

## USDA NEWS

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**May 26**

USDA Offices  
Closed May 26  
In observance of  
Memorial Day

**March 15-April 30**

Dates for Prescribed  
burning or Chemical  
Burn of Cool Season  
Grass on CRP

**June 30**

Final Date to Report  
Small Grains

**July 31**

Final Date to Report  
Spring Seeded Crops

**Ongoing**

- ◆ Farm Facility Loans
- ◆ Update Farm Changes
- ◆ Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

### Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the County Executive Director of their local Farm Service Agency office.

## USDA Issues Disaster Payments For Crop, Livestock And Feed Losses

Recently, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) began issuing payments to tens of thousands of farmers and ranchers across the country who suffered losses because of natural disasters.

USDA is currently processing payments under the Crop Disaster Program, Livestock Compensation Program and Livestock Indemnity Compensation Program and Livestock Indemnity Program. Signup for these programs is ongoing. The programs provide payments to agricultural producers who suffered crop or livestock and feed losses in 2005, 2006, and 2007. Producers can apply for all years, but will only receive payment on the year with the largest payment per program. Producers must have carried crop insurance or NAP coverage to be eligible for the Crop Disaster Program and **ALL 2007 crops are now eligible.**

Farmers and ranchers can apply to receive benefits through these and other disaster programs by visiting their local FSA service center. Find more information about FSA disaster programs online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

## NAP Coverage Deadline

**March 15<sup>th</sup>** is the last day for producers to apply for Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage and pay the service fee at the county office.

NAP is available for crops for which crop insurance is not available like double crop soybeans, oats, hay, and pasture. This program resembles crop insurance since it was designed to reduce financial losses resulting from weather related crop disasters. A loss of 50% must be experienced before a producer will be eligible. The application and service fee must be filed by the applicable closing date for each of the 2008 spring seeded NAP crops. To remain eligible for NAP, a producer must annually report the crop, including: type, variety, location, producer shares, date planted, and the intended use (fresh, processed, etc.). Once the crop is harvested the production must also be reported.

The service fee is \$100 per crop per county or \$300 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$900 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees.

In the event of a crop failure caused by natural disaster, the producer needs to notify the local FSA office by completing a "Notice of Loss" (form CCC-576). The notice of loss must be executed within 15 days of the date the damage became apparent.

## New Farm Bill

A new farm bill has NOT been passed as of the printing of this newsletter. A new farm bill may make few or many changes to the programs and how they are administered compared to the current legislation. Watch for future newsletters and media releases on the new farm bill. If legislation is delayed as the planting season nears, the signup for the crop programs may be frantic.

## Conservation Compliance

Federal regulations discourage the production of crops on highly erodible cropland unless the land is protected from erosion by an approved conservation system. Status reviews are conducted to ensure producers follow a conservation plan on highly erodible land.

In addition to the highly erodible land, a person may not plant an agricultural commodity on wetland converted after Dec. 23, 1985, or convert a wetland to make agricultural production possible after Nov. 28, 1990.

Failure to comply with these provisions will cause a person to be ineligible for USDA benefits. County Committees may review noncompliance situations for good faith and provide relief in approved cases.

## Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal law of planting, producing, cultivating, harvesting, growing, or storing a controlled substance will be ineligible to participate and receive payments under USDA programs. Marijuana, opium poppies, and other drug producing plants are controlled substances.

## Ownership Changes

If you have purchased land—please remember to bring a copy of the recorded deed to our office so we can have you listed as the owner. This also includes reporting title changes from an individual to a revocable (or irrevocable) trust. The sooner the better, since it does take some time to update ownership changes and the related paperwork.

## Farm Reconstitutions

In program terminology, farms are *constituted* to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. 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.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested timely. With a new farm bill may come revised deadline requirements so be sure to notify your local office promptly.

**Estate Method**—the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

**Designation of Landowner Method**—may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

**DCP Cropland Method**—the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

**Default Method**—the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

## Farm Storage Facility Loans

Low interest rate loans for storage facilities are still available for producers to build farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, soybeans and corn.

The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.

All Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. Loan approvals expire in four months. This should provide adequate time to construct your facility and submit your bills for the total cost. (Please remember that we cannot disburse your loan until the facility is done and we have inspected it.)

### **Foreign Buyers 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 country 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. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of those reporting requirements.

### **Power of Attorney**

We have a power of attorney form available for those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. This can be done by completing and FSA-211, Power of Attorney. The form is available at your local USDA Service Center or online at:  
<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>.

Forms obtained and completed outside the USDA Service Center offices **must be notarized**. To find out more, call the office.

### **Spousal Signatures**

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) programs in which either has an interest. In most cases this option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

### **New Farm Loan Manager**

The Farm Service Agency in Macon would like to welcome Jared D. Weydert as the new Farm Loan Manager for Macon, Linn, Randolph and Shelby counties. Jared will be taking over for Mike Arnold as he has accepted the position of Area Farm Loan Specialist.

Jared grew up in Mendon, Missouri on a small diversified farm and attended Missouri State University where he received a degree in Agricultural Business. After college he worked for a large farming/construction corporation. Jared has been with the Farm Service Agency for eight years and has spent the last four years in South Central Missouri as the Farm Loan Manager. Jared and his wife, Jennifer, are the proud parents of their first baby, Derek, born on December 23, 2007.

The Farm Service Agency is happy to advise that you will not experience any major changes in your service. You may continue to conduct your Farm Service Agency business as you have in the past.

We would like to thank Mike Arnold for his dedicated service and wish him well in his new position.

We invite you to stop by the office in Macon and say hello.

### **Farm Loans Available for Socially Disadvantaged Applicants**

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

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

For detailed information on loan eligibility or the different loan programs available, contact your local FSA office to set up an appointment with a Loan Approval Official. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

### **County Offices in District 3**

Tom Balsler, District Director

#### **Audrain County**

Mexico, MO  
Phone: 573-581-1406  
Fax: 573-581-7283  
COC Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday

#### **Clark County**

Kahoka, MO  
Phone: 660-727-3364  
Fax: 660-727-3089  
COC Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday

#### **Knox County**

Edina, MO  
Phone: 660-397-2559  
Fax: 660-397-3289  
COC Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday

#### **Lewis County**

Monticello, MO  
Phone: 573-767-5274  
Fax: 573-767-5495  
COC Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday

#### **Lincoln County**

Troy, MO  
Phone: 636-528-4113  
Fax: 636-528-9582  
COC Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday

#### **Macon County**

Macon, MO  
Phone: 660-385-2616  
Fax: 660-385-4923  
COC Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday

#### **Marion County**

Palmyra, MO  
Phone: 573-769-2235  
Fax: 573-769-4460  
COC Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday

#### **Monroe County**

Paris, MO  
Phone: 660-327-4137  
Fax: 660-327-4507  
COC Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday

#### **Pike County**

Bowling Green, MO  
Phone: 573-324-3313  
Fax: 573-324-2475  
COC Meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday

#### **Ralls County**

New London, MO  
Phone: 573-985-8611  
Fax: 573-985-3928  
COC Meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday

#### **Shelby County**

Shelbyville, MO  
Phone: 573-633-2440  
Fax: 573-633-1406  
COC Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday

\*County Committees (COC) meet once a month. Please contact the applicable County Office for the time and place of meeting.

FSA and RMA work together to prevent fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA will assist RMA throughout the growing season. Producers may report suspected cases of crop insurance fraud to their local FSA or RMA Office.

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

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