



Holt County
FSA NEWSLETTER
November 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

Crop Disaster Program Signup

Legislation passed by Congress in May of 2007 has initiated the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) which provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops. The quantity portion of the program will be administered first in county offices. 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. This would include wheat planted for 2007 which may have been affected by the April freeze. All insured crops grown in years 2005 and 2006 are covered under drought disaster declaration. Producers must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Participant 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. The CDP will pay for disaster losses under its own provisions, so the program does not necessarily pay in the same manner the insurance company did. The disaster payment will have a factor applied. Production from the insurance company will be used. Yields will be the higher of the APH(insurance) or county yields which are based on actual history. Signup has started and they have not announced an ending date.

Livestock Disaster Programs

The new Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) sign-ups are currently underway. 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. 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. 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 for 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. Holt County has submitted a request for the 2006 LCP program but we have not received any indication whether we will be approved.

County Committee Election

Just a reminder: You should have received your official county office committee election ballot. Ballots were mailed to all eligible voters on November 2, 2007. If, for some reason, you do not receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA Office. Completed and **signed** ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business or postmarked by December 3, 2007. This year in Holt County, Local Administrative Area (LAA) #2 is up for election. It is comprised of Benton, Bigelow, Hickory and Minton townships. Karen Ingram and Rickey Gillenwater are the candidates whose names will be appearing on the ballot.

After receipt of the ballots, the Holt County Committee will meet on Thursday December 6, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. to count the ballots. The election is open to the public, and anyone can attend.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

Producers who submitted an application for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) to repair land damaged as a result of the excessive rains and flooding that occurred early this year are reminded to contact the office as soon as the crops have been harvested to schedule a field inspection. A field visit is required by an FSA representative to determine if the practice meets eligibility requirements before repair work begins.

Final DCP and CRP Payments

Producers should have received their final payment for the Direct Counter Cyclical Program and their CRP payment. Producers who did not elect to take an advance DCP payment received the entire direct payment for the year in one lump sum. Many of the CRP payments had hay reductions, so the payment may have been different this year. Contact the office if you did not receive a payment or if there is a question in the amount you received.

Farm Operation Changes

When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. The recon is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of

Record Changes - continued

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.

We have not received any information on when FSA expects to begin sign up for 2008 or what the provisions might entail. County Offices will continue to accept and process recons for 2008. Producers need to understand that a new farm bill might alter, recalculate, or delete DCP bases.

CRP Managed Haying & Grazing

Due to weather conditions this year, many producers took advantage of the managed haying and grazing on CRP acres. The date to hay has passed and all grazing activity must be completed by November 13. The county office is in the process of spot checking these contracts so make sure all cattle and hay bales are removed by Nov 13, including bales stored on the CRP fence rows. Producers are reminded that any acreage hayed or grazed in 2007 cannot be hayed or grazed until the year 2010.

CRP Management Practices

Producers with CRP contracts that became effective October 1, 2003 or after are required to complete a series of mid-contract management practices on the acreage. These practices include: strip disking, prescribed burning or chemical application. These management practices are mandatory and there are no waivers or options to void the requirement to complete them. There is a certain time period during each year that the management practice must be performed depending on the established cover. These practices were contained in your conservation plan of operation you completed with NRCS at the time your acreage was enrolled in CRP. Cost-share is available for all three practices and you must report completion of the practice to your FSA Office.

2007 Crop Loans

Marketing loans are available for 2007 crop corn, beans, milo and wheat. These loans mature nine months after the month of disbursement. Loan rates are as follows:

- Corn - \$1.90 bu
- Soybeans – \$5.00 bu
- Grain Sorghum - \$3.49/cwt
- Wheat - \$2.48 bu

Measurement service is available through this office to ensure accuracy of the amount of grain stored. For commodities to be eligible for loans they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage **must** be maintained throughout the term of the loan. The office must be notified before removal or feeding of any grain pledged for loan. In other words, **“CALL before you HAUL”**

Even though prices for grain are at high levels, the marketing loan is an effective tool to receive funds to pay higher interest loans while retaining the grain for potential price gains. The final date to request a loan on 2007 spring seeded crops is May 31, 2008.

Bank Account Changes

Almost all FSA payments are made electronically these days using Direct Deposit. Most of the problems with direct deposit happen when producers close or change accounts but 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 institution.

Crop Reports

County Offices are taking crop reports with planting dates on wheat, barley and oats acres. Producers may also report CRP and permanent pasture acres at this time.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Low cost loans for storage facilities continue to be available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities.

The seven year FSFL loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities.

All FSFL loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85% of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required. A \$45.00 application fee is assessed and other fees are incurred depending on the type of loan being processed.

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 are 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.

Website for Digital Imagery

Landowners who have access to the internet may find the following site of interest. 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.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

FARM SERVICE AGENCY
HOLT COUNTY FSA OFFICE
118 W Davis Street
Mound City, Mo 64470



Remember safety first this harvest season

Dates to Remember

On-going	Crop Disaster and Livestock Programs
Nov 2	County Committee ballots mailed to voters
Nov 12	Veterans Day Holiday
Nov 22	Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Dec 3	Last day to return County Committee election ballots
Continues	Continuous CRP sign up
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Crop Disaster Program

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

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