



January 2008

## District 7 News

### **Bollinger County FSA**

Office Hours: 8:00-4:30  
Phone: 573-238-2671

### **Butler County FSA**

Office Hours: 8:00-4:30  
Phone: 573-785-8416

### **Cape Girardeau County FSA**

Office Hours: 8:00-4:30  
Phone: 573-243-1467

### **Dunklin County FSA**

Office Hours: 8:00-4:30  
Phone: 573-888-2536

### **Jefferson/Washington FSA**

Office Hours: 7:00-4:30  
Phone: 636-789-2441

### **Mississippi County FSA**

Office Hours: 8:00-4:30  
Phone: 573-649-9930

### **New Madrid County FSA**

Office Hours: 7:30-4:30  
Phone: 573-748-2557

### **Pemiscot County FSA**

Office Hours: 7:45-4:30  
Phone: 573-333-1923

### **Perry County FSA**

Office Hours: 7:30-4:30  
Phone: 573-547-6531

### **Ripley/Carter County FSA**

Office Hours: 7:45-4:30  
Phone: 573-996-7116

### **Scott County FSA**

Office Hours: 7:30-4:30  
Phone: 573-545-3593

### **Ste. Genevieve County FSA**

Office Hours: 7:00-4:30  
Phone: 573-883-2703

### **St. Francis/Iron County FSA**

Office Hours: 7:00-4:30  
Phone: 573-756-6488

### **Stoddard County FSA**

Office Hours: 7:00-4:30  
Phone: 573-624-5939

### **Wayne/Madison County FSA**

Office Hours: 7:45-4:30  
Phone: 573-224-3410

### **District Director**

Billy Swiney  
Butler County FSA  
Phone: 573-785-8416

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

Recently, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) made a change in the policy regarding disaster payments under the Crop Loss Disaster Program (CDP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and Livestock Compensation Program (LCP). **The change was made to include the 2007 crop year.**

USDA is currently processing about \$1 billion in payments under the CDP, LCP and LIP. Sign-up for these programs is ongoing. The programs provide payments to agricultural producers who suffered crop, livestock and feed losses in 2005, 2006, and 2007. But, producers must choose one year for which to receive payments. Software for the livestock programs has not been updated yet, so check with your local office before your visit.

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>.

### **Dairy Disaster Assistance Program Sign-up Continues**

Eligible dairy producers can still sign-up for the Dairy Disaster Assistance Program (DDAP-III) at your local FSA Service Center. DDAP-III will compensate producers for production losses that resulted from cattle and yield losses and produced milk that had to be dumped because of lack of electricity, closed milk plants and damaged containment equipment.

A producer's operation must be in a county designated a major disaster or emergency area by the President or declared a natural disaster area by the Secretary of Agriculture **between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec.31, 2007.** Counties contiguous to such counties will also be eligible. Producers in counties declared disasters

by the President may be eligible, even though agricultural loss was not covered by the declaration, if there has been a FSA Administrator's Physical Loss Notice covering such losses.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

Under proposed DDAP-III regulations, the following are some of the eligibility requirements producers must meet to receive benefits:

- Producers must have produced and marketed milk any time between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007;
- Producers must have suffered dairy production losses attributed to the declared natural disaster during the eligible period in an approved area; and
- Producers must provide proof of monthly milk production commercially marketed by all persons in the eligible dairy operation during the applicable milk marketing calendar year and claim period (Jan. 2, 2005 – Dec. 31, 2007).

To find out more information about the DDAP- III visit our website at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov> or to apply for the program, contact your local FSA Service Center.

### **Applications for FSA Loans**

Farmers and ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible.

Filing early will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible so that planting decisions can be made. Failure to apply early can result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications that must be processed in date order.

Contact your local FSA Loan Approval Official for more details and assistance in applying.

### **County Committee Meeting Times**

#### **Bollinger County**

First Thursday of each month at 9:00 am.

#### **Butler County**

Third Thursday of each month at 8:00 am.

#### **Cape Girardeau County**

First Tuesday of each month at 8:00 am

#### **Dunklin County**

Second Thursday of each month at 8:00 am.

#### **Jefferson/Washington**

First Wednesday of each month at 8:30

#### **Mississippi County**

Second Tuesday of each month at 8:00 am.

#### **New Madrid County**

First Tuesday of each month at 8:00 am.

#### **Pemiscot County**

Third Friday of each month at 9:00 am.

#### **Perry County**

Second Tuesday of each month at 8:00 am.

#### **Ripley/Carter Counties**

Second Friday of each month at 9:00 am.

#### **Scott County**

Fourth Friday of each month at 8:00 am.

#### **Ste. Genevieve County**

Next to Last Thursday of each month at 8:00 am

#### **St. Francois/Iron**

First Friday of each month at 9:00

#### **Stoddard County**

The Wednesday closest to the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month at 7:00 am.

#### **Wayne/Madison County**

Second Wednesday of each month at 8:00 am.

## **NAP Application Deadline**

March 15 is the deadline date for producers to apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, or NAP coverage, using Form CCC-471. The application and service fee must be filed by the applicable closing date for each of the 2007 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 application 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.

## **Acreage Reporting**

Please remember that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by the June 30 deadline on small grains and a July 31 deadline on all other crops.

