



January 2008

Howell County News

**Howell County
USDA Service Center**

Howell County FSA
3210 Hoover Drive
West Plains, MO 65775
417-256-7117 (phone)
417-256-5564 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/MO

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Steve Gleghorn
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USDA Designated 22 Missouri Counties as Primary Natural Disaster Areas

The U.S. Department of Agriculture designated 22 Missouri counties as primary agricultural natural disaster areas, making certain farmers and other agricultural producers in the counties eligible for low-interest emergency loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA).

The following counties were designated as primary natural disaster areas, due to damages and losses caused by drought that occurred from April 4, 2007 and continuing. Those counties are: Bollinger, Iron, Pemiscot, St. Francois, Butler, Jefferson, Perry, Ste. Genevieve, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Reynolds, Stoddard, Carter, Mississippi, Ripley, Washington, Dunklin, New Madrid, Scott, Wayne, Howell and Oregon.

Counties eligible because they are contiguous to those listed above are: Crawford, Dent, Douglas, Franklin, Ozark, Shannon, St. Louis and Texas.

All counties listed above were designated natural disaster areas on October 29, 2007, making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low-interest emergency loans from USDA's FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. To qualify, farmers must be unable to obtain credit from commercial sources. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part or all of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability.

Interested farmers should contact their local FSA county office for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs.

Emergency Livestock Water Program

The southern portion of Howell County has been approved to accept applications for emergency livestock water under an Emergency Conservation Program

A lack of moisture and extreme heat over an extended period of time has caused producers in certain areas to suffer from the effects of drought conditions. Farms experiencing severe drought conditions may be eligible for cost-share assistance if the damage is so severe that water available for livestock or orchards and vineyards has been reduced below normal to the extent that neither can survive without additional water.

The Howell County committee continues to monitor water conditions in the county throughout the year and twice requested the Emergency Conservation Program due to the critical shortage of livestock water. Requests to implement the program county wide were not approved.

Implementation of the program was approved for the southern half of Howell County using data from an official reporting station south of West Plains. The area is defined as South of Highway CC to the west and South of Highway 160 East.

The minimum amount of eligible expense the landowner must incur is \$1,000 per disaster. A producer qualifying for ECP may request cost shares not to exceed 75 percent of cost of installing eligible temporary measures. Cost sharing for permanent measures is based on 50 percent of the total eligible cost. Approved practices and measures may include:

- Installing pipelines or other facilities for livestock water or existing irrigation systems for orchards and vineyards
- Constructing and deepening wells for livestock water
- Developing springs or seeps for livestock water

Producers who have experienced severe drought conditions requiring outside assistance to provide supplemental emergency livestock water, may contact the local County FSA Office. Requests for assistance will be accepted through January 15, 2008 at the Howell County FSA Office at 3210 Hoover Drive, West Plains (417) 256-7117.

To be eligible for cost shares, practices shall not be started until a request has first been filed at the County FSA Office and an on site inspection of the problem has been made by the County Office Committee or its representative. COC will review the inspection findings when considering the request for cost shares. Producers who have already installed emergency measures must apply within the first ten days of the sign-up period to be considered eligible for assistance.



Census Gives Farmers A Voice in Their Future

America's farmers and ranchers will soon have the opportunity to make their voices heard and help shape the future of agriculture for years to come.

This opportunity will come to their mailboxes in the form of the 2007 Census of Agriculture.

Conducted every five years by the USDA, 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.

"The Census of Agriculture provides information that is not available anywhere else – information that benefits agricultural producers and their communities in myriad ways," said Tim Kelley, FSA State Executive Director.

"For instance, policy-makers factor Census data into decisions concerning agricultural and rural programs. Community planners use Census to document needs and target services to rural residents. Companies rely on Census data when determining where to locate their operations. And farmers themselves can use Census data to help make critical decisions about their businesses," Kelley said.

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 completing the Census online via a secure web site. As usual, all information supplied via the Census is kept strictly confidential and is only combined with other reports to generate state and county totals.

