



DECEMBER 2006

TIME TO SIGN UP FOR 2007 DCP

Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) contracts must be signed each year.

- > Sign-up period runs from October 1, 2006 to June 1, 2007. To be considered enrolled timely, the contract must be submitted by June 1, 2007.
- > Due to the additional time it will take to sign up this year, producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office to see if an appointment will be necessary to sign the 2007 DCP contract(s).
- > Contracts with signatures obtained after June 1, but before September 30, will be accepted, but the farm will be assessed a \$100 late file sign-up fee.
- > Producers' eligibility files will be reviewed and updated before payments are issued.
- > Producers may receive an advance of the direct payment, beginning in December. Final direct payments will be made in October 2007.
- > For 2007, the direct advance payment will be paid at 22%.
- > In cases where a farm is reconstituted, all resulting farms will need to enroll (signatures obtained) if the producers intend to participate.

Note: If you are planning to sell your farm, we recommend waiting until after the sale is closed before initiating the 2007 contract (unless, of course, it is nearing the June 1 deadline).

DISTRICT 4 COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Here are the results of District 4's County Office Committee (COC) Elections held this month. The officers' 3-year term begins January 1, 2007. Congratulations!

County	LAA	Townships	Member Elected
Benton	3	East White, West White, North Williams	John Mehrens Jr.
Carroll	1	Washington, Fairfield, Hill, Leslie, Stokes Mound, Van Horn, Hurricane	Barbara Cowan
Chariton	1	Bee Branch, Cockrell, Wayland, Salisbury	Henry Maurice Scheiderer
Cooper	2	Blackwater, Boonville, Lamine, Saline	Nancy Dianne Sites
Henry	3	Tebo, Windsor, Deer Creek, Springfield, Bethlehem, Leesville, Osage	Glen Crawford
Howard	2	Chariton, Richmond	Fred Bockting Jr.
Johnson	2	Centerview, Kingsville, Madison, Montserrat, Warrensburg	Marion T. VanMeter
Lafayette	3	Dover, Middleton, Davis	David H. Lueck
Pettis	1	Blackwater, Hughesville, Houstonia, Longwood, LaMontre, Heaths Creek	Frank Dow
Ray/Clay	1	Orrick, Camden, South Richmond	Dwight McMullen
Randolph	2	Prairie, Moniteau, Silver Creek	Mike Heath
Saline	2	Grand Pass, Marshall, Miami	Dale Miles

ELIGIBILITY REVIEWS

You may have heard or read recently that audits of FSA revealed \$2.8 billion in erroneous payments. What didn't get reported was what the auditors considered as erroneous. For instance, if the producer's address was not complete on a form or if the telephone number was not included, the auditors considered the payment for that producer as erroneous because the form was not filled out in its entirety. Even though the correct producer was paid the correct amount of money, the audit reflected a payment error. The audit stated an 11% error rate when in actuality improper payments made to producers was found to be less than 1%.

To meet the stringent requirements outlined by the audit findings FSA County Offices are reviewing prior year payments for accuracy and new procedures have been put in place for 2007 payments. If reviews reveal inadequate paperwork or bring into question producer eligibility, those questions will have to be resolved or prior year payments may have to be refunded. The new procedures that have been put in place will require the County Offices to spend more time with producers when they sign up and prior to making payments. It is expected that this will increase the delay in producer payments and other services, now and in the future. It is imperative that producers be prepared for these delays, especially for payments expected in a certain timeframe or for loans.

Its always a good idea to contact your local office by telephone prior to making the trip to see if appointments are required or what paperwork might be needed prior to your arrival.

ADDITIONAL COUNTIES IN DISTRICT 4

Due to a realignment of Missouri's FSA districts, Benton, Pettis and Randolph Counties have been added to District 4, increasing the total counties to twelve.

We welcome Benton, Pettis and Randolph Counties employees and producers to our District!

WELCOME NEW DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

District 4 welcomes two new permanent employees on board at the Ray/Clay County FSA Office. We hope your careers with FSA will be long and prosperous.

Amanda Wollard was hired in June 2006. Her programs are Administrative, Farm Records, and Wheat, Feed Grains and Oilseeds. She gained her general working knowledge of farming from her husband Dale who is employed at a 3000-acre spread north of Hardin. She also has a degree in Animal Science from Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville. Amanda says she enjoys working with FSA and finds her job very challenging. They recently adopted 3 children; Joe (10), Cloyce (7), and Ladonna (5). Amanda enjoys quilting when (if) she finds any spare time.

