



January 2007

District 8 County News

District 8 County USDA Service Centers

Barry County FSA
Cassville, MO 65625
417-847-2862

Barton County FSA
Lamar, MO 64759
417-682-3571

Bates County FSA
Butler, MO 64730
660-679-6112

Cass County FSA
Harrisonville, MO 64701
816-884-4432

Cedar County FSA
Stockton, MO 65785
417-276-4712

Dade County FSA
Greenfield, MO 65661
417-637-5991

Hickory County FSA
Hermitage, MO 65668
417-745-6496

Jackson County FSA
Blue Springs, MO 64015
816-229-5113

Jasper County FSA
Carthage, MO 64836
417-358-8198

Lawrence County FSA
Mt Vernon, MO 65712
417-466-7107

Newton County FSA
Neosho, MO 64850
417-451-1007

St Clair County FSA
Osceola, MO 64776
417-646-8107

Vernon County FSA
Nevada, MO 64772
417-667-8137



Annual DCP Enrollment

Many County Offices in the District are enrolling farms by appointment. Please contact your local office to schedule an appointment.

To participate in DCP, producers are required to **designate shares and sign the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program Contract (CCC-509) on a yearly basis.** The annual DCP sign-up period runs from October 1 to June 1 of the applicable program year. To be considered enrolled timely, the CCC-509 must be submitted by June 1 of the applicable program year. In cases where a farm is reconstituted, all resulting farms will need to enroll (signatures obtained) if the producers intend to participate. CCC-509s with signatures obtained after June 1, but by September 30, will be accepted, but the farm will be assessed a late-filed sign-up fee of \$100. All supporting documentation, such as CCC-502, AD-1026, and CCC-526, must be submitted before payments can be issued. Annual acreage reports indicating uses of all cropland on a farm must be filed by the applicable established reporting dates. Acreage reports filed after the applicable final reporting date may be accepted if all requirements are met and a late-filed fee is paid.

DCP payments are calculated by taking 85 percent of the base acres, multiplied by the farm yield, times the applicable payment rate, times the producer share. Producers may receive an advance of the direct payment, beginning on December 1 of the program year. Final direct payments will be made on or after October 1 following the contract period. Counter-cyclical payments may also be authorized for one or more covered commodities, depending on the projected and actual

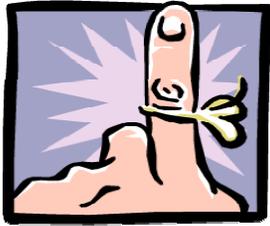
market prices. Producers may elect to receive up to two counter-cyclical payments per year: (1) the first partial payment, if any, is available after the first six months of the marketing year, and (2) final payment, if any, is made after the end of the marketing year for each eligible crop. Producers who do not elect to take the first advance payments will receive the entire counter-cyclical payment at the end of the marketing year. The amount of a counter-cyclical payment is dependent upon the average of the actual prices received by farmers during the marketing year.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

Power of Attorney

If you're too busy getting work done around the farm to come into your local FSA office to conduct business and complete your paperwork, here's a solution. Retain an agent to act on your behalf for programs and transactions authorized under the 2002 Farm Bill and most other FSA administered programs. This can be done by completing an FSA-211, Power of Attorney. The form is available at your local USDA Service Center or on-line at <http://forms.sc.egov.usdda.gov>. Forms and obtained and completed outside USDA Service Centers offices must be notarize. To find out more, talk to the staff.



Program Reminders

Civil Rights Complaint Process

Any person, class or group of persons may file a discrimination complaint within 180 days of an alleged discriminatory action. Complaints may be filed in writing or orally with the agency head, any designated agency official or the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Assistance in filing a complaint can be obtained by calling or visiting any FSA office.

FSA Farm Loans

Producers that intend to apply to FSA for loan assistance for the upcoming year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Three offices in District 8 service farm loans. They are located in Barry, Polk and Vernon Counties. Contact your local farm loan manager or farm loan officer for more details.

Payment Limitation/Eligibility

USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. Documents and forms to determine eligibility and limitation once completed are reviewed on an annual basis. It is the producer's responsibility to report changes in the farming operation which may affect payment eligibility and payment limitation.

The following payments apply to DCP for each contract year under the new Farm bill comes through both direct and counter-cyclical payments. For all covered commodities, except peanuts: \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments. For peanuts: \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program has a \$450,000 payment limitation. The Conservation Reserve Programs annual limit is \$50,000 per person.

Entities such as corporations, limited partnerships, trusts and estates are required to provide names, addresses, and ID numbers of their members. These entities should also inform every payment under more than one entity.

