



October 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

DISASTER PROGRAMS

The "U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act of 2007" signed into law on May 25, 2007 provides disaster assistance for crop and livestock losses suffered between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007 due to adverse weather conditions:

CROP DISASTER PROGRAM

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops. **CDP signup** for quantity losses is scheduled to begin **October 15, 2007**. Signup for quality losses will begin in January 2008. An ending date has not been determined yet, but there are no late-filed provisions.

All producers who obtained Federal Crop Insurance with the Risk Management Agency (RMA) or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. NAP is a voluntary program for crops that are not insurable through RMA, such as pasture, hay, and certain fruits and vegetables. Crops that were not insured through RMA or NAP are not eligible. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible. A payment limitation of \$80,000 per person applies.

For 2007, losses from natural disasters may qualify for financial assistance only if the crop was planted or prevented-planted before Feb. 28, 2007. 2007 spring-planted crops are not eligible. Prevented planted acreage will not qualify for CDP unless a loss was submitted and paid through RMA or NAP. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose **only one year** to apply for benefits. Participants may apply for loss benefits on multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

LIVESTOCK DISASTER PROGRAMS

The new Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) sign-up opened September 10. Eligible ranchers and other livestock producers can apply to receive LCP compensation for feed losses or LIP compensation for livestock losses occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, due to a natural disaster. Check with the county office for details.

The LIP program provides monetary assistance for livestock deaths that occurred because of an adverse weather condition, except drought. The livestock death must have occurred between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007. The payment rate is 26% of the fair market value of the livestock as determined by FSA.

The LCP program provides monetary assistance for livestock feed losses that occurred because of an adverse weather condition including drought. Producers will be paid the lesser of the total value of pasture loss or a flat payment rate per head (adult livestock-\$10.66, non-adult-\$8.00).

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.

County Committee Election

Just a reminder: Be watching your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters starting on November 2, 2007. If, for some reason, you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office. Completed and signed ballots must be postmarked by December 3, 2007.

Marketing Assistance Loans, LDPs

To be eligible for loans or LDPs, you must comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, report how you use cropland acreage on the farm and ensure that the commodity meets CCC minimum grade and quality standards. You do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program to be eligible for loans or LDPs.

Requesting LDPs or loans has been made easier with the CCC-633 EZ. Complete page 1 of the EZ form indicating your intention to receive LDP benefits **before losing beneficial interest**. Once you've signed the EZ form you can submit an LDP request at any time during the loan availability period — before or after losing beneficial interest.

When it comes to loans, you must have beneficial interest in the commodity on the date you request the loan, and you must retain beneficial interest while the loan is outstanding.

Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if you regain beneficial interest.

For commodities to be eligible for loans or LDPs, they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Individuals and entities whose previous 3-year average adjusted gross income, or AGI, ex-

ceeds \$2.5 million are ineligible for LDPs and market loan gains unless they can show that at least 75 percent of their AGI comes from agriculture.

The total of LDPs and market loan gains received by a producer is limited to \$75,000 for each crop year. That means \$75,000 for wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, rice, soybeans, other oilseeds, dry peas, lentils and small chickpeas; and, \$75,000 for peanuts, wool, mohair and honey.

Violating provisions of the loan and LDP program may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans and LDPs.

The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

Acreage Spot Check Determinations and Notification

Each year the Farm Service Agency completes spot checks of acreage reports. Acreage reports are the basis for delivery of many farm programs. Acreage spot checks are completed to ensure accurate acreage reports are used for farm programs. FSA will spot check acreages on a selected number of farms in each state. Color imagery flown in summer 2007 will be used to complete all acreage determinations.

All spot checks will be completed using the FSA Geographic Information System official acreages. After farms are spot checked, a Notice of Determined Acreage will be sent to the farm operator. Producer notifications will be issued by FSA as spot checks are completed. Questions concerning determined acres should be directed to your local FSA office for clarification.