Acreage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of June 30 for small grains and July 15 for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

## **USDA Reopens Comment Period on Lease Agreement Rule**

In response to public requests, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has reopened the comment period on its proposal to standardize leases with variable or flexible provisions. The original comment period ended Nov. 27, 2007. USDA will now consider comments received through **Thursday, Jan. 17, 2008**.

Market trends and an increased use of flexible or variable cash leases make it necessary for USDA to review the current program rules. At issue is whether regulations governing whether a lease is considered "cash-rent" or "share-rent" for a USDA program purpose need to be revised or defined more specifically. This affects leases that have provisions under USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Risk Management Agency (RMA).

Current program rules do not prevent tenants and landowners from taking advantage of various types of leases to adjust to changing market conditions. However, the agreement between them, which has sometimes been an oral agreement rather than a written lease agreement, determines whether they have created a "cash-rent" or "share-rent" agreement for USDA program purposes. But before taking any action, FSA and RMA will review the comments on the current rules governing "cash-rent" and "share-rent" provisions, especially examining variable and flexible leases.

The public may submit comments by:

E-Mail: [Salomon.Ramirez@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Salomon.Ramirez@wdc.usda.gov);

Mail or hand delivery to: Director, Production, Emergencies, & Compliance Division, FSA, USDA, STOP 0517, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-0517;

Fax: (202) 690-2130; or

Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

The regulation announcing the reopening of the comment period was published in the Dec. 18, 2007, Federal Register.

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## ***Financial Inquiries***

As we begin the new year its time to start thinking about gathering financial records and filling out a 1040. Currently, producer financial information is not available on the USDA Customer Statement under FSA Benefits Summary. Producers can view his or her financial information on the Financial Inquiries website using their Level 2 account authorization. Producers who want to inquire about a particular electronic deposit, program payment, debt or 1099G should go to [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) and select Online Services, then Financial Inquiries for FSA Producers.

## ***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 county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 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 these reporting requirements.

## ***Reasonable Accommodations***

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for persons with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call your local FSA Office.

## ***Changes in Farming Operations***

It is imperative that producers accurately report their farming operation to the county office. This is done on the CCC-502 and will be part of the eligibility review mentioned earlier in this newsletter. One of the easiest changes to miss is when an individual converts their operation to a Revocable Living Trust using their social security number for tax purposes. If you have established a Revocable Living Trust please notify the county office immediately to avoid potential eligibility problems.

## ***Sodbuster, Swampbuster***

Most FSA 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 (NRCS).

Be sure to have determinations made on any new land you plan to plant to annual crops. If you plan to plant a different crop on your current cropland, check with NRCS to assure the new crop will qualify under your conservation system.

Swampbuster provisions state that converting a wetland to make possible the planting of a crop will result in the loss of all USDA benefits. To avoid this possibility it is strongly recommended that producers check with NRCS before starting to work in the fields.

## ***LDP Deadline on Wool, Mohair and Unshorn Lamb Pelts***

Eligible producers have **until Jan. 31, 2008**, to apply for LDPs for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts produced during the 2007 crop year.

Eligible producers must:

- have beneficial interest in the wool or unshorn pelts
- owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of shearing or slaughter
- sold the unshorn lambs for immediate slaughter or slaughtered the lamb for personal use
- comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in.

## ***Loans for Socially Disadvantaged***

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 setup 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.

## ***Faxed Signatures***

Certain faxed signatures shall be accepted for all applicable program forms or other documents approved for faxed signatures, if all other signature requirements are met.

**PLEASE NOTE: FROM JANUARY 28 – JANUARY 30, ALL FARM LOAN PERSONNEL WILL BE OUT OF THE OFFICE FOR A TRAINING SEMINAR, PLEASE MAKE YOUR PLANS ACCORDINGLY.**

***Wildlife and Forest Management Workshop***

**WANT TO ENHANCE WILDLIFE ON YOUR PROPERTY?**

**INTERESTED IN IMPROVING YOUR FOREST OR POND?**

The Missouri Department of Conservation is offering a one day Wildlife and Forest Management Workshop. The workshop will be held at Three Rivers Community College, Tenin Center in Poplar Bluff. The workshop will be March 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am – 3:30 pm. Registration will be 7:30 am to 9:00 am. The workshop is designed for landowners and farmers. There will be accommodations for up to 160 participants. You can choose from 16 different one hour presentations on a variety of conservation topics that pertain to your land. Techniques and tips from top authorities on many subjects like deer management, wild turkey needs, forest health and management, pond fishing enhancement, small game habitat, managing wetlands such a WRP land, cost share options and addressing trespassing problems. A number of the sessions will be offered more than once to provide maximum attendance. There will be a library room supplied with reference publications and technical brochures.

**Pre-registration for this course is required.**

**Lunch will be provided for registered participants.**

**For more information and to register before March 7<sup>th</sup>, please call the Southeast Regional Office in Cape Girardeau at 573/290-5730.**

Dates to Remember	
Jan 31	Final day for wool/mohair LDP
March 15	NAP Deadline for Spring Seeded Crops and Horseradish
March 31	Final Date for Honey Loans
March 31	Final Date for Wheat, Oats and Barley Loans
May 31	Final Date for Corn, Soybeans, Rice, Cotton and Milo Loans
June 30	Final Date to Report Wheat and Small Grains
July 31	Final Date to Report Spring Seeded Crops
Selected Interest Rates for January 2008	
90-Day Treasury Bill	3.625%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	4.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.125%
Limited Resource Loans	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans Beginning Farmer Down Payment	4.000%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.625%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	4.250%

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