



Holt County
FSA NEWSLETTER
JULY 2007

**Holt County
FSA Office**

118 W Davis Street
Mound City, Mo 64470
660-442-3134
Office Hours:
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Dale Holstine
Karl Noellsch
Kirby Rosier
Karen Ingram

Office Staff

Wendy Tubbs, PT
Gina Smith, PT
Sheri Sharp, PT
Lisa Yocum, temp

**County Executive
Director**

Jackie J VanGundy

**Farm Loan
Program Manager**

Bob Dreyer
Tuesday mornings

Fieldmen

Mark Buntz
Stan Seitz



Dear Holt County Producers

DCP Enrollment Extended

The June 1, 2007 deadline to enroll in the 2007 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) has been extended to **August 3, 2007**. Computer problems have caused application processing delays which prompted the enrollment deadline extension. A late-file fee of \$100 per farm will be assessed to the producer for CCC-509's filed after **August 3, 2007** and before **September 30, 2007**. Advance direct payments for the 2007 crop year are 22%. Advance payments may be requested in any month starting with December 2006. The remaining final direct payment of 78% will be issued to participating producers in October of 2007. For clarification or an appointment, contact your local FSA office.

Crop Certification

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of FSA programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The producer certification deadline for fall-seeded crops is June 30 and for spring-seeded crops, **July 31**.

CRP & NAP Certification

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. Crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting needs to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

Failed Acreage:

Producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

County Committee Candidates Sought

It will soon be county committee election time, and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) is actively looking for producers to be a candidate for the local FSA county committee. County committee members perform an important function. They represent you and your agricultural interests. They help shape how federal farm programs are implemented on the ground in local communities. Who do you know who would make a good county committee member? Who do you know who would be able to represent you and your farming interests, as well as your neighbor's interests? Why not talk to that person and ask if he or she would be willing to serve on the county committee? If he or she says yes, then fill out a nomination form (FSA-669), have the person sign it and then return it to the county office. If you can't think of another producer to nominate or your prospective nominee turns you down, why not nominate yourself? Serving on the committee will take, on average, one day a month, and you will be providing your agricultural community a vital service. Committee members are reimbursed for travel expenses and are paid for meeting and training time. Visit with the Farm Service Agency county office staff for more information. Holt County Local Administrative Area (LAA) conducting election in 2007 is LAA 2: Benton, Bigelow, Hickory and Minton.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

The Farm Service Agency in Holt County has been approved to implement the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) to provide cost-share funds to help area producers with damage to farmland and fences caused by the excessive rain and flooding in May 2007. For a producer's land to be eligible, the disaster must have created new conservation problems that, if untreated, would impair or endanger the land and materially affect its productive capacity. Under the program 75% cost-share monies would be available for the removal of debris from farmland, grading or shaping of the damaged land, restoration of conservation structures such as terraces or water impoundment structures to their pre-disaster condition, and the restoration of permanent fences.

To qualify for cost-share assistance producers must have suffered at least \$1,000 of eligible cost share expenses. Producers are not eligible to receive compensation to rehabilitate any land on which they are already required to maintain the practice which includes land under any other Federal or State cost-share program (an example – terraces built using cost-share from Soil and Water Districts within the last 10 years). Levees or the land

between the levee and the river are **not** eligible for cost-share under the ECP program. Land on which cost-share assistance is received must maintain its agricultural use for a minimum of 10 years following the year the practice is completed.

Producers will need to apply for ECP cost-share assistance at their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office before beginning the repairs or debris removal from their acreages. The deadline to apply is **August 3, 2007**.

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 aware of the terms "Power of Attorney", "Signature Authority", or "Representative Capacity". For FSA purposes, a producer or someone serving as a 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 board 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 re-delegate on a FSA-211 to another individual to sign. Husbands 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.***

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

Farm Operation Changes – Farm Reconstitutions

In Farm Service Agency terms, farms are *constituted* to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. 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. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program. If 2007 DCP direct payments have already been issued on the farm, the reconstitution will be effective for 2008 unless the payments are refunded.

FSA Farm Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes both direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank, Farm Credit System institution or other lender. FSA loans can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed and supplies. The loans can also be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements.

If you're having trouble getting commercial credit, check with the FSA county office staff about loan eligibility, as well as maximum loan amounts, rates, term and use of proceeds.

Minority Farm Register

The Minority Farm Register is a tool to promote equal access to farm programs and services for minority farmland owners, farmers, ranchers, tenants and other individuals with an agricultural interest. Participants may receive information or be personally contacted through USDA outreach efforts. Programs include direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans, marketing loans, as well as conservation, housing and rural business and risk management.

Participation is voluntary.

All minority persons involved in farming or ranching are encouraged to participate. The information provided may be shared through the USDA Office of Outreach with other USDA-approved outreach partners, such as community-based organizations, educational institutions and other government agencies.

If you are involved with farming or ranching and wish to be included in the Minority Farm Register, you

are invited to visit with the county office staff and request the register form or download a form from the FSA Web site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

Sodbuster Regulations

The term “sodbusting” is used to identify the plowing up of erosion-prone grasslands for use as cropland. Sodbuster violations are unauthorized tillage practices on highly erodible lands that converted native vegetation such as rangeland or woodland, to crop production after Dec. 23, 1985. Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in FSA programs.

Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production.

If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates on a CPA-026 that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage, before bringing land into production.

In addition, producers and the producer's affiliates have to file an AD-1026 with the staff in the administrative or control county office before any farm program payments can be made. The AD-1026 is the producer's signed certification that HELC, as well as wetland conservation, provisions will not be violated.

Haying, Grazing CRP Acres

Producers can begin haying and grazing of CRP acreage under the managed haying and grazing provisions beginning July 16, 2007. Managed haying or grazing of Conservation Reserve Program acres requires prior approval from the County Committee. Before the committee can allow haying or grazing, there must be an approved hazing and grazing plan. Acreage hayed/grazed in either of the last 2 years is ineligible for release this year. A 25 percent payment reduction is assessed for every approved acre hayed or grazed. Other restrictions may apply. Remember to contact the office to complete approval before beginning any haying or grazing.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY
HOLT COUNTY FSA OFFICE**
118 W Davis Street
Mound City, Mo 64470

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

Beginning Farmers, Ranchers

Are you a farmer or rancher who has farmed for less than 10 years? If so, you may qualify for beginning farmer targeted loan funds.

The program is designed to assist these farmers by providing direct and guaranteed loans when they are unable to obtain financing from commercial credit sources.

If you believe this program could be of benefit to you, please contact the county office staff for more information. Our loan officials will welcome your interest.

Dates to Remember

July 31	Final Certification Date for spring seeded crops
August 1	Deadline to submit County Committee Nomination Forms
August 1	Final Date to Request a Farm Reconstitution for Fiscal Year 2007
August 3	Deadline to Apply for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) Flood
August 3	DCP Enrollment Deadline
Sept 30	Final Date for 2007 DCP Contract Revisions

Visit our Web site: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo>

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and 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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326 W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or all (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.