



April 2007

## Holt County News

### Holt County USDA Service Center

**Holt County FSA**  
118 W Davis Street  
Mound City, Mo 64470  
660-442-3134 (phone)  
660-442-5376 (fax)  
www.fsa.usda.gov/\*\*

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

**County Committee**  
Dale Holstine  
Karl Noellsch  
Kirby Rosier  
Karen Ingram

County Committee meets  
the first Wednesday of  
each month

**Staff**  
Gina Smith  
Sheri Sharp  
Wendy Tubbs  
Lisa Yocum

**Field Specialist**  
Mark Buntz

**County Executive  
Director**  
Jackie J VanGundy

**Farm Loan Manager**  
Bob Dreyer

**District Director**  
Jim Nance



### Changes in Farming Operations

It is imperative that producers accurately report their farming operation to the county office. This is done on the CCC-502 and will be part of the eligibility review. One of the easiest changes to miss is when an individual converts their operation to a Revocable Living Trust using their social security number for tax purposes. If you have established a Revocable Living Trust, please notify the county office immediately to avoid potential eligibility problems.

Also, if you have a change in your farming operation such as buying or selling land you should always make it a point to check with our office for any possible ramifications that might affect the sale or your eligibility after the sale. This is especially true of ground with CRP contracts in place. New owners must succeed to the existing CRP contract or the contract will be terminated and early termination penalties could apply.

### 2006 Loan/LDP Deadlines

The final dates to request a Commodity Loan or submit evidence for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for 2006 crops are as follows:

**March 31, 2007:** Wheat, Oats, Barley  
**May 31, 2007:** Corn, Beans, Milo

### Measurement Service Rates

Rates for measurement services have increased in 2007. The initial charge is \$30, plus an hourly rate of \$16 for the first hour and \$8 for every 30 minutes after the first hour. (minimum of 1 hour). This means that every measurement service involving a farm visit will be a minimum of \$46 per visit. If you have questions regarding a fee you have been charged keep in mind that the time needed to complete calculations and related paperwork is also included in the measurement service fee.

### Rules for Land Deeded to a Trust

For FSA payment limitation purposes, determinations are made based upon who owns the land and equipment and who provides the capital, labor or management. Some producers still wish to receive payments as an individual, even though the land has been deeded to the trust. In order to be paid as an individual, that person would have to be providing significant contributions, not the trust or another operator. If another operator provides the labor, equipment and capital while the trust owns the farm, all the individual would be contributing is possibly some management. This would not be enough to qualify for a payment. The trust itself is automatically approved under landowner provisions. Even though your lawyer or accountant may not make the distinction because the same Social Security number is used, for FSA Purposes there is a difference between you as an individual and your trust. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

### Bank Account Changes

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically these days, using Direct Deposit. In most cases the switch has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. Most of the problems with direct deposit happen when producers close or change an account and forget to notify the county office.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions. If you've made any changes in accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact us so we can update our files.



## NEED GRAIN STORAGE?

Farm Storage Facility Loans are low cost loans that are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities. All farm stored facility loans have a seven-year term 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. Information is available on the FSA Web site at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.ov/dafp/psd/fsfl.htm>

## Policy Changes for Signature Authority

Due to recent audits and investigations by the Office of Inspector General, county offices are following some new policy changes regarding signature authority. Most producers are familiar with the terms; Power of Attorney, Signature Authority, or Representative Capacity. For FSA purposes, a producer or someone serving as representative for an entity (trust, corporation, LLC, etc) can execute a Power of Attorney form (FSA-211) giving someone the authorization to sign FSA forms on their behalf. The FSA-211 can give authority for all current and future programs or can be more restrictive. This Power of Attorney is only good for the Farm Service Agency. It does not give a legal power of attorney for functions outside of FSA.