"We're committed to making this Census the best count ever. It's about the future of agriculture and rural communities in our state," said Gene Danekas, Director of the NASS Missouri Field Office. "Regardless of how large or small their operation is or what kinds of products they produce, Missouri farmers and ranchers will help themselves and their communities by completing the Census of Agriculture and returning it promptly," he added.

"We want farmers and ranchers to know: the Census of Agriculture is their voice, their future and their responsibility," Danekas said.

For more information about the 2007 Census of Agriculture, please contact the NASS Missouri Field Office at 800-551-1014 or visit www.agcensus.usda.gov online.

Dairy Disaster Assistance Program Sign-up Begins

Beginning Dec. 3, 2007, eligible dairy producers can sign-up for the Dairy Disaster Assistance Program (DDAP-III) at your local FSA Service Center. DDAP-III will compensate producers for production losses that resulted from cattle and yield losses and produced milk that had to be dumped because of lack of electricity, closed milk plants and damaged containment equipment.

DDAP-III will provide \$16 million in financial assistance to producers who suffered dairy production losses because of natural disasters. A producer's operation must be in a county designated a major disaster or emergency area by the President or declared a natural disaster area by the Secretary of Agriculture **between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007**. Counties contiguous to such counties will also be eligible. Producers in counties declared disasters by the President may be eligible, even though agricultural loss was not covered by the declaration, if there has been a FSA Administrator's Physical Loss Notice covering such losses.



Eligibility Requirements

Under proposed DDAP-III regulations, the following are some of the eligibility requirements producers must meet to receive benefits:

- Producers must have produced and marketed milk any time between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007;
- Producers must have suffered dairy production losses attributed to the declared natural disaster during the eligible period in an approved area; and
- Producers must provide proof of monthly milk production commercially marketed by all persons in the eligible dairy operation during the applicable milk marketing calendar year and claim period (Jan. 2, 2005 - Feb. 27, 2007).

To find out more information about the DDAP-III visit our website at: www.fsa.usda.gov or contact your local FSA Service Center.

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Stephen Gleghorn! Steve was re-elected to represent farmers from Howell East, Howell West and Sisson-Chapel on the county committee. Steve was elected to his second consecutive term. The election results for Local Administrative Area #1 are:

Stephen Gleghorn — Elected to the county committee (COC)

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

The committee members will hold their organizational meeting in January to determine who will serve as the county committee chairman and vice-chairman.

NAP COVERAGE DEADLINE

March 15 is the deadline date for producers to apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, or NAP, coverage using Form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, and pay the service fee at the county office. The application and service fee must be filed by March 15, the application closing date for 2008 spring seed crops along with vegetables.



The service fee is \$100 per crop per county or \$300 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$900 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees.

To qualify, a producer must be a landowner, tenant or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop.

LDP Deadline on Unshorn Wool, Mohair and Lamb Pelts

Eligible producers have **until Jan. 31, 2008**, to apply for LDPs for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts produced during the 2007 crop year.

Eligible producers must have beneficial interest in the pelts, owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. Producers must also comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in.

To qualify for payment, pelts must have been produced by an eligible producer from live unshorn lambs of domestic origin in the United States.

Socially Disadvantaged Farmers

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has targeted funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

For detailed information on loan eligibility or the different loan programs available, contact your local FSA office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) began September 10, 2007. LCP compensates livestock producers for feed 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. Producers in a primary (or contiguous) county that received an Administrator's Physical Loss Notice directly associated with a disaster declaration will also be eligible.

For Howell County, the feed losses had to be a result of losses incurred as a result of drought and excessive heat in 2005.

To date, no deadline for sign-up has been set for this program, but we anticipate one will be established.

Producers must report their livestock number as of January 1, 2005 **or** May 1, 2005.

Dates to Remember	
Jan. 1	Elected Committee Members and alternates take office.
Jan. 21	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Jan. 31	Deadline on 2007 LDPs for wool, mohair and unshorn lamb pelts.

Visit our website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

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