



September 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
2nd Thursday at 9:00 a.m.

Staff
Darrel McCann
County Director
Program Technicians
Ava Baker
Pam Akers

SIGN-UP DATES FOR NEW LIVESTOCK AND CROP DISASTER PROGRAMS

Sign-up dates for the new Livestock Compensation Program, Livestock Indemnity Program and Crop Disaster Program have been announced. Eligible ranchers and other livestock producers can apply to receive benefits under the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) starting September 10, 2007. Eligible farmers can sign-up for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) beginning October 15, 2007, if they suffered quantity losses to their crops. USDA will announce and conduct CDP sign-up for quality losses as soon as possible.

LCP compensates livestock producers for feed losses or and LIP for livestock losses occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, 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. All counties in Missouri are eligible for all 3 years (2005, 2006, and 2007).

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters 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. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to 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% to be eligible for CDP. Contact the

county office for details. Crop Disaster rules are not final at this time.

Livestock Compensation Program Applicants need to call for appointment. Appointments are required. See left column for numbers.

Livestock producer will need to provide the following information: Livestock numbers as of 1-1-2005 and 1-1-2006 in the categories listed below. Camden County producers need the amount of payment received under the 2005 Livestock Grant Program administered by the State Department of Agriculture. We will print maps for producers to designate grazed acres. Please read the article on record changes.

- Beef adult cows and bulls
- Beef non-adult 500# + but not adult
- Dairy adult cows and bulls
- Dairy 500# + but not adult
- Buffalo/beefalo same as beef
- Sheep all
- Goats all
- Swine <45#

- 45-124#
- 125-234#
- Sows 235# +
- Boars 235# +

Other livestock may qualify but space limits what I can print. Bring those numbers with you to the office.

For Livestock Indemnity Program producers will need certifications of livestock deaths due to the disaster. If evidence of loss is not available a third party certification is required. Other compensation such as insurance will be a factor in the payment. If you had death losses of livestock due to a disaster between 1-1-05 and 2-28-2007, contact the office for more information.

County Committee Elections

Nominations for the county committee election were due in the county office by August 1, 2007. The next step in the election process is the mailing out of the ballots, which will begin on November 2, 2007. Voters have until December 3, 2007, to return their properly completed ballots to the county office. Elected committee members and alternates take office on Jan. 1, 2008.

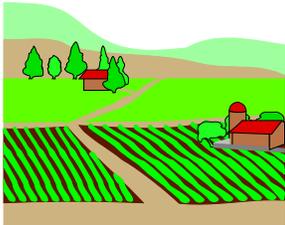
The nominees for Laclede County are Todd W. Lowrance and Warren C. Hoffman.

Pulaski will elect a COC member next year and Camden the following year...

Prospective Voter Requirements - Anyone who meets the requirements in either, 1 or 2, as well as Item 3, is eligible to vote for county committee members.

1. Voter is of legal voting age and participates or cooperates in any FSA program, or
2. The voter is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.
3. The voter must also be eligible to participate in any FSA program provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

Discrimination Prohibited - No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion,



MILCX Extended

On May 25, 2007, the President signed the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act of 2007 (2007 Act) into law. The 2007 Act provides, among other things, allows the continuation of MILCX program benefits through September 30, 2007.

The Farm Service Agency's Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC) compensates dairy producers when domestic milk prices fall below a specified level, and the extended program period is called MILCX.

Eligible dairy producers are those who, beginning Dec. 1, 2001, through Sept. 30, 2007: Commercially produce and market cow milk in the United States; or produce milk in the United States and commercially market the milk outside the United States.

MILCX participants with an existing CCC-580X, who want to change the production start month for the dairy operation from a

selected month to September 2007, will use CCC-580M to make that change, according to MILCX production start month change provisions.

The minor programmatic change required by the May legislation will **not** require another signup. The price shortfall percentage for the payment calculation increased from 0 to 34 percent, which makes the Sept. 2007 payment calculation consistent for all other months in FY06 and FY07. MILCX payments to program participants with an approved CCC-580X will continue from the designated production start month selected by the dairy operator, and run through September 30, 2007. All other program provisions remain the same.

NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

Producers who already have coverage on 2007 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2008, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops. The minor programmatic change required by the May legislation will **not** require another signup. The price shortfall percentage for the payment calculation increased from 0 to 34 percent, which makes the Sept. 2007 payment calculation consistent for all other months in FY06 and FY07. MILCX payments to program participants with an approved CCC-580X will continue from the designated production start month selected by the dairy operator, and run through September 30, 2007. All other program provisions remain the same.

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.

Payment Limitations

USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. Documents and forms to determine eligibility and limitation once completed are reviewed on an annual basis.

It is the producer's responsibility to report changes in the farming operation that may affect payment eligibility and payment limitation.

The following limitations apply to Direct and Counter-cyclical Program payments for each contract year. For all covered commodities (except peanuts): \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program has a \$450,000 payment limitation.

The Conservation Reserve Program annual limit is \$50,000 per person.

Entities such as corporations, limited partnerships, trusts and estates are required to provide names, addresses, and ID numbers of their members. These entities should also identify every payment under more than one entity.

Adjusted Gross Income - Effective through 2007, an individual or entity shall not be eligible for certain program benefits during a crop, program or fiscal year if both of the following apply.

- The three-year average of the adjusted gross income for the individual or entity exceeds \$2.5 million; and
- Less than 75 percent of the average AGI is derived from farming, ranching or forestry operations.



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.

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.

Sign-up now for EQIP

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has set a sign-up deadline of October 5, 2007 for landowners to sign-up for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) to be eligible for the next round of funding.

The EQIP program provides program payment funds to assist producers in implementing conservation practices on their farms. Some of the practices that can receive program payments include fencing, wells, pipelines, watering facilities, wildlife habitat improvement, and animal waste storage structures. Incentive payments for up to three years for such practices as excluding cattle from woodlands and streams, upland wildlife habitat management and rotational grazing are also available. New this year are some forest stand improvement practices and incentives for improving forest land damaged by severe insect, disease, storm and or wildfire.

Producers interested in this program or wanting additional information on this program are encouraged to contact the Service Center, 1242 Deadra Drive Natural Resources Conservation Service office at 417-532-6305 (EXT. 3), or visit us at the USDA, Lebanon, Missouri.

Darrel's Comments

Livestock Compensation Program is the big news. We are scheduling appointments to avoid producers having to wait in line for hours. Deadlines to apply have not been announced. I recommend scheduling your appointment and we will try to serve the public to the best of our ability. Normally if appointments are made we can sign you even beyond the deadline. Don't forget that Sept. 30, is the deadline to complete ECP ice storm cleanup. If you are going to turn in ECP forms at the same time as signing up for LCP please inform us of this when you make your appointment so we can allow adequate time.

A familiar face will again be in the FSA office. June Burton will be returning as a Program Technician. Welcome back June!!

Dates to Remember	
Sept. 10	Livestock Programs Starts
Sept. 30	ECP Ice work complete and turn in tickets etc.
Oct. 8	Closed for Columbus Day

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