



Gentry/Worth County  
**FSA NEWSLETTER**  
January 2008

**Gentry County  
FSA Office**

512 E Hwy 136  
Albany, MO 64402  
660-726-5525  
Office Hours:  
7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**County Committee**

Kenny Hensley  
Mike Sager  
David Waltemath

**Office Staff**

Mary Ann Gibson, PT  
Kathy Ward, PT  
Brenda Walker, PT  
Barbara Ratliff, PT

**Worth County  
FSA Office**

19 West 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Grant City, MO 64456  
660-564-3341  
Office Hours:  
7:15 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.

**County Committee**

Mike Cook  
Vern Mitchell  
Mary Ewing

**Office Staff**

Veronica Craven, PT  
Ann Gilland, PT

**County Executive  
Director**

Mark Cadle

**Farm Loan  
Program Manager**

Charles Meissen

**Fieldmen**

Joe Washburn  
Kris Lyle  
Bill Grabb



What a winter we've had! Cold temperatures, ice, snow, no electricity, a January thaw that created extremely muddy conditions; it makes us all ready for green grass and sunshine. Spring can't get here soon enough for me!

Producers who have made an application for cost-share assistance through the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) due to the damage caused by the heavy rains and flooding earlier in the year must have the work completed by May 1, 2008 to be eligible for cost-share assistance. If you are going to need a contractor to complete your work you may need to be contacting them now. Due to the weather and snow cover since crops were harvested we are behind in making the required field visits. Please be patient as we work to complete this task. We are also extremely short of funding for this program and have applied for additional funds. If we do not receive additional money the County Committee will not be able to approve many of the cost-share requests. As we are able to complete field visits and the required paperwork we will notify producers of their eligibility status but cannot make approval for cost-share monies until additional funds for cost-share are received.

The Gentry and Worth County offices are currently conducting sign-ups for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) and the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP). Our last newsletter contained complete details about these programs however changes have occurred in both programs since that time. The major change to the CDP program is that all 2007 crops are now eligible where previously only crops planted during 2005, 2006, or by February 28, 2007 were eligible. Producers that had crop losses covered either by crop insurance or by FSA's NAP program in 2005, 2006 or 2007 should contact the office to determine if they are eligible for payment under the Crop Disaster Program.

The LCP program was changed to include the 2007 year as well. Producers that owned or leased grazing livestock in 2005, 2006 or now 2007 need to contact the office to determine if they are eligible for payment for grazing losses that occurred in those years. If you had previously applied for the LCP program and now know that your cattle numbers or grazing losses were higher in 2007 you should come into the office and we will redo your application.

FSA County Committee elections were recently held and Kenny Hensley in Gentry County and Mike Cook in Worth County were both re-elected to their committee positions. The FSA Committee in Gentry County meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month at 8:00 a. m. and the Worth County Committee meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 1:00 p. m. I wish to say **THANK YOU** to everyone who participated in the County Committee election process, whether that was being a candidate or casting a ballot. It's through all your efforts that the County Committee system works.

Sincerely,  
Mark Cadle, CED

## **Farm Bill Update**

Work by Congress on the 2008 Farm Bill has not been completed at this time and a Farm Bill has not been passed. No annual farm programs are available for enrollment at this time. Watch upcoming newsletters for more information on any upcoming annual farm programs and a signup period.

## **NAP Program**

FSA administers a program called the Non-Insurable Assistance Program or NAP, which is modeled after crop insurance to provide protection against loss for crops on which crop insurance is not available. Examples of crops in this area which are eligible for coverage under this program would include double crop soybeans and most forage crops used for hay, pasture or seed production. The cost of the coverage is \$100 per crop per county with a maximum charge of \$300 per county. If you are interested in protection for non-insurable crops, contact the office. The sales closing date is March 15.

## **Marketing Assistance Loans**

Producers are reminded of the marketing assistance loan program which offers nine month loans using grain as collateral. The loans are non-recourse which means the grain can be forfeited to CCC for settlement of the loan. The current interest rate for these loans is 4.25%. This loan interest rate varies from month to month but the rate in effect when you obtain a loan will remain the same through the maturity date of the loan, with the exception that on January 1 of each year all outstanding loan interest rates change to the January rate. The quantity of grain for loan can be certified by the producer or measurement service is available. Loan rates for Worth County are: Corn - \$1.82 and Soybeans - \$4.89 and for Gentry County the loan rates are: Corn - \$1.86 and Soybeans - \$4.93. Loans are also available for other commodities such as wheat and oats. Check with your local office for loan rates on other commodities. The final date to request loans is March 31 for small grains such as wheat and oats and May 31 for most spring planted crops. You must now make an application before loan processing can begin.

