which offers nine month loans using grain as collateral. The loans are non-recourse which means the grain can be forfeited to CCC in times of extremely low prices. The current interest rate is 5.25%, subject to change at the first of each month for loans taken during that month, then again on January 1, 2008 for the duration of the loan period. The quantity of grain can be certified by the producer or measurement service is available. Loan rates in DeKalb County are corn: \$1.89; soybeans \$4.96; hard-wheat \$3.04; soft wheat \$2.50; and grain sorghum \$3.26/cwt. The final date to request loans is March 31 for wheat and May 31 for spring crops. You must now make an application before loan processing can begin.

### *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.



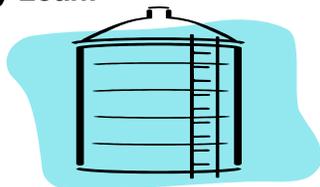
## ***Reasonable Accommodations***

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!**



## **Socially Disadvantaged Farmers**

Loans are available for operating expenses and to purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has priority funding for 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.

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