Online Services

If you are among the growing number of producers who have access to the Internet at home, you might be interested in USDA's online services that are available to you. Here's a quick run down of available services.

- The USDA Customer Statement. This provides the producer online access 24/7 to the farm's USDA business transactions in a single report accessed with one login and password. It includes participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs, farm loans, maps, and land unit information.
- eLDP is the Farm Service Agency's electronic Loan Deficiency Payment Service. This allows producers to request LDPs online and, in most cases, receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours.
- eDCP is the FSA's electronic Direct and

Counter-Cyclical Payment Program. This allows producers to enroll in DCP online, choose DCP payment options, assign crop shares, and sign and submit contracts, view and print them out at any time.

- My USDA is an online portal the producer can create. It can be customized so that the news, reports, links, and USDA business data most important to the producer will immediately be viewable.

Stop by the county office for assistance in obtaining a USDA eAuthentication Service Level 2 Customer Account. This provides a single user ID and password that grants access to the Customer Statement, and many other USDA e-Services, including submitting forms online through USDA e-File, such as eLDP and eDCP.

Maintaining the Quality of Loaned Grain

This year's large grain crop has its obvious upside, but there is a downside too. Many producers are hard pressed to find adequate storage for every bushel harvested. 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 through the term of the loan.

For information about grain storage options visit <http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/cropsystems/M1080-FS.pdf> or contact your local extension office.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program: CREP

Farmers in certain new watersheds are able to take advantage of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). CREP is a voluntary land retirement program that helps agricultural producers protect environmentally-sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore

Foreign Buyers

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county 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 these requirements.

Changes in your Financial Institution

As of Jan. 1, 1999, all FSA payments were to be electronically transferred to bank accounts. You should notify FSA when changes occur to your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments could be delayed if routing numbers or account numbers are not accurate.

wildlife habitat, and safeguard ground and surface water. CREP will reimburse farmers for retiring their cropland or pastureland. Program participants will receive annual rental payments, cost-share assistance, and other financial incentives for a period of 14-15 years for installing and maintaining conservation practices. Only certain practices are eligible for the Missouri CREP. For a list of practices and eligibility requirements, contact your local FSA office.

Continuous CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is a private lands environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources. The Continuous CRP program is a voluntary enrollment program. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment. To be eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year. For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments or local Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) availability, please contact your local FSA office or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/crpcont03.htm>.

Spousal Signatures

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

There are exceptions to the rule. Spouses may not sign FSA-211s on behalf of each other or sign on behalf of the other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Spouses must have a power of attorney on file or sign personally for claim settlements, such as

promissory notes, and on security documents for price support loans.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

A spouse's authority to sign documents on behalf of the other spouse does not entitle the spouse to review or receive agency records of the other spouse.

Loans for Socially Disadvantaged Applicants

FSA can make and guarantee loans to socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family-size farms and ranches. Funds specifically for these loans are reserved each year.

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, and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Direct loans may be made to applicants by FSA for both farm operating and farm ownership loans. Guaranteed farm loans may be made for ownership or operating purposes, and may be made by any lending institution subject to Federal or State supervision and guaranteed by FSA.

Socially disadvantaged loan applicants do not receive automatic approval. For more information contact your local FSA office.

Attention Producers, Landowners!

- Do you intend to clear timber areas to create or to expand existing crop areas?
- Are you converting a pasture field into a crop field?
- Are there any areas on your farm that you are considering cropping that have not been cropped in recent years?
- Is there a wet spot in a field that you want drain to make cropping easier?
- Are you disturbing a wildlife habitat area of any type?

Complaint Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA benefits, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree. In most instances, program participants have three options: an informal review; an opportunity for mediation; an appeal to the USDA National Appeals Division. Producers should carefully study their available options and deadlines.

Are you doing anything different on your farm this year? These are highly erodible and wetlands provision questions that need to be considered each year by producers to assure that they may remain eligible for USDA benefits.

Selected Interest Rates for January 2007	
90-Day Treasury Bill	5 %
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	5.125 %
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.25 %
Limited Resource Loans	5 %
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4 %
Emergency Loans	3.75 %
Farm Storage Facility Loans	4.50%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	6.00%

Dates to Remember	
Jan 1, 2007	Newly elected committeeper-sons start their terms
Jan 15, 2007	Martin Luther King Holiday
Feb 19, 2007	President's Day Holiday
June 1, 2007	Last day to sign DCP contracts
Continues	CREP signup
Continues	CRP continuous sign up
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans

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

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of Discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.