For those producers who have CCC loans, please be reminded to contact the county office when moving or selling the grain, and watch grain closely when the weather begins to change so that the condition of the grain may be properly maintained.

## **Faxed Signatures**



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

## **Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)**



Do you need more storage capacity for your farming operation? Check with your local FSA office to discuss the possibility of a Farm Storage Facility Loan. Now is the time to start planning to have the storage facility of your choice ready for next fall's harvest, and an excellent time to take advantage of many suppliers' pre-season discounts. Low cost loans for storage facilities continue to be available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, grain sorghum, corn and soybeans.

The seven-year FSFL's are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional type cribs or bins, buildings specially designed for the storage of grain and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.

All FSFL's are secured with a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85% of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required. A \$45.00 application fee is assessed and other fees are incurred depending on the type of loan being processed. Interest rates for January are 3.625%. Contact your local FSA office for complete details concerning the Farm Storage and Facility Loan program.



## **Signature Policy for Spouses**

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for Farm Service Agency 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 from either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule. For example, spouses may not sign FSA-211's 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. A spouse's authority to sign documents on behalf of the other spouse does not entitle a spouse to review or receive agency records of the other spouse.

## **Would You Like To Cut Your Time Spent In The FSA Office ?**

Then please call the **Albany office at 660-726-5525**, or the **Grant City office at 660-564-3341** to schedule your appointment prior to visiting us! **Scheduling appointments allows us to prepare for your arrival and greatly reduces your waiting time.**



### **Direct Deposit Mandatory**

As of Jan. 1, 1999, all payments issued by the county FSA office will be by direct deposit (electronic funds transfer) to a pre-designated checking or savings account with your financial institution. Forms are available at the FSA office to sign up for direct deposit if you haven't yet. For those already signed up, it is important that we are notified anytime there is a change in your account number or financial institution. If we aren't notified, future payments can be delayed or lost for a period of time.

### **Powers of Attorney**

FSA has a power of attorney form available for those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc. that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. This can be done by completing an FSA-211, Power of Attorney. The form is available at your local USDA Service Center or online at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Forms obtained and completed outside the USDA Service Center must be notarized.

### **Reporting Farm Changes**

It is also the producer's responsibility to notify FSA of **ANY** changes in their farming operation or entity status throughout the year. Changes that may affect a determination include, but are not limited to a change in contract shares of a contract which may reflect change of land lease from cash rent to share rent or from share rent to cash rent; modification of a variable/fixed bushel rent arrangement; a change in the size of the producer's farming operation by the addition or deletion of a farm; a change in the structure of the farming operation, including any change in the member's shares; a change in the contributions of farm inputs of capital, equipment, active personal labor, or active personal management; and a change of farming interest not previously disclosed on CCC-502 or update, including the farming interests of a spouse or minor child.

### **Conservation Compliance**



All participants in USDA programs are required to have a conservation system in place on all the highly erodible land (HEL) that they operate. Several areas where problems can arise with complying with a conservation system are; renting new cropland, purchasing new land, breaking out additional cropland, planting different crops such as soybeans, and changing or removing existing conservation practices. It is very important that you contact the FSA office before doing any of the above. Also, it is very important that you contact our office before modifying - tiling, draining, dredging, filling or leveling - any wetland or drainage ditch. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in loss of all Federal payments and eligibility.

### **Special Accommodations**

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the FSA office and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are needed.

### **Controlled Substance**

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium poppies and other drug producing plants.

### **Foreign Landowner 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.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

February 18	Office Closed – President's Day
March 15	Deadline to obtain 2008 Nap coverage on spring planted crops
March 31	Final availability date for 2007 wheat and oats loans and LDP's
May 1	Last day to have work completed for ECP
May 31	Final availability date for 2007 corn and soybean loans and LDP's

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**FARM SERVICE AGENCY  
GENTRY/WORTH FSA OFFICE**

512 East Hwy. 136  
Albany, MO 64402

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

Eligible producers have **until Jan. 31, 2008**, to apply for LDP's 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.

**Acreage Reporting**

Remember to report CRP, and all land uses. It is not too early to report CRP, wheat, or fall seeded barley NOW. Every one that has CRP must report those acres every year.

**Big change for haying or grazing CRP**

Beginning this year, on contracts containing managed haying and grazing provisions, the haying and grazing period has been shortened. Haying and grazing must now be completed by September, 30 of each year. As always haying or grazing must be requested and approved in advance and again reported to the office when completed

**CRP**

Remember CRP land may not be disturbed during the nesting season of May 1 through July 15. Also remember to complete any required mid contract management practices, and report that completion to this office.

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