Interest Rates for October

Farm Operating - Direct	5.125
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.5
Farm Ownership - Direct down payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4.0
Emergency	3.75
Farm Storage Facility	4.375
Commodity Loans 1996 to Present	5.250

The chart below shows the August 2007 rainfall as recorded by Missouri Ag. Statistics in each county is District #7. Although there was average rainfall statewide, the counties in our area suffered significant drought conditions through the summer months.

AUGUST RAINFALL DATA		
COUNTY	30 YR. AVG.	2007
BOLLINGER	3.52	0.90
BUTLER	3.08	0.20
CAPE	3.31	0.56
CARTER	3.64	0.98
DUNKLIN	2.57	0.00
IRON	3.78	2.00
JEFFERSON	3.54	0.90
MADISON	3.85	0.75
MISSISSIPPI	3.24	0.31
NEW MADRID	2.61	0.00
PEMISCOT	2.99	0.02
PERRY	3.36	1.23
RIPLEY	3.90	0.00
SCOTT	3.14	0.79
ST. FRANCOIS	4.03	2.13
STE. GENEVIEVE	3.65	0.72
STODDARD	3.17	0.86
WASHINGTON	3.78	1.11
WAYNE	3.54	1.12
MISSOURI	3.73	3.50

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

The Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) provides low-interest financing for farmers to build or upgrade grain storage and handling facilities. Eligible facilities and upgrades include new grain bins, new flat-type storage structures with permanent floors and bulkheads, renovation of existing farm storage facilities, and new upright or horizontal silo structures.

Eligible cost items include purchase price, sales tax, shipping and delivery, site preparation, installation, concrete pads, electrical wiring, drying and handling equipment, and labor. The purchase price of a used storage structure is not eligible, however new equipment for that structure is eligible.

The FSFL loans have a 7 year term with equal annual payments. The interest rate is fixed for the term of the loan and is based on the rate in effect during the month the loan is approved. October's interest rate is **4.375%**. A 15% percent down payment is required. Maximum loan amount is \$100,000. **The loan must be approved before construction begins.** Please contact the FSA office for security requirements and other information.

FSA MAKES LOANS FOR PIVOT IRRIGATION

In response to the drought in 2007, FSA has begun an effort to increase irrigation in our local area. FSA is attempting to provide producers with an alternative to purchase pivots on affordable rates and terms. The loan can be made for up to 7 years at a fixed rate of interest with equal annual installments. The October interest rate is 5.125%. The maximum loan amount is \$200,000.00 per person for the subject loans. Some of the eligibility criteria are listed below.

- 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;
- 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;
- Possess legal capacity to incur loan obligations.

These loans are intended for producers who actually operate the farm. Landlords are not eligible for the loan program.

Beginning Farmer Down Payment Ownership Program

Obtain help financing the purchase of a farm up to \$250,000 of the purchase price or the appraised value whichever is less. The applicant must put down **10** percent. The Farm Service Agency finances up to **40** percent of the purchase price. The remaining **50** percent of the purchase price can be financed on contract with the seller or through a conventional lender. The lender can obtain a guarantee from FSA if the customer is eligible.

The FSA loan for 40 percent will be locked in for the full 15 years. Currently the rate is 4.0 percent. The loan for the balance of 50 percent should be the rate the contract holder or lender would charge an average borrower.



FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- ❖ A married woman shall sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, not Mrs. John Doe
- ❖ For a minor, FSA requires the minor’ signature and one from an eligible parent (Note, by signing the applicable document, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc.)
- ❖ When signing on one’s behalf the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form, or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. Example - John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc.
- ❖ FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the acceptable program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information.
- ❖ Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- ❖ Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities
- ❖ All members of a general partnership must sign for the general partnership unless an individual is authorized to act on the behalf of the general partnership and bind all members

Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts shall consist of an indicator “**by**” or “**for**” the individual’s name, individual’s name and capacity, or individual’s name, capacity, and name of entity. For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

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

Dates to Remember	
Ongoing	Livestock Program Signup
Oct 15	CDP Sign-up begins
Nov. 2	County committee ballots mailed to voters
Nov. 12	Veterans Day Holiday
Nov. 22	Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Dec. 3	Last day to return county committee election ballots
Ongoing	Continuous CRP
Ongoing	Farm Storage Facility Loans

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