Jessica Oyler was hired in September 2006. Her programs include Conservation, Reconstitutions, Crop Insurance, Farm Loans and Emergency Programs. She enjoys working with farmers and also finds her job at FSA very challenging. Jessica grew up on an 80 acre farm near Stet, Missouri and just finished her Ag Business Degree at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville. In between getting her degree and starting her job at FSA, Jessica also found the time to get married. New husband Alan Oyler of Hardin is employed at the Lake City Ammunitions Plant in Lake City. Jessica enjoys working on cross-stitch in her spare time.

Ray/Clay County's CED, Cindy Epperson, retired from her position in September to join her husband Brad Epperson (former Missouri SED) in New London, MO. Her career with ASCS/FSA spanned 29 years, the last 12 as Ray/Clay's CED. She is reported to be enjoying her retirement. Meanwhile, Stanton Thompson, Lafayette County CED, will be dividing his time between Higginsville and Richmond, serving as temporary CED for Ray/Clay County until a permanent one can be hired.

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

SELLING LAND

If you're planning to sell farmland, there may be some program consequences you should be aware of. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't want to continue the CRP contract, you might have to refund all of the payments you've received to date.

Reviewing program implications with your local Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.

WOMEN IN AG AND AG LANDOWNER'S CONFERENCE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2007

9:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Registration and coffee from 8:30 to 9:00 am.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

Corner of English and Summit

Marshall, Missouri

Pre-Registration: \$12.00 per Person

Registration at the Door: \$15.00 per Person

(Registration Fee covers price of lunch and workshop materials)

SPEAKERS

Karen Funkenbusch, MU Extension State Specialist
Becky Plattner, Saline County Presiding Commissioner

FARM FAMILY HEALTH AND SAFETY TOPICS

Pesticide and Chemical Management

Adaptive Farming and Gardening

Snap, Crackle and Pop

If It Moves - Look Out!

DOOR PRIZES!

CREATIVE DISPLAYS!

Pre-register by Jan. 31, 2007 by sending your name, address and \$12.00 fee to:

Saline County Extension Center

353 S Lafayette

Marshall, MO 65340

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.

Following are the different methods used when completing a farm recon. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by August 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

Estate Method — the division of bases, according to a will or written agreement of the heirs;

Designation of Landowner Method — the division of crop bases according to an agreement between the buyer and seller *if* the landowner (or seller) has owned the land for at least 3 years *and* a written memorandum of understanding is signed by both parties;

DCP Cropland Method — the division of bases based on the proportion of cropland each party will receive;

Default Method — if a whole tract of land is sold, the seller receives those bases that FSA already has attributed to the tract.

If DCP direct payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded.

WHEAT REPORTING REMINDER

Now would be a good time to report any wheat you have planted. You need to know the date you planted the wheat. The last date to report 2007 wheat for FSA purposes is June 30, 2007.

All of us at FSA would like to take this time to wish you and your families a wonderful holiday season and a very profitable and Happy New Year!



All USDA Offices will be closed on December 25 for Christmas and will re-open Tuesday, December 26. We will also be closed January 1, 2007 for New Year's Day and will re-open Tuesday, January 2, 2007.

District 4 Service Centers

Jasper Grant, District Director
(573)876-0925

Benton County FSA Office

Annette Steelman, CED
Steven Lair, FLM
535 North Hwy 65
Lincoln, MO 65338
(660)547-2351

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. (M-F)

Carroll County FSA Office

Chuck Riley, CED
Annette Brandt, FLM
1405 Hwy 65 North, Suite A
Carrollton, MO 64633
(660)542-8732

Office Hours: 7:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. (M-F)

Chariton County FSA Office

Allen Powell, CED
Robert K. Hardwick, FLM
104 South J.F.K. Avenue
Keytesville, MO 65261
(660)288-3279

Office Hours: 7:45 a.m.—4:30 p.m. (M-F)

Cooper County FSA Office

Mark Hultgren, CED
Jct. 87 & I-70 17066 Highway 87
Boonville, MO 65233
(660)882-5647

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. (M-F)

Henry County FSA Office

Bill Spry, CED
1306 North 2nd Street
Clinton, MO 64735
(660)885-5567

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. (M-F)

Howard County FSA Office

Brian McDonald, CED
743 State Route DD
Fayette, MO 65248
(660)248-3384

Office Hours: 7:45 a.m.—4:30 p.m. (M-F)

Johnson County FSA Office

Larry Olson, CED
727 PCA Road Suite A
Warrensburg, MO 64093
(660)747-8400

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. (M-F)

Lafayette County FSA Office

Stanton Thompson, CED
Brian Bagnell, FLM
120 W. 19th Street
Higginsville, MO 64037
(660)584-8732

