



November 2007

Harrison County Newsletter

Harrison County
USDA Service Center

Harrison County FSA
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Hours:
Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee:
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CREP SIGNUP ENDS 12/31/07

Are you interested in putting your land into CRP? If so, look into MO CREP!

USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and the State of Missouri have agreed to implement a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to reduce the risk of nutrients and sediment from farms entering the streams and reservoirs that supply rural water supplies to over 375,000 people.

CREP offers **special incentive and cost-share** payments in addition to those normally paid under the regular CRP. **Annual payments range from \$80 to \$120 an acre.** These payments vary depending on the conservation practice implemented. Cost-share and incentive payments for conservation practices will be shared by CCC, MDC, DNR, local city councils, and water supply districts.

CREP contracts shall not be less than 14 or more than 15 years in length. Enrollment will be offered on a continuous basis until December 31, 2007.

County Committee Election

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.

Eligible voters in a local administrative area #2 (Dallas, Jefferson, White Oak, Bethany, Cypress, and Butler townships) 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, is 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.

Crop Disaster Program Sign-Up

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops and **sign-up is underway.** Losses from natural disasters may qualify for financial assistance if the crop was 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.

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.

Managed CRP Haying and Grazing Reminder

The managed CRP grazing deadline is November 13th and hay bales must be removed no later than November 13, 2007. Hay bales CANNOT be stored on CRP contract acres.

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.

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.

Farm Operation Changes

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. If you have sold or purchased land, contact the county office. The administrative changes need to be made before enrolling in any 2008 programs. If land changes involve CRP, new contracts and conservation plans need to be completed. Producers will need to agree on division of payments.

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, bins, and new or 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.

Unauthorized Disposition of Grain Under Loan

If grain under loan has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producers name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call the office before any loan grain is fed or sold.

Website for Digital Imagery

Landowners who have access to the internet may find the following site of interest. Producers can access digital imagery for their land by using the map room link at <http://www.cares.missouri.edu/index.asp> There will be no line work on the fields, but it is a good source of current photography. Producers can also access topographical maps, floodplain maps and measure distance and acreage.

Livestock Disaster Program

The new Livestock Compensation Program(LCP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) sign-up has opened. Eligible livestock producers can apply to receive LCP compensation for feed losses or LIP for livestock losses occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, due to a natural disaster. Harrison County is eligible for the years 2005 and 2006 under drought. The program is similar to livestock programs in the past, as it looks at livestock numbers and grazing losses, calculates a dollar value for both, and pays the lesser of the two. Producers will apply for benefits for both years and the program will determine the best benefit. Numbers of livestock owned or cash leased as of January 1 of 2005 and 2006 will key the process. Most species of livestock are eligible or the program. The main category of livestock will be beef cattle. They will be divided into adult cattle, that is, cows that have had at least one calf, and bulls 2 years of age, and non-adult cattle that weigh at least 500 pounds on January 1 of the designated year. This means calves carried over January 1 must weigh 500 pounds. They will be eligible if they grazed anytime after May 1 of that year. For example, calves sold in February will not be eligible because they did not graze after May 1. The grazing is also important because grazing losses will be computed for pastures where grazing occurred during the disaster year. Generally, a producer will choose the year with the most cattle. The program will pay on the lesser value of the calculated grazing or feed loss, or a flat rate for livestock. Producers will certify a grazing loss % for the year. Payment rates are adult beef, \$10.66, non-adult beef \$8.00; dairy adult cows and bulls, \$27.72, non-adult dairy, \$8.00; all sheep and goats, \$2.67; and equine, \$7.89. Eligibility of equine and other livestock depends on its use. Sales must be part of the farming operation and show as farm income.

WIND POWER

Several wind power companies have expressed an interest in building wind turbines in the area with the purpose of generating renewable wind energy. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) supports the continued development of wind power. However, this type of development work on a farm typically requires the consent of lien/contract holders as well as the owner of the property. As a part of the lien/contract holders consent process, for any land where government assistance is being received by the farmer, (CRP, WRP, direct and/or guaranteed loans, etc.), an assessment of potential environmental impact is required by federal law.

These federal environmental laws require FSA to assess what impact, if any, the wind turbine could have on historical sites or on endangered species of plants and animals. Some of these environmental evaluations are fairly simple; others require professionals in the field and can be expensive for the farmer to complete. If you are participating in the FSA CRP, WRP, direct and/or guaranteed loan program, please contact the local FSA office prior to executing any leases and/or contracts with any wind power company.

Your local FSA office will be happy to help you through this process.

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

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.