



June 2007

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

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 be reported.

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

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.

The final date of the normal planting period for counties in District 7 are as follows:

	CORN	BEANS	MILO	RICE	COTTON
BOLLINGER	JUNE 5	JUNE 20	JUNE 20	MAY 31	N/A
BUTLER	MAY 20	JUNE 25	JUNE 10	MAY 31	MAY 20
CAPE	JUNE 5	JUNE 25	JUNE 20	MAY 31	N/A
CARTER	JUNE 5	JUNE 25	N/A	N/A	N/A
DUNKLIN	MAY 20	JUNE 25	JUNE 10	MAY 31	MAY 20
IRON	JUNE 5	JUNE 20	N/A	N/A	N/A
JEFFERSON	JUNE 5	JUNE 20	JUNE 20	N/A	N/A
MADISON	JUNE 5	JUNE 20	JUNE 20	N/A	N/A
MISSISSIPPI	MAY 20	JUNE 25	JUNE 10	MAY 31	MAY 20
NEW MADRID	MAY 20	JUNE 25	JUNE 10	MAY 31	MAY 20
PEMISCOT	MAY 20	JUNE 25	JUNE 10	MAY 31	MAY 20
PERRY	JUNE 5	JUNE 25	JUNE 20	N/A	N/A
RIPLEY	MAY 20	JUNE 25	JUNE 10	MAY 31	MAY 20
SCOTT	MAY 20	JUNE 25	JUNE 10	MAY 31	MAY 20
ST. FRANCOIS	JUNE 5	JUNE 20	JUNE 20	N/A	N/A
STE. GENEVIEVE	JUNE 5	JUNE 25	JUNE 20	N/A	N/A
STODDARD	MAY 20	JUNE 25	JUNE 10	MAY 31	MAY 20
WASHINGTON	JUNE 5	JUNE 20	N/A	N/A	N/A
WAYNE	JUNE 5	JUNE 20	JUNE 20	N/A	N/A

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 15th of each month at 7:00 am.

Wayne/Madison County

Second Tuesday of each month at 8:00 am.

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.

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Direct farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained for a maximum of up to \$200,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$899,000. Emergency loans are loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presi-

dential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For detailed information on loan eligibility or the different available loan programs, just contact the county office staff for an appointment with the Farm Loan Manager.

2007 COC ELECTION

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. COC election fact sheets can be found online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under the News & Events tab on the FSA homepage.

COTTON REDEMPTION

Significant changes have been implemented for FSA cotton loans effective with the 2006 crop. Cotton producers need to be aware of the storage rate cap of \$2.66/month and other charges that will apply to cotton that is forfeited to CCC in lieu of redemption. If a cotton loan is forfeited, the producer will be responsible for all receiving and compression charges in addition to the pre-loan storage. Plus, all redeemed and forfeited cotton will be subject to the loan storage charges that accrued during the loan period in excess of the \$2.66 cap. An example follows:

EXAMPLE OF FORFEITED COTTON

Receiving \$2.30/BALE
 Compression \$8.00/BALE
 Storage \$3.00/MONTH
 (these are estimates, actual charges will vary)

Cotton loan forfeited after 9-month loan period

Producer pays:

-all receiving: \$2.30/bale
 -all compression: \$8.00/bale
 -all pre-loan storage: \$3.00/bale
 -all excess storage:
 (3.00 – 2.66 x 9 months) \$3.06/bale
TOTAL \$16.36/bale

UTILIZING GIS

The Farm Service Agency currently employs a Geographic Information System (GIS), a computer-based tool for capturing, storing, mapping and analyzing geographic farm data. FSA uses GIS to replace the old manual system of hard copy maps and aerial photographs. This digital technology is faster and more accurate than the old way, and saves taxpayers money over the long term.

Here’s how GIS works. Up-to-date aerial photographs of the entire county are scanned so they can be stored in the computer. The photos become the base layer of the GIS. Technicians examine the photos and identify individual farms. They then outline each farm field, creating another layer of data called the Common Land Unit (CLU).

The software stores the shape of the field as a “polygon,” and ties it to a specific location using latitude and longitude. The software can then automatically calculate the size of each field. The CLU layer will be connected to a database that contains information about the cropping history for each particular field.

GIS gives us the tools to provide quicker, more accurate information to producers and reduce the amount of time the producer must spend in the FSA office. As an added bonus, producers can review their farm’s GIS files online from the comfort of their homes.

