



**April 2007**

# **Greene County News**

**Greene County  
USDA Service Center**

**Greene County FSA  
688 S State HWY B  
Suite 300  
Springfield, MO 65802  
Phone 417-831-5246  
Fax 417-831-4022  
www.fsa.usda.gov**

**Hours**  
Monday – Friday  
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**County Committee**  
**Marvin Grier Jr – Chm**  
**David Trogdon – V Chm**  
**Judy Spencer - Member**

County Committee meets  
the first Wednesday of  
each month at 10:00 a.m.  
in the county office.

**Staff**  
**Barbara Ingerson – PT**  
**Brenda Maggard – PT**  
**Ron Keith – AFLPS**  
**Jim Kyle – DD**  
**Wyman Miller - CED**

## **Could you be missing money? Have you Changed banks?**

If you have changed banks and not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in producer's account such as type account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

## **FSA Signature Requirements**

Proper signatures on Farm Service Agency contracts, applications and forms must be submitted before the document will be considered as filed. All entities, including revocable and irrevocable trusts, corporations, partnerships, estates, etc., must provide evidence of signature authority stipulating those individuals who are authorized to represent the entity. FSA cannot accept signatures without such documentation on file. Examples of acceptable evidence include trust agreements, corporate charters or resolutions, partnership agreements and court orders of appointment. Spouses can sign for one another on most program documents unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office staff. An FSA-211 may be filed to delegate signature authority for FSA program purposes to another individual.

## **Toll-Free Number**

Direct loan borrowers with USDA's Farm

## **DCP Sign Up Extended**

The sign-up deadline for the 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has been extended to August 3, 2007.

The extension is due to issues involving the performance of the Farm Service Agency's web-based computer system. The late-file fee of \$100 will only be assessed for farms that are enrolled after August 3, 2007 and before September 30, 2007.

Enrollment in DCP for the 2007 contract period began on October 1, 2006, and was scheduled to end on June 1, 2007. The extension applies only to the enrollment time frame, and does not extend the DCP contract period.

Even though the sign up has been extended, we encourage you not to wait about signing up.

For more information about DCP and other FSA programs, please visit:  
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

## **Conservation Compliance**

Federal regulations discourage the production of crops on highly erodible cropland unless the land is protected from erosion by an approved conservation system. Status reviews are conducted to ensure producers follow a conservation plan on highly erodible land.

In addition to the highly erodible land, a person may not plant an agricultural commodity on wetland converted after Dec. 23, 1985, or convert a wetland to make agricultural production possible after Nov. 28, 1990.

Failure to comply with these provisions will cause a person to be ineligible for USDA benefits. County Committees may review noncompliance situations for good faith and provide relief in approved cases.

Service Agency can now check the status of their accounts around the clock using a new toll-free telephone number.

The toll-free number, 1-888-518-4983, is available in both English and Spanish. The system delivers information on active FSA loans 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

During the first call to the new system, borrowers will enter their tax identification number or the Social Security Number associated with the loan. They also will need to enter their ZIP code. Borrowers will create a personal identification number for security. Customers must enter their PIN every time they use the system and may change their PIN. The system menu helps users access helpful information. The system may also direct borrowers to contact their local FSA servicing office if action is necessary on their accounts.

## Farm Storage Facility Loans

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, rice, soybeans and corn.

The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans 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 and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.

All Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required. For details, contact the county office staff.

## The EZ Makes It Easy

The Farm Service Agency now employs the CCC-633 EZ in place of the old CCC-709 and CCC-633-LDP. The EZ form has been created to make the application process more user-friendly.

The CCC-633 EZ is a two-part loan deficiency payment request that allows producers to (1) indicate their intentions to receive LDP benefits *before* losing beneficial interest in the eligible commodity, and (2) submit a request for an LDP at any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest.

The EZ form was developed to cover field direct LDPs, basic LDPs and CCC-cotton AA, and revised to cover basic and field direct LDPs for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts.

By signing the first page of the EZ form, the producer indicates his or her intentions to receive LDP benefits. This one page covers all counties and all eligible harvested commodities for the entire crop year for the individual, joint operation or entity identified on the form.

Once the first page of the form has been signed and submitted, the producer can submit an LDP request by completing page 2 for all harvested commodities, except cotton; page 3 for cotton; or page 4 for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts. The LDP request can be submitted at any time during the loan availability period, before or after losing beneficial interest.

A key point to remember is that page 1 of the EZ form must be signed by the producer before beneficial interest in the commodity is lost. Once beneficial interest is lost the commodity is ineligible for an LDP even if beneficial interest is regained.

All producers are encouraged to submit page 1 of the EZ for each crop year whether or not they plan to subsequently request a loan or LDP.

## Financial FACTS for agriculture's future

Respond to USDA's Agricultural Resource Management Survey and let the financial facts be known for agriculture's policies and programs.



**NASS**

Fact Finders for Agriculture  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

## CREP & Continuous CRP Available

There will be no general signups scheduled for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in 2007 or 2008. The President's FY 2008 Budget assumed no available funding for CRP general signups.

However, environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) or Continuous CRP will still be eligible for enrollment. These targeted programs will remain funded, and continue to provide a heightened environmental benefit on select areas.

## MILCX

There will be no milk payment for March and April. This program is schedule to end in August.

## Removing CCC Loan Collateral

Producers are reminded, if you have grain under Commodity Credit Corporation loan it cannot be removed or disposed of without prior county office staff authorization or repayment. The county office staff may issue release authorizations based on a telephone or in person request when you are ready to move the grain. A loan violation is subject to monetary and administrative penalties, such as repaying the loan at principal plus interest, liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans and loan deficiency payments.

All commodity loans are subject to spot check. Locking in a market loan repayment rate is not a marketing authorization. If you are planning to move CCC loan grain, contact the county office staff for additional information.

## Do You Meet Eligibility Requirements to Earn Program Benefits?

USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. It is the producer's responsibility to report changes in the farming operation which may affect payment eligibility and payment limitation. Failure to do so can result ineligibility for payments for all years affected.

The following payments apply to DCP for each contract year 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 total for fiscal years 2002 – 2007. The Conservation Reserve Programs annual limit is \$50,000 per person. Marketing loan gains payment limit of \$75,000 per person.

Entities such as corporations, limited partnerships, trusts and estates are required to provide names, addresses, and ID numbers of their members.

Selected Interest Rates for April 2007	
90-Day Treasury Bill	5.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	5.25%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.5%
Limited Resource Loans	5%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	4.5%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	6%

## Acreage Reporting

Acreage reporting time is just around the corner. Please remember that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required if you want to be eligible for Farm Service Agency programs. On crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by **June 30** for small grains and **July 31** for all other crops.

Acreage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of **June 30** for small grain and **July 15** for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

## Rural Youth Loans

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes operating loans to individual rural youths age 10 through 20 to establish and operate income producing projects. These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H Clubs, FFA, or a similar organization or with a vocational teacher or county extension agent. The project must be an organized and supervised program of work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. Contact your local FSA office for more details.

Dates to Remember	
June 30	Final Small Grain Reporting Date
July 31	Final Reporting Date for All Other Crops
Continuous	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
Continuous	Farm Storage Facility Loans
August 3	Final DCP Sign Up Date

Greene County FSA Office  
688 S State HWY B  
Suite 300  
Springfield, MO 65802



PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
COLUMBIA, MO  
PERMIT #230

## 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/>

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