



District #1
FSA NEWSLETTER
May 2007

Andrew County

105 Hwy. 71 W
Savannah, MO
816-324-3196

Atchison County

302 E Hwy. 136
Rock Port, MO 64482
660-744-5328

Buchanan County

3915 Oakland Ave.
St. Joseph, MO 64506
816-364-3927

Clinton County

1800 W. Highway 116
Plattsburg, MO 64477
816-539-2136

Dekalb County

1101 S. Polk
Maysville, MO 64469
816-449-2112

Gentry County

512 E. Hwy. 136
Albany, MO 64402
660-726-5525

Harrison County

1400 N. 41st. Street
Bethany, MO 64424
660-425-7635

Holt County

118 W. Davis Street
Mound City, MO 64470
660-442-3134

Nodaway County

502 W. South Hills Dr.
Maryville, MO 64468
660-582-7423

Platte County

1207 Branch Street
Platte City, MO 64079
816-431-2101

Worth County

18 West 3rd Street
Grant City, MO 64456
660-564-3341

Emergency Conservation Program

Due to the heavy rains and flooding that occurred during the first part of May, most Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices in Northwest Missouri will be implementing the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). The following practices will be available under the ECP:

- EC1 – Removing Debris from Farmland
- EC2 – Grading, Shaping, Re-leveling or Similar Measures
- EC3 – Restoring Permanent Fences
- EC4 – Restoring Conservation Structures and Other Measures

Land eligibility will be determined based on on-site inspections of damage, taking into account the type and extent of damage. For land to be eligible, the disaster must have created new conservation problems that, if untreated, would impair or endanger the land and materially affect its productive capacity. Under the program, cost-share monies would be available for the practices mentioned above.

To qualify for cost-share assistance producers must have suffered at least \$1,000 of eligible cost share expenses. Producers are not eligible to receive compensation to rehabilitate any land on which they are already required to maintain the practice, which includes land under any other Federal or State cost-share program (example – terraces built using cost-share from Soil and Water Districts within the last 10 years). Levees or the land between the levee and the river are not eligible for cost-share under the ECP program. Land on which cost-share assistance is received must maintain its agricultural use for a minimum of 10 years following the year the practice is completed.

Sign-up for ECP will be for 60 days beginning June 4, 2007. Producers should apply for assistance at their local FSA office before beginning the repairs or removing debris from their acreages. However, if repairs have already begun then producers must apply for assistance within 15 days of the program beginning date, or by June 19, 2007. Also, producers should take pictures of the damage and document the repairs they make if they make them before it has been inspected by an FSA official.

See page 2 of this newsletter for a more detailed list of eligible ECP items.

2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program Enrollment - 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.

NASS to Survey Local Farmers

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) begins their annual area survey on May 25, 2007. All producers are encouraged to complete the surveys and let the financial facts be known for agriculture's policies and programs.

Emergency Conservation Program

EC1 – Removing Debris from Farmland

Eligible components include:

- removing debris from farmland that meets all of the following criteria: material affects the production capacity of the land, prevents carrying out effective conservation measures, prevents returning the land to productive agricultural use, is of a magnitude that requires the use of hired or personal labor not normally required in the operation of the farm or ranch or the use of equipment that would not have been normally required in the operation of the farm or ranch
- removing debris from farmsteads and access roadways that could significantly interfere with normal farming operations

EC2 – Grading, Shaping, Re-leveling or Similar Measures

Eligible components include:

- grading, shaping and filling gullies created by the disaster
- Re-leveling of previously irrigated farmland
- removing humps, ridges, or depressions if they cause water to pond on the land surface
- incorporating sand or silt deposits into the soil (sand must be a depth greater than 6 inches)
- re-establishing permanent vegetative cover on areas where all of the following are present: grading and shaping is required for rehabilitation of the area, the pre-existing permanent vegetative cover was destroyed, the area involved would be subject to critical wind or water erosion unless the cover is re-established

EC3 – Restoring Permanent Fences

Eligible components include:

