



January 2008

Greene County FSA News

Greene County USDA Service Center

FSA

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Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee:

David Trogdon – Chm
Judy Spencer – V-Chm
Larry White - Mem

Committee meets the first
Wednesday of each month
at 10:00 AM

County Office Staff:

Barbara Ingerson – PT
Brenda Maggard – PT
Amanda Bennett – Temp
Ron Keith - AFLPS
Mark Aycock – FLM
(417-468-2088)
Jim Kyle - DD
Wyman Miller - CED

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Larry White. Larry was elected to the county committee to represent Local Administrative 3 which includes Clay, Taylor, Campbell and Washington townships. Larry replaced Marvin Grier Jr. who has served two, three year terms. Larry lives on a farm in the Rogersville area and is a beef producer. When Larry is not farming he is either in Nicaragua doing mission work or at White's Auto Restyling on St. Louis Street. Most usually his trusty Lab is along his side.

On January 9, 2008 the committee met to organize for the 2008 year. David Trogdon was elected Chairperson and Judy Spencer was elected Vice Chairperson.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

ATTENTION LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) for the droughts in 2005 and 2006 is well underway. This month, we will start issuing payment to producers in Greene County with approved applications. If you have not applied, don't let this program slip by.

If you owned or cash leased eligible livestock on January 1st of 2005 or 2006 and suffered an eligible feed loss, you may be compensated.

Payment rates for some eligible livestock are:

- BEEF (Adult) – \$10.66/head
- DAIRY (Adult) - \$27.72/head
- BEEF & DAIRY (500#'s plus on Jan. 1st) - \$8.00/head

Other eligible livestock include: Buffalo, Beefalo, Sheep, Goats, Equine, Swine, Poultry, Deer and Elk. (Claimed livestock must be for commercial purposes in a farming operation to be considered eligible).

Producers incurring losses in 2005 and 2006 must choose only one year for which to receive benefits. Also if a producer selects to receive LCP benefits for 2006 and they participated in the Livestock Assistance Grant Program (LAGP), their benefits will be reduced by the dollar amount they received from the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

If you have any questions, give us a call. If not, get your livestock numbers and come by our office.

Also included is the Livestock Indemnity Program for producers who lost livestock as a direct result of the ice storm in January 2007. Applicants must have owned the livestock on the beginning date of the disaster and provide verifiable proof of death. If verifiable proof is not available, a third part certification may be used. The owner must provide a written, dated and signed statement that no other proof is available, number of livestock by category when the deaths occurred, physical location in inventory when deaths occurred and documentation that supports reasonableness of the number of livestock in inventory when deaths occurred. The third party certification must provide a written and signed statement giving specific details about how the third party has knowledge of the animal deaths, affiliation to the producer, telephone number and address, number



and kind of livestock that died because of the disaster and other specific details for the committee and DD to determine the certification is acceptable.

No deadline has yet to be established for sign up in the LCP and LIP programs.

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!

Dairy Disaster Assistance Program Sign-up Begins

Beginning Dec. 3, 2007, eligible dairy producers can sign-up for the Dairy Disaster Assistance Program (DDAP-III) at your local FSA Service Center. DDAP-III will compensate producers for production losses that resulted from cattle and yield losses and produced milk that had to be dumped because of lack of electricity, closed milk plants and damaged containment equipment.

DDAP-III will provide \$16 million in financial assistance to producers who suffered dairy production losses because of natural disasters. A producer's operation must be in a county designated a major disaster or emergency area by the President or declared a natural disaster area by the Secretary of Agriculture **between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007**. Counties contiguous to such counties will also be eligible. Producers in counties declared disasters by the President may be eligible, even though agricultural loss was not covered by the declaration, if there has been a FSA Administrator's Physical Loss Notice covering such losses.

Eligibility Requirements

Under proposed DDAP-III regulations, the following are some of the eligibility requirements producers must meet to receive benefits:

- Producers must have produced and marketed milk any time between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007;
- Producers must have suffered dairy production losses attributed to the declared natural disaster during the eligible period in an approved area; and
- Producers must provide proof of monthly milk production commercially marketed by all persons in the eligible dairy operation during the applicable milk marketing calendar year and claim period (Jan. 2, 2005 - Feb. 27, 2007).

To find out more information about the DDAP- III

visit our website at: ww.fsa.usda.gov or contact your local FSA Service Center.

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA County office staff if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM (ECP)

Tornados tore across Greene County on January 7, 2008 causing damage to houses, outbuildings, fences and scattered debris over farmland. USDA is in the process of requesting authority to implement the ECP program to assist landowners repair or replace fence and remove debris from farmland where normal farming practices are disrupted. Producers must incur at least \$1000.00 out of pocket expense to be eligible for assistance on the eligible related practices. If you had fences torn down and debris scattered over your farmland, come by our office to apply for assistance. A farm visit must be made by a representative from USDA to assess the damage.

This program does not provide any assistance for losses sustained to houses, outbuildings and lot or yard fences.

Customer Statements

January signals the beginning of a new year, and a time to gather financial records and start thinking about filling out a 1040. Producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will have a little online help in that they will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement. The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's at your fingertips and available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs; information on farm loans; and conservation plan and land unit information.

Foreign Buyers 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. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

What is Continuous CRP?

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program allows participants to voluntarily enroll acreage in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

Eligible landowners enter into 10- to 15-year contracts in return for receiving annual rental and perhaps maintenance, incentive and cost share payments.

To be eligible, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. If eligibility requirements are met, the Farm Service Agency 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, please contact the county office staff or visit: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=crp>.

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.

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other as individuals 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.

LDP Deadline on Wool, Mohair and Unshorn Lamb Pelts

Eligible producers have **until Jan. 31, 2008**, to apply for LDPs 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.

January 2008	
90-Day Treasury Bill	3.625%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	4.375%
Selected Interest Rates for Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.125%
Limited Resource Loans	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans Beginning Farmer Down Payment	4.000%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.625%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	4.250%

Dates to Remember	
Jan. 21	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Jan. 31	Deadline on 2007 LDP's for wool, mohair and unshorn lamb pelts.
Feb. 18	George Washington's Birthday FSA Offices Closed
Jan. 22	Soils and Crops Conference

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the County Executive Director of their local Farm Service Agency office.

Faxed Signatures

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

Direct and Guaranteed Loans Available

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are available now. Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan. Loan funds are available now — applying early is important so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner. Most of our loan programs have special funding available for minority, female and beginning farmers. FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

Waiting on a Farm Bill

Authority to hold an annual signup for the Direct and Countercyclical Program (DCP) expired with the old farm bill on September 30, 2007. The U.S. House of Representatives passed their version of a new farm bill in July and the U.S. Senate is currently considering their version. The remaining steps to implementation are passage of a farm bill in the Senate, agreement and passage of a conference version between the House and Senate, signature by the President, and publication of new rules in the Federal Register. Looking at that timeline, a signup before early spring is unlikely. However, program provisions and signup dates will be provided through this newsletter as soon as they become available.

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