

November 2007



# Greene County News

Greene County  
USDA Service Center

Greene County FSA  
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www.fsa.usda.gov/MO

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

**County Committee:**  
Marvin Grier Jr. – Chm  
David Trogdon – V-Chm  
Judy Spencer - Mem

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  
Amanda Bennett – Temp  
Ron Keith – AFLPS  
Jim Kyle – DD  
Wyman Miller- CED

## Voting for County Committee Begins

Ballots for this year’s county committee election were mailed to eligible voters on November 2, 2007. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 3, 2007. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 3rd. The candidates in this year’s election are:

Larry White is nominated in LAA 3, to serve as a county committee member. Larry resides at 2530 S Farm Road 219, Rogersville, MO. Larry is a beef cow/calf producer on owned and rented land in the Rogersville area.

Larry also owns White Auto Restyling in Springfield.

Eligible voters in a local administrative area LAA3 who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

**Voter Requirements** Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, are eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following: an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, *or* a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper; *or*
2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; *and*
3. Eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

**Discrimination Prohibited.** No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

## Disaster Program Sign-Up Continues

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops. **CDP sign-up** for quantity loss began **October 15, 2007**.

Losses from natural disasters may qualify for financial assistance if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007, or, in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose **only one year** to apply for benefits. Participants may apply for loss benefits on multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

**Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.** Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP.

For more information about CDP and other disaster programs implemented by FSA, visit: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

## Farm Storage Facility Loans

Low interest rate loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, 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.

## Operating Loan Applications



Farmers who plan to apply to the Farm Service Agency for annual operating loan assistance this year are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. The earlier an application for loan assistance is filed, the quicker the FSA staff can process your request. In addition, due to budget constraints, farmers that wait until later in the year to apply, often run the risk of finding out that our funding allocations have been utilized already. Farmers should also contact their local FSA office to setup an appointment with a Farm Loan Official for information as to what is required in order to have a complete loan application on file. Decisions on loans can not be made until a complete application is received.

## Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) began September 10, 2007. LCP compensates livestock producers for feed losses and LIP for livestock losses, due to a natural disaster. Producers in primary counties declared Secretarial disaster areas or certain counties declared Presidential disaster areas between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, are eligible as are producers located in counties contiguous to those counties.

For a producer to be eligible for LCP, livestock had to have been owned on the date of the disaster declaration, which is January 1 for both years 2005 and 2006.

Eligible livestock include: beef adult and non-adult(over 500 pounds), dairy adult and non-adult(over 500 pounds), buffalo/beefalo adult and non-adult(over 500 pounds), sheep, goat, deer, equine swine, elk, poultry, and reindeer. These livestock also must meet the following conditions: maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation, owned or cash leased and physically located in a disaster county on the beginning date of the disaster.

The eligibility is computed as the lessor of the feed needs for the eligible livestock or the pasture loss between April 15 and November 15. Producers can choose between 2005 and

2006 but not both years. Any payment received under the grant program in 2006 will be deducted from the 2006 payment.

LIP compensates livestock producers for livestock losses between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, that resulted from a declared natural disasters. This does include the ice storm that occurred in January.

The ending date for the signup has not been announced.

We suggest that producers review records for both years and have determined the livestock numbers and number of acres of pasture before coming to the office.

## Conservation Programs Available

Now is the time for farmers to look at their crop fields and determine which acres are unproductive. Whether this is a perimeter of a field, a tree canopy, for instance, or a wet area in the field. These areas may be eligible for an enrollment into a CRP conservation practice. For example, quail buffers, filter strips along ditches and streams or wetlands are available. Farmers should consider the economic benefits from 10-15 year enrollment in CRP.

Annual payments are guaranteed for the length of the contract, where as crop yields and prices don't have those guarantees. Additionally, the conservation practices can benefit wildlife and improve water quality.

Producers should visit their local FSA office to learn more details about conservation and the CRP program and where these practices will fit into the farm operation and landscape. And remember, this is available to all landowners in Missouri.

Selected Interest Rates for November 2007	
90-Day Treasury Bill	4.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	4.750%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.375%
Limited Resource Loans	5.000%
Farm Ownership - Beginning Farmer Down Payment	4.000%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	4.375%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	4.875%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	5.125%

## Selling Land



If you're planning to sell farmland, there may be some program consequences you should be aware of. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't want to continue the CRP contract, you might have to refund all of the payments you've received to date.

Reviewing program implications with your local Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.



## e-Forms

To save forms online and submit them to the appropriate USDA Service Center Office requires a USDA eAuthentication Account with Level 2 Access (User ID and password).

If you do not have a current USDA eAuthentication Level 2 Access Account, you can register to obtain one by visiting the USDA eAuthentication Web site at

[www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/eauthCreateAccount.html](http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/eauthCreateAccount.html).

After you have register on line, take your official identification (state ID, state driver's license, military ID or passport) to the local FSA Service Center. The staff will verify your identity and validate your Level 2 access.

Submitting an e-Form is convenient. You can access information anytime day or night seven days a week. It's also faster. Forms and applications can be submitted and received in the county office in a matter of minutes, not days or weeks.

## Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- ❖ A married woman shall sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, not Mrs. John Doe
- ❖ For a minor, FSA requires the minor's signature and one from an eligible parent (Note, by signing the applicable document, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc.)
- ❖ When signing on one's behalf the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form, or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. Example - John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc.
- ❖ FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the acceptable program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information.
- ❖ Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- ❖ Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities
- ❖ All members of a general partnership must sign for the general partnership unless an individual is authorized to act on the behalf of the general partnership and bind all members
- ❖ Spouses may sign on behalf of each other's individual interest in a partnership, unless notification denying a spouse that authority is provided to the county office
- ❖ Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts shall consist of an indicator "by" or "for" the individual's name, individual's name and capacity, or individual's name, capacity, and name of entity

For additional clarification on proper signatures and FAXED forms contact your local FSA office.

## FSA Signature Policy

## Census Gives Farmers a Voice In Their Future

America's farmers and ranchers will soon have the opportunity to participate in shaping the future of agriculture. The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will begin distribution of the 2007 Census of Agriculture next month.

According to NASS, the Census of Agriculture provides information that is not available anywhere else – information that benefits agricultural producers and their communities in many ways. Policy-makers use Census data for decisions concerning agricultural and rural programs. Community planners use Census information to target delivery of local services. Companies rely on Census data when determining where to locate their operations. And farmers themselves look at Census data when deciding to make changes in their production strategies.

Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Census is a complete count of the nation's farms and ranches and the people who operate them. The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other topics. It provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation.

NASS will mail out Census forms on December 28, 2007 to collect data for the 2007 calendar year. Completed forms are due by February 4, 2008. Producers can return their forms by mail or, for the first time, they have the convenient option of filling out the Census online via a secure web site at <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/>.

Dates to Remember	
Nov. 2	County committee election ballots mailed.
Nov. 12	Veteran's Day Holiday. <b>FSA offices closed.</b>
Nov. 20	<b>Last day</b> to apply for NAP Coverage for apples, grapes and peaches.
Nov. 22	Thanksgiving Holiday. <b>FSA offices closed.</b>
Dec. 3	<b>Last day</b> to return voted ballots in county committee election.
Dec. 25	Christmas Day Holiday. <b>FSA Offices Closed.</b>
Jan. 1	New Year's Day Holiday. <b>FSA Offices Closed.</b>
Jan. 1	Elected Committee Members and alternates take office.
Continues	Continuous CRP
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans

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