- restoring or replacing fences needed to restore the land to productive agricultural use
- restoring or replacing the smaller of the same type of fence existing before the disaster or cost-share for the actual cost of the fence restored or replaced
- cross fences
- boundary fences
- cattle gates

** cost share on fences will be adjusted based on the age of the fence

EC4 – Restoring Conservation Structures and Other Installations

Eligible components include:

- dams, ponds, and other water impoundments for agricultural uses
- sod waterways
- installed open or closed drainage systems if purpose is to remove silt deposited by the current disaster
- diversions or spreader ditches
- terrace systems
- structures for the protection of outlets or water channels before the disaster
- springs
- pipelines
- ditches and other permanently installed systems
- permanent vegetative cover including re-establishment where needed in conjunction with eligible structures or installations to prevent critical erosion and siltation

** Land in which Federal or State cost-share was received to build the original structure and is less than 10 years old is not eligible for ECP cost-share.

Various Lease Agreements

Recently there has been increased interest in flexible or combination leases. These rental provisions are developed to protect landlords and tenants, as well as to insure compliance with payment limitation rules.

The key determinant in terms of how FSA looks at these leases is whether the landlord shares in the production risk of the crop. Cash leases have a guaranteed amount, certain cash payment or a fixed quantity of a crop. Leases which are based on a share of the crop or proceeds are considered share leases and must be reported as such by the producer when signing up for DCP payments.

If the lease bases the rent on the amount of crop produced or the income derived from that crop (whether or not the crop is actually grown), or any combination of the two, it is a share lease and the landlord must receive a share of the DCP contract payment. This is because the landlord now shares the risk in the crop. The more bushels produced or the higher price received for that crop creates a higher rent.

Signup for 2007 DCP continues at all county FSA offices and will be available through August 3, 2007. For additional clarification on flexible and combination leases contact your local FSA office.

Reporting Crop Acreage

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 Farm Service Agency 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. Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. Additionally, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers are required to file reports the earlier of 15 days prior to harvest / grazing or by June 30 for fall- and spring- seeded small grains and July 31 for all other crops. Prevented planting needs be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date for the crop.

Failed Acreage:

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and 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.

2007 County Committee Election Information

One of FSA's responsibilities is to conduct County Committee elections in an open manner that ensures accountability. County FSA Offices will provide local organizations representing socially disadvantaged groups with detailed information about the COC election process. FSA is reaching out to agricultural communities to get equitable representation on their county committees.

Groups representing socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers will be actively solicited for COC election candidates, and encouraged to fill out a nomination form (**FSA-669A**). Under represented farmers and ranchers are encouraged to step up and participate in their county's COC election process. Producers will notice posters and announcements displayed in businesses, churches, and other public places. The nomination period is June 15 – August 1, 2007. COC election fact sheets can be found online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under the News & Events tab on the FSA homepage.

GENTRY/WORTH FSA OFFICE

512 East Hwy. 136
Albany, MO 64402

Dates To Remember

May 28	Memorial Day – USDA Service Center Closed
June 4	Sign-up for Emergency Conservation Program begins
June 15	Nomination forms for the County Committee Election may be accepted
June 30	Last day to file an acreage report for small grains
July 4	Independence Day – USDA Service Center Closed
July 31	Last day to file an acreage report for all crops
August 1	County Committee Election Nomination period ends

Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

Maintaining CRP Cover

CRP cover maintenance is the participant’s responsibility and must be done according to the conservation plan. All CRP maintenance activity, such as mowing, burning and spraying, must be conducted outside the primary nesting season for wildlife and in accordance with the conservation plan. Spot treatment of the acreage may be allowed during the primary nesting season if certain criteria are met. The ending date for the primary nesting season in Missouri is July 15, 2007. **Maturing Contracts:** CRP participants with expiring contract acres in the final year of the CRP-1, who intend to destroy cover for preparation for spring or fall-seeded crops, need pre-authorization from FSA to avoid penalty. Authorization can only be granted after a completed CRP-1G (Modification to Allow Early Preparation) is reviewed and approved by a representative of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

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