MAINTAINING FARM-STORED GRAIN QUALITY

Many producers sometimes struggle to find adequate grain storage. Overfilled grain storage bins can lead to grain quality problems.

Bins are ideally designed to hold a level volume of grain. When bins are overfilled and grain is heaped up, airflow is hindered and the chance of spoilage increases. Producers who take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored grain as collateral should remember that they are responsible for maintaining the quality of the commodity for the term of the loan. Did you know that the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program offers producers low interest loans to build or upgrade grain storage and handling equipment? For information about grain storage options, visit your FSA office.

RAINFALL DATA FOR EACH COUNTY IN DISTRICT 7				
COUNTY	30 YR. AVG.	2006	2005	2004
BOLLINGER	47.49	53.64	43.14	46.36
BUTLER	46.44	55.95	39.10	48.30
CAPE	47.92	60.66	47.68	45.34
CARTER	47.73	53.25	38.54	43.52
DUNKLIN	47.09	57.35	34.68	47.25
IRON	44.97	42.94	39.41	42.97
JEFFERSON	40.13	37.01	38.72	51.27
MADISON	45.06	46.63	40.06	43.12
MISSISSIPPI	47.84	64.11	36.91	43.94
NEW MADRID	47.97	61.20	35.93	47.34
PEMISCOT	48.78	54.14	41.08	53.96
PERRY	41.24	49.01	35.40	43.90
RIPLEY	49.73	56.61	37.07	47.04
SCOTT	46.60	60.89	41.50	37.86
ST. FRANCOIS	42.78	39.49	37.92	41.25
STE. GENEVIEVE	41.31	42.49	39.61	46.31
STODDARD	48.28	51.49	41.94	45.63
WASHINGTON	40.17	35.81	40.83	43.80
WAYNE	46.43	51.54	44.14	46.82
MISSOURI	40.67	37.16	36.84	45.42

AGRI-WOMEN

Agri-Women is an organization that works on national and local issues of mutual interest and concern. By working together effectively, Agri-Women can educate consumers and school children to the needs of agriculture. They are consumers as well as producers and have a unique point of view to offer.

The Wayne-Madison Counties Agri-Women have a program on June 13th at the Patterson Community Center in Patterson, MO. You may call 573-224-3410 for more information.

To find out about your local group call the FSA Office in your county. There is a strong working relationship between all FSA Offices and Agri-Women groups.

OUTREACH PROGRAM

The Farm Service Agency makes direct and guaranteed loans to socially disadvantaged applicants, enabling them to buy and operate family-size farms and ranches. Funds are reserved each year specifically for these loans, but regular loan funds can also be used.

Direct loans may be made to qualified applicants by FSA for both farm operating and farm ownership purposes. Guaranteed farm loans also may be made for ownership or operating purposes, and may be made by any lending institution subject to Federal or state supervision (banks, savings and loans, and units of the Farm Credit System) and guaranteed by FSA. FSA typically guarantees 90 or 95 percent of a loan against any loss that might be incurred if the loan fails. Persons who are primarily and directly engaged in farming and ranching on family-size operations may apply. A family-size farm is one that a family can operate and manage itself. Socially disadvantaged loan applicants do not receive automatic approval. In addition to being members of a socially disadvantaged group, individual applicants under this program must meet all requirements for FSA's regular farm loan program assistance, including:

- Have a satisfactory history of meeting credit obligations.
- Have sufficient education; training, or at least one-year's experience in managing or operating a farm or ranch within the last five years for a direct operating loan, or, for a direct farm ownership loan, have participated in the business operation of a farm or ranch for three years;
- Be a citizen of the United States (or a legal resident alien), including Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and certain former Pacific Island Trust Territories;
- Be unable to obtain credit elsewhere at reasonable rates and terms to meet actual needs; and
- Possess legal capacity to incur loan obligations.

A socially disadvantaged person 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. Contact the FSA County Office Farm Loan Program staff for more details about this program, and other financial options.

Dates to Remember	
June 13	Wayne/Madison Agri-Women Program
June 14 th	Flag Day
June 30th	Last day to report small grains
July 4 th	Independence Day-All Offices Closed
Earlier of 15 days before harvest or July 31 st	Last day to report fruit and vegetable crops.
July 31st	Last day to report CRP and all other crops except small grain

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