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. (M-F)

Pettis County FSA Office

Jay O'Bannon, CED
Steven Lair, FLM
1407 W. 32nd Street
Sedalia, MO 65301
(660)826-3339

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. (M-F)

Randolph County FSA Office

Eddie Mckeown, CED
Michael Arnold, FLM
2995 County Rd 1325
Moberly, MO 65270
(660)263-1169

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. (M-F)

Ray/Clay County FSA Office

Stanton Thompson, CED
500 Wollard Blvd.
Richmond, MO 64085
(816)776-5861

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. (M-F)

Saline County FSA Office

Everette Wood, CED
704 N. Miami
Marshall, MO 65340
(660)886-7447

Office Hours: 7:45 a.m.—4:30 p.m. (M-F)

District 4
Jct. 87 & I-70
17066 Highway 87
Boonville, MO 65233-9640

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SIGNATURE AUTHORITY

Most producers are aware of the terms Power of Attorney, Signature Authority, or Representative Capacity but what do they actually mean. For FSA purposes, a producer or someone serving as representative for an entity (trust, corporation, LLC, etc.) can execute a Power of Attorney form (FSA-211) giving someone the authorization to sign FSA forms on their behalf.

The FSA-211 can give authority for all current and future programs or can restrict the signature authority to certain programs or aspects of a program. When properly completed, this gives the receiving party the authority to complete forms on behalf of the granting authority. This Power of Attorney is only good for the Farm Service Agency; it does not give a legal power of attorney for functions outside of FSA. Husbands and wives automatically have authority to sign for each other unless written notice is given to FSA.

Many producers operate as an entity (trust, corporation, LLC, etc.) and as such are required to submit documents to FSA showing the legal formation of the entity and who has the legal representative capacity to sign for the entity. If the documents provided do not meet FSA guidelines, it will be necessary for the documents to be amended or in the case of corporations, a meeting will be required with minutes documenting who the members have given authority to. Also the documents provided need to show if the person with representative capacity can re-delegate on a FSA-211 to another individual to sign.

Trusts have become popular in recent years and FSA has certain requirements specific to

trusts. FSA will need access to the trust documentation, which shows the trustees, beneficiaries and who has representative capacity. Most producers are under the impression that their trust does not go into effect until the time of their death but in almost all cases the land has been deeded over to the trust. When FSA asks who owns the farm, the producer will in most cases reply that "they" do, but "they" do not, the Trust does. Most people do not see the distinction because they operate the Trust using their own Social Security number. For FSA payment limitation purposes, determinations are made based upon who owns the land and equipment or who provides the capital, labor or management. Some producers still wish to receive payments as an individual, even though the land has been deeded to the Trust. In order to be paid as an individual, *that person* would have to be providing significant contributions, not the Trust or another operator. If another operator provides the labor, equipment and capital while the Trust owns the farm, all the individual would be contributing is possibly some management which is not enough to qualify for a payment. The Trust is automatically approved under landowner provisions. Even though your lawyer or accountant may not make the distinction because the same Social Security number is used, for FSA purposes there is a difference between you as an individual and your Trust. If you have questions be sure to contact your local FSA Office.

RAINFALL DATA

County	August 2006 Actual	August 30 yr. Average	September 2006 Actual	September 30 yr. Average	October 2006 Actual	October 30 yr. Average	November 2006 Actual	November 30 yr. Average
Barton	2.79	3.49	0.88	4.00	2.41	3.59	3.76	3.76
Carroll	5.13	3.79	1.40	4.33	3.82	3.46	2.10	3.00
Chariton	3.50	3.85	1.74	4.16	3.63	3.27	2.50	3.18
Clay	7.29	4.10	2.17	4.59	4.72	3.32	1.83	2.02
Cooper	1.88	4.56	1.17	3.66	4.07	3.22	2.92	3.26
Henry	5.69	3.91	2.59	3.91	3.86	3.66	2.82	3.54
Howard	2.79	4.01	1.38	3.86	3.31	3.13	3.96	2.93
Johnson	6.08	3.80	0.65	4.52	4.14	3.46	0.98	3.34
Lafayette	5.48	4.06	1.25	3.95	4.50	3.58	1.80	1.96
Pettis	3.90	3.58	2.14	3.94	4.94	3.65	3.26	3.48
Ray	6.24	3.71	1.38	4.63	4.29	3.90	2.13	2.75
Randolph	4.97	3.55	2.60	4.46	3.04	3.55	3.37	2.68
Saline	7.01	3.41	0.60	4.47	3.40	3.56	0.89	2.72