



September/October 2006

DeKalb County News

**DeKalb County
USDA Service Center**

DeKalb County FSA

1101 S. Polk
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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



Current Events

It has been a hot dry summer with spotty rainfall, a very unique year in which rainfall amounts varied much more than usual over the entire county. The National Drought Monitor has DeKalb County in "D2" status, which is severe drought. We are about four inches of rainfall short of normal for the year. These two statistics alone place us in the position of not being able to apply for any direct drought related programs, for example the Emergency CRP release. A number of producers have taken advantage of the managed haying and grazing provisions on CRP which allow the practice once in three years for a fee of 25% of the annual rental payment. That option will continue to be available until October 13 for haying and November 12 for grazing. You must release the acreage in the county office before the haying or grazing begins. When finished, certify the acreage, so the proper fee can be assessed.

It does seem as though crops look good considering the year. Pastures have suffered the most with the extreme heat, but are showing life with the recent rainfall. With the national anticipation of record or near record crops, prices have remained low. Producers with maturing CCC grain loans are faced with difficult decisions as to how to liquidate the loans. They will have to watch very closely the cash prices, posted county prices, and freight rates. LDP's will likely be a factor this year. You will soon be receiving another newsletter which outlines the LDP provisions for 2006. Please read this newsletter very carefully. Some provisions have changed for 2006, including beneficial interest, open storage, and LDP rates for direct marketing.

Dates to Remember

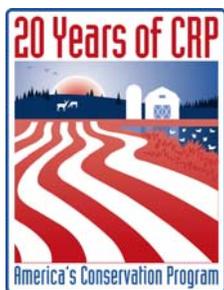
| | |
|-----------|---|
| Sept. 4 | Labor Day Federal Holiday. All FSA offices closed. |
| Sept. 30 | Final date for 2006 DCP contract revisions. |
| October 1 | DCP signup begins for 2007 CRP Annual Rental Payments and Final DCP Payments for 2005 |
| Oct/Nov | County committee election ballots mailed. |
| Nov. 3 | Last day to return voted ballots in county committee election. |
| Dec. 4 | Farm Facility Loan Storage Program |
| Continues | |

Visit our Web site:

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

CRP "REX"

It has been a long summer of inspections and processing of extensions and re-enrollments of CRP contracts that expire in 2007-2010. About 550 contracts were subject to extension or re-enrollment. Most were inspected. Overall, the inspections went very well with only a few problems with gullies, weeds, thin stands, and other violations. It is our intent to approve all of the contracts and extensions very soon. If you are contemplating any changes in the land affected by these contracts, or if you have decided not to extend, contact the office immediately. Keep in mind your original contracts are in force until September 30 of the applicable year, 2007-2010. If you have an extension, the only thing that changes is the maturity date. If you have a 10 year re-enrollment, you will have a new contract and a new conservation plan with required practices.



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)

Premises ID

Producers with a Premises ID to need to contact the Farm Service Agency county office staff to update their premises information following a change in address, type of premises, name of contact person or telephone number. This is required to ensure an accurate database. Premises ID is part of the voluntary National Animal Identification System. NAIS is designed to rapidly identify all animals and premises that have had direct contact with a disease. Details on NAIS are available at <http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/index.shtml>.

Counter Cyclical Payments

For those producers looking ahead to see what might be in store for counter cyclical payments for the major crops, corn and grain sorghum are possibilities. With one month remaining in the 2005 marketing year, the national average price of corn has been about \$2.00 per bushel which translates to a \$.35 per bushel cc rate. The average price for grain sorghum is about \$1.95 which is equal to the loan rate. In this case, the cc rate would be \$.27 per bushel. Advance rates were \$.28 for corn leaving a net of \$.07, and \$.189 for grain sorghum, leaving a net of \$.08 per bushel. Producers may or may not have taken the advance payments. As soon as the final prices are determined, USDA will notify the county offices, and the payment cycle can begin. This time frame will correlate closely with the final direct payments for 2006.

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.

20 Years for CRP

As CRP celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, the program can look back at its considerable accomplishments. Beginning as a soil conservation program and expanding to include water quality, wetland, and wildlife habitat concerns, the program has evolved into one of the most popular that USDA has ever implemented. FSA Associate Administrator Mike Yost recently told the attendees at the NACD annual meeting that CRP is the "sharpest tool in USDA's conservation toolbox". Soil erosion is reduced by 450 million tons each year; 2 million acres of wetlands have been protected or restored; 34 Conservation Reserve Enhancement programs have been established across the nation. He said, "Every American is reaping the rewards of this program." (Taken from Buffer Notes, February, 2006).

DeKalb County has over 41000 acres enrolled in CRP. A very high percentage of participants elected to re-enroll or extend their contracts during the recent offer period. A general signup was also completed recently. Producers continue to be interested in the program. Currently, one of the most popular is the Upland Bird Habitat CP33 practice, designed to increase the population of quail and other birds. The practice consists of field borders planted to grass and shrubs, or enhanced by woody cover to encourage habitat.





Election Update

The period to nominate candidates for the upcoming county committee election is closed. Nominations were due in the county office on Tuesday, Aug. 1. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters by Nov. 3. Voted ballots must be returned to the county office by Dec. 4.

The DeKalb County ballot for Local Administrative Area I, Polk, Dallas, and Grant townships, will list two nominees.

County committee elections give farmers and ranchers an important opportunity to ensure that their FSA county committees represent them.

Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help make decisions necessary to administer federal farm programs offered in their communities. County committees make decisions on agricultural issues such as commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, disaster payments and employing county executive directors.

Each year, an election is held in one Local Administrative Area or three townships. One person is elected to serve a three year term.

You can obtain a complete list of eligibility requirements by visiting the county office or online at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/cocelig06.htm>.

- Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 3. The last day to return voted ballots to the county office is Dec. 4.
- Newly elected county committee members take office Jan. 1, 2007.

For detailed information about FSA county committees, visit the county office or go online at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections/Default.asp>.



Selected Interest Rates for March 2006

| | |
|---|--------|
| 90-Day Treasury Bill | 4.125% |
| Farm Operating - Direct | 4.875% |
| Farm Ownership - Direct | 5.125% |
| Limited Resource | 5.000% |
| Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher | 4.000% |
| Emergency | 3.750% |
| Farm Storage Facility | 4.500% |
| Commodity Loans 1996-Present | 5.625% |

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.

Farm Loans

FSA offers direct and guaranteed Farm Ownership Loans to farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain commercial credit. Often, borrowers are beginning farmers who cannot qualify for conventional loans because they have insufficient financial resources. The Agency also helps established farmers who have suffered financial setbacks.

FSA makes operating loans to individual rural youths age 10 through 20 to establish and operate income-producing projects. The projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, and carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H clubs, FFA, or similar organizations or with a vocational teacher or county; extension agent. Call for details.

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



| August Interest Rates | |
|---|---------|
| 90-Day Treasury Bill | 4.875% |
| Farm Operating - Direct | 5.500% |
| Farm Ownership - Direct | 5.750% |
| Limited Resource | 5.000% |
| Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher | 4.000% |
| Emergency | 3.750% |
| Farm Storage Facility | 5.125% |
| Commodity Loans 1996-Present | 6.250% |
| Tobacco (TTPP) Discount Rate | 10.000% |

Watch for the Price Support Newsletter coming soon to your mailbox.

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

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