



June 2007

## County News

---

Laclede, Camden and  
Pulaski County  
USDA Service Center

### FSA

1242 Deadra Dr  
Lebanon Mo 65536

417-532-5741  
800-203-4467  
Fax 417-533-3689

### Hours

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

### County Committee

Homer Jones Jr.  
Camden  
Warren C Hoffman  
Laclede  
C. Kent Ledbetter  
Pulaski  
Berniece Hamilton  
Minority Advisor

County Committee meets  
2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 9:00 a.m.

### Staff

Darrel McCann  
County Director  
Program Technicians  
Ava Baker  
Pam Akers

### ***COC Election Nominations for Laclede County***

From June 15 through Aug. 1, farmers and ranchers can nominate eligible peers as candidates for election to the Laclede, Camden and Pulaski County Farm Service Agency County Committee.

This is an important time for Local Administrative Area communities, because county committee members make decisions that have significant effects on you and the area's agricultural sector as a whole.

For example, committee members make decisions on applications for federal farm program and disaster payments. Committee members play a vital role by helping local farmers and ranchers manage tough financial times and natural disasters.

County committee members make many other important decisions that affect local farmers and ranchers, such as whether haying and grazing should be allowed on Conservation Reserve Program land. Talk to a county committee member or the County Executive Director for details on the types of decisions county committee members make.

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet basic eligibility requirements. Contact the county office staff or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections> for details about candidate eligibility. Nomination forms can be obtained at the county office or online at the above address. Remember, the nomination period runs June 15 through Aug. 1. Voting takes place in the fall. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 2. Dec. 3 is the last day to return voted ballots to the county office. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office Jan. 1, 2008.

### ***Acreage Reporting***

The timely filing of an acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a number of programs, including Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, as well as marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments. To be timely, you must file an FSA-578 by July 31 for most crops and CRP, June 31 for Wheat and Small grains.

To be considered timely, acreage reports for:

- prevented planted acreage must be filed no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date for the applicable crop
- failed acreage must be filed before the disposition of the crop.

FSA will accept crop certifications from farm operators, farm owners, persons authorized by power of attorney and tenants and sharecroppers, for which they have a share. Crop acreage reports from producers are accepted for multiple future applications.

### ***Preventing Fraud & Waste***

The Farm Service Agency and Risk Management Agency are partners in preventing fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to RMA. Producers can report suspected cases to FSA or RMA.

## DCP Sign Up Extended

The sign-up deadline for the 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has been extended to August 3, 2007.

The extension is due to issues involving the performance of the Farm Service Agency's web-based computer system. The late-file fee of \$100 will only be assessed for farms that are enrolled after August 3, 2007 and before September 30, 2007.

Enrollment in DCP for the 2007 contract period began on October 1, 2006, and was scheduled to end on June 1, 2007. The extension applies only to the enrollment time frame, and does not extend the DCP contract period.

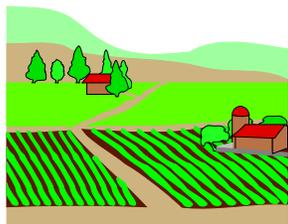
For more information about DCP and other FSA programs, please visit:  
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

## The EZ Makes It Easy

The Farm Service Agency now employs the CCC-633 EZ in place of the old CCC-709 and CCC-633-LDP. The EZ form has been created to make the application process more user-friendly.

The CCC-633 EZ is a two-part loan deficiency payment request that allows producers to (1) indicate their intentions to receive LDP benefits *before* losing beneficial interest in the eligible commodity, and (2) submit a request for an LDP at any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest.

The EZ form was developed to cover field direct LDPs, basic LDPs and CCC-cotton AA, and revised to cover basic and field direct LDPs for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts.



## Signing for Entities

To sign FSA forms for trusts, limited liability companies, cooperatives, partnerships or corporations, producers need a document on file at the county office saying you're authorized to sign for the entity. It could be a copy of the articles of partnership or articles of corporation or a valid power of attorney.

## Sodbuster, Swampbuster

Most FSA programs require compliance with sodbuster and swampbuster provisions. These provisions require producers to follow an approved conservation system on all highly erodible land planted to an annual crop as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Be sure to have determinations made on any new land you plan to plant to annual crops. If you plan to plant a different crop on your current cropland, check with NRCS to assure the new crop will qualify under your conservation system.

Swampbuster provisions state that converting a wetland to make possible the planting of a crop will result in the loss of all USDA benefits. To avoid this possibility it is strongly recommended that producers check with NRCS before starting to work in the fields.

## Record Changes

If you have bought, sold or are renting different land, make sure you report the changes to the Farm Service Agency office as soon as possible after they occur. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or recorded land contract. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and fines if you are participating in our program.

## Wool & Mohair Loans or LDPs

Wool and mohair producers will find applying for commodity loans and loan deficiency payments for the wool, mohair and unshorn pelts a little simpler this year thanks to the Farm Service Agency's new CCC-633 EZ form.



The EZ form will take the place of the older CCC-633 PELT and CCC-709 PELT forms. Page one of the EZ form takes the place of the 709 PELT form and indicates the producer's intention to receive LDP benefits later on. It's important to complete EZ page one before losing beneficial interest in the commodity.

Producers should complete page one of the EZ form as soon as possible for their current crop year wool, mohair and unshorn pelts. After page one is completed, producers can request benefits at any time during the period that loans or LDPs are available, before or after losing beneficial interest.

Grain growers also use the CCC-633 EZ. Once page one is on file, grain producers can complete page two at a later date when they want to apply for an LDP.

The CCC-633 EZ simplifies requests for LDPs

## ***Beginning Farmers & Ranchers***

If you are a farmer or rancher who has been farming for less than 10 years, you may qualify for beginning farmer targeted loan funds with Farm Service Agency.

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.



## ***Youth Loan Projects***

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other youth organizations. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

### **Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:**

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Live in the open country or in a town of less than 10,000 people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office. We'll help prepare and process the application forms and answer any questions you may have about the program. Remember, FSA is an equal opportunity lender

## Darrel's Comments

Thank you to all the producers who were patient with me and the local staff during the Emergency Conservation Program for Ice Damage! The Emergency programs create a lot of additional workload but not a lot of additional staff. We made every effort to service producers as quickly and efficiently as possible. I know this is not a perfect program, but I'm glad some assistance could be provided to area producers. We are processing payments and completing completion inspections as producers turn in there tickets and related paperwork. Again thank you for your understanding.

It is my understanding Congress has passed a disaster relieve package for 2005 and or 2006 drought. This is not available yet. I do not know any details. There is frequently a time lag between bill passage and program availability due to the time necessary to write regulations. If our counties are approved for disaster assistance, we will send out another newsletter.

| Dates to Remember |  |
|-------------------|--|
| June 31           | Last day to report small grains                |
| July 31           | Last Day to report all other crops             |
| August 3          | DCP sign up ends                               |
| Sept. 30          | ECP Ice work complete and turn in tickets etc. |
|                   |  |
|                   |  |
|                   |  |
|                   |  |

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program 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, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.