



July 2007

# *District 8 County News*

## District 8 County USDA Service Centers

**Barry County FSA**  
Cassville, MO 65625  
417-837-2862

**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/McDonald 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

## **DCP Enrollment Extended**

The June 1, 2007 deadline to enroll in the 2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) has been extended to **August 3, 2007**. Computer problems have caused application processing delays which prompted the enrollment deadline extension. A late-file fee of \$100 per farm will be assessed to the producer for CCC-509's filed after August 3, 2007 and before September 30, 2007.

Advance direct payments for the 2007 crop year are 22%. Advance payments may be requested in any month starting with December 2006. The remaining final direct payment of 78% will be issued to participating producers in October of 2007. For clarification or an appointment, contact your local FSA office.

## **FSA Farm Loans**

The Farm Service Agency makes both direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank, Farm Credit System institution or other lender. FSA loans can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed and supplies. The loans can also be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements. If you're having trouble getting commercial credit, check with the FSA county office staff about loan eligibility, as well as maximum loan amounts, rates, term and use of proceeds

## **Crop Certification**

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 FSA 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.

The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The producer certification deadline for fall-seeded crops is June 30 and for spring-seeded crops, July 31.

### **CRP & NAP Certification**

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. Crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

### **Prevented Planting:**

Prevented planting needs to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

### **Failed Acreage:**

A report of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop. 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.



## County Committee Nominees

It will soon be county committee election time, and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) is actively looking for producers to be a candidate for the local FSA county committee.

County committee members perform an important function. They represent you and your agricultural interests. They help shape how federal farm programs are implemented on the ground in local communities.

Who do you know who would make a good county committee member? Who do you know who would be able to represent you and your farming interests, as well as your neighbor's interests?

Why not talk to that person and ask if he or she would be willing to serve on the county committee? If he or she says yes, then fill out a nomination form (FSA-669), have the person sign it and then return it to the county office.

If you can't think of another producer to nominate or your prospective nominee turns you down, why not nominate yourself? Serving on the committee will take, on average, one day a month, and you will be providing your agricultural community a vital service.

Committee members are reimbursed for travel expenses and are paid at the rate of a GS-6, step 1, currently \$14.72 per hour.

Visit with the Farm Service Agency county office staff for more information. County Local Administrative Areas (LAA) conducting elections in 2007:

**Barry:** LAA1; Ozark/Crane Creek/McDowell/McDonald/Jenkins/Mineral/Shell Knob/Sugar Creek/Roaring River/White River

**Barton:** LAA3; Southwest/Nashville/Ozark/NorthFork/Central/Lamar/Richland

**Bates:** LAA2; Deer Creek/Mound/Mingo/Grand River/Shawnee/Spruce/Summitt/Deepwater

**Cass:** LAA2; Austin/Camp Branch/Index/Dayton/Sherman

**Cedar:** LAA1; Benton/Linn

**Dade:** LAA1; Center/Seybert/Polk/North-South Morgan/Rock Prairie

**Hickory:** LAA2; Center/Green/Hermitage/Wheatland

**Jackson:** LAA1; Fort Osage/Sni-A-Bar North

**Jasper:** LAA2; Preston/Marion/Jackson/Madison/Union

**Lawrence:** LAA2; Green/Lincoln/Ozark/Mount Vernon

**Newton/McDonald:** LAA2; Five Mile/Seneca/Dayton/Bufalo/West Benton

LAA4; Buffalo Hart/Bufalo May/Elkhorn/Erie Goodman/Erie McNatt

LAA5; McMillen Tiff/McMillen Coy/Lanagan/Anderson West/Anderson East/Pineville/Pineville North/Pineville South/Prairie/Elk River West/Elk River East/White Rock Mountain

**St Clair:** LAA3; Jackson/Polk/Doyal/Dallas/Collins/Washington

**Vernon:** LAA1; Henry/Metz/Osage/Richland/Lake/Washington

## Notice to Foreign Landowners

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) 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 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, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

## Haying, Grazing CRP Acres

Producers considering managed haying or grazing of Conservation Reserve Program acres need prior approval from the county committee. Before the committee can allow haying or grazing, there must be an approved hazing and grazing plan. The acreage may not be hayed/grazed prior to July 15. Acreage hayed/grazed in either of the last 2 years is ineligible for release this year. A 25 percent payment reduction is assessed for every approved acre hayed or grazed. Other restrictions may apply.



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## Sodbuster Regulations

The term “sodbusting” is used to identify the plowing up of erosion-prone grasslands for use as cropland. Sodbuster violations are unauthorized tillage practices on highly erodible lands that converted native vegetation such as rangeland or woodland, to crop production after Dec. 23, 1985.

Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in FSA programs.

Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production.

If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates on a CPA-026 that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage, before bringing land into production.

In addition, producers and the producer’s affiliates have to file an AD-1026 with the staff in the administrative or control county office before any farm program payments can be made. The AD-1026 is the producer’s signed certification that HELC, as well as wetland conservation, provisions will not be violated.

## Weather Men and Women Wanted

Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) is a grassroots volunteer network of backyard weather observers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation (rain, hail and snow) in their local communities. By using low-cost measurement tools, stressing training and education, and utilizing an interactive Web-site, they provide data for natural resource, education and research applications. The only requirements to join are an enthusiasm for watching and reporting weather conditions and a desire to learn more about how weather can affect and impact our lives.

The information is used by the National Weather Service, other meteorologists, hydrologists, emergency managers, city utilities (water supply, water conservation, storm water), insurance adjusters, USDA, engineers, mosquito control, ranchers, farmers, outdoor

and recreation interests, teachers, students, and neighbors in the community.

CoCoRaHS network originated with the Colorado Climate Center at Colorado State University in 1998. It is currently operating in twelve states: Colorado, the District of Columbia, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wyoming. It has expanded rapidly with over 2,500 sites. Nevada, Wisconsin and Tennessee will be added in 2007.

The National Science Foundation is a major sponsor of CoCoRaHS. If you are interested in participating just check out their web site: <http://www.cocorahs.org/>

## Farm Operation Changes

### --Farm Reconstitutions

In Farm Service Agency terms, 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. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recon must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program. If 2007 DCP direct payments have already been issued on the farm, the reconstitution will be effective for 2008 unless the payments are refunded

## Preventing Fraud, Waste

The FSA has joined with the Risk Management Agency to prevent fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to RMA. Producers can report suspected cases to the county office staff, RMA office, or the Office of the Inspector General

## Minority Farm Register

The Minority Farm Register is a tool to promote equal access to farm programs and services for minority farmland owners, farmers, ranchers, tenants and other individuals with an agricultural interest. Participants may receive information or be personally contacted through USDA outreach efforts. Programs include direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans, marketing loans, as well as conservation, housing and rural business and risk management.

**Participation is voluntary.**

All minority persons involved in farming or ranching are encouraged to participate. The information provided may be shared through the USDA Office of Outreach with other USDA-approved outreach partners, such as community-based organizations, educational institutions and other government agencies.

If you are involved with farming or ranching and wish to be included in the Minority Farm Register, you are invited to visit with the county office staff and request the register form or download a form from the FSA Web site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

Dates to Remember	
July 31	Final certification date for all crops except small grains.
August 1	Deadline to submit COC nomination forms
August 1	Final date to request farm re-constitution for current fiscal year.
August 3	DCP Enrollment Deadline
Sept. 30	Final date for 2007 DCP contract revisions.

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

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