Many producers operate as an entity (trust, corporation, LLC etc) and will be required to submit documents to FSA confirming the legal formation of the entity, and who has the legal representative capacity to sign on behalf of the entity. In the case of a corporation, a meeting may be required with minutes documenting who the members have given signature authority to. Also, the documents provided need to show if the person with representative capacity can redelegate on a FSA-211 to another individual to sign. Husband and wives automatically have authority to sign for each other unless written notice is given to FSA. **In any case, regardless of what type of operation you have, proper signature authority must be on file before you can sign up for any FSA program.**



## 2007 DCP Enrollment

The normal signup deadline for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) is **June 1, 2007**. We encourage producers to come in by that date to avoid the crop reporting rush. Enrollment is an **annual requirement** in order to receive the program benefits. The deadline to enroll without penalty has been extended from June 1 to August 3. All enrollment requirements, including obtaining signatures from all parties on the contract, must be received by the new deadline of August 3.

To date, our office still needs signatures on over 400 farms. So before you get deep into field work, please make sure to come by the office and get all of your farms signed up.

## Acres Reporting

Acres reporting time will soon be here. Please remember that filing an accurate acres report for all crops and land uses, including failed acres and prevented planting acres, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acres 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.

Acres reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. Small grain acres reports such as wheat and oats (excluding NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops) should be certified by the June 30 deadline. All other crop acres reports (corn, soybeans, and CRP) have a July 31 deadline.

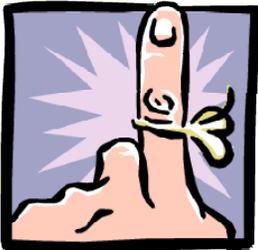
Acres reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of June 30 for small grains and July 31 for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acres being reported.

## FSA & RMA Working Together

FSA and the Risk Management Agency will work together to prevent fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA will assist RMA throughout the growing season by monitoring crops and growing conditions in Holt County. Producers may also report suspected cases of fraud to their local FSA or RMA Office.

## CRP Reporting & Maintenance

Remember it is **YOUR** responsibility to maintain your CRP by the rules governing the sign up it was enrolled in. The best place to check on what you agreed to is your copy of the Conservation Plan you signed before the contract was approved. Different sign ups have had different rules, so do not rely on word of mouth. All contracts enrolled or re-enrolled after 1/1/03 requires management practices at some time during the contract period. These same contracts do not allow for mowing at all. Any mowing on these contracts must be requested in writing, and approved by the COC in advance.



### *Program Reminders*

Remember all CRP acreage must be reported on a FSA-578 crop report form at this office each year prior to July 31.

## CRP General Signup Information

The Secretary of Agriculture has announced that there will not be a general sign up for the Conservation Reserve Program in either 2007 or 2008. At the current time, there have not been any announcements about releasing CRP for early contract termination. Producers are reminded that eligible land may be enrolled into continuous CRP at any time if all eligibility requirements are met. A few of the continuous CRP practices are grass, buffer strips, riparian buffers, wetland restoration and habitat buffers for upland birds. If you are interested in continuous CRP, please contact the office for details.

## Conservation Compliance

Highly erodible land (HEL) compliance is still required to earn program benefits. This includes payments under the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP), Farm Loan Program (FLP), crop insurance and many other USDA programs. Farms with HEL soils need to be aware of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements spelled out in the conservation plan. If you have any questions about the specifics of your conservation plan, stop by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office. Take time now to make sure your farm is in compliance. Don't wait until the plow hits the ground.



## Unauthorized Disposition of Loaned Grain

If loan grain 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 producer's 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.

## Toll-Free Number

Direct Loan borrowers with USDA's Farm 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.

## Rural Youth Loans

Loans are available to rural youths age 10 through 20 to establish and operate income producing projects. These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, and carried out by 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 the Atchison County Farm Loan Team at 660-744-5328 for more details.



**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.

**Website for Digital Imagery**

Producers can access 2004 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 acreages.

**2007 Rainfall**

		actual	30 yr avg
Jan		.94	.72
Feb		1.34	1.14
Mar		2.19	2.49
Total		4.47	4.35

Dates to Remember	
March 15	Sales Closing Date for crop insurance & NAP crops
March 31	Loan/LDP deadline for Small grains
May 28	Office Closed for Memorial Day
May 31	Deadline to obtain Loan/LDP for corn, beans, & milo
June 1	DCP deadline extended to August 3
June 30	Crop reporting deadline for small grains
July 4	Office Closed for Independence Day
July 31	Crop reporting deadline
August 3	Deadline to submit all Signatures for DCP
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, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.