

January 2008

# Linn County News



Linn County  
USDA Service Center

**Linn County FSA**  
121 Pershing Road  
Brookfield, Mo. 64628  
660-258-7265 (phone)  
660-3257x (fax)  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/mo](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo)

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

**County Committee**  
Vicky Ervie  
James Pfeiff  
Lee Jaynes

County Committee meets  
01/11/2008

**Staff**  
Susan McLain  
Patricia Lambert  
Roberta Kehr  
Colin Smith  
Greg Smith

## County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to James Pfeiff, he was re-elected to represent farmers from Baker, Benton, Grantsville, Enterprise, North Salem, and Locust Creek Townships on the county committee. Pfeiff was elected to his 2nd consecutive term. The election results for Local Administrative Area #2 are:

James Pfeiff — Elected to the county committee (COC),  
Cheryl Johnson — 1<sup>st</sup> alternate to COC,  
George Almond — 2<sup>nd</sup> alternate to 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.

## LDP Deadline on Wool, Mohair and Unshorn 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 wool or unshorn pelts
- owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of shearing or slaughter
- sold the unshorn lambs for immediate slaughter or slaughtered the lamb for personal use
- comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in.



## USDA Issues Disaster Payments For Crop, Livestock And Feed Losses

Recently, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) began issuing payments to tens of thousands of farmers and ranchers across the country who suffered losses because of natural disasters.

USDA is currently processing about \$1 billion in payments under the Crop Disaster Program, Livestock Compensation Program and Livestock Indemnity Program. Sign-up for these programs is ongoing. The programs provide payments to agricultural producers who suffered crop, livestock and feed losses in 2005, 2006, and 2007. But, producers must choose one year for which to receive payments.

Farmers and ranchers can apply to receive benefits through these and other disaster programs by visiting their local FSA service center. Find more information about FSA disaster programs online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

## Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) programs in which either has an interest. In most cases, this option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

## Dairy Disaster Assistance Program Sign-up Continues

Eligible dairy producers can still 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.

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: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov> or to apply for the program, contact your local FSA Service Center.

### **Financial Inquiries**

As we begin the new year its time to start thinking about gathering financial records and filling out a 1040. Currently, producer financial information is not available on the USDA Customer Statement under FSA Benefits Summary. Producers can view his or her financial information on the Financial Inquiries website using their-Level 2 account authorization. Producers who want to inquire about a particular electronic deposit, program payment, debt or 1099G should go to [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) and select Online Services, then Financial Inquiries for FSA Producers.

### **Ownership Changes**

If you have purchased land—Please remember to bring a copy of the recorded deed to this office so we can have you listed as the owner. The sooner

the better, since it does take some time to update ownership changes.

### **Acreage Reporting**

Remember to report CRP, and all land uses. It is not too early to report CRP, wheat, or fall seeded barley NOW. Every one that has CRP must report those acres every year.

### **Big change for haying or grazing CRP**

Beginning in 2008 haying or grazing must be completed by September 30. As always haying or grazing must be requested and approved in advance. Completion must be reported to this office also.

### **CRP**

Remember CRP land may not be disturbed during the nesting season of May 1 through July 15. Also remember to complete any required mid contract management practices, and report that completion to this office.

### **Controlled Substance**

Any person who is convicted under federal law of planting, producing, cultivating, harvesting, growing, or storing a controlled substance will be ineligible to participate and receive payments under USDA programs. Marijuana, opium poppies, and other drug producing plants are controlled substances.

### **County Committee Minority Advisors**

FSA County Committee (COC) Advisors are a valued voice for under represented groups and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. County committee members and their county executive directors, actively reach out to producer groups who are under-represented on county committees.

Eligibility requirements for COC advisor nominee include:

- be actively participating in farming or ranching in the county or area;
- be willing and able to serve as an advisor, if appointed; and
- indicate in writing their willingness and ability to serve.



Duties and Responsibilities of COC Advisors include:

- attending each COC meeting, including executive sessions;
  - participating in all deliberations;
  - increasing awareness of and participation in FSA activities, including elections, by eligible voters to ensure that socially disadvantaged group problems and viewpoints are understood and considered in FSA actions;
  - helping to develop interest and incentives in socially disadvantaged group members for considering FSA work as a career;
  - actively soliciting candidates from socially disadvantaged groups for nomination during the election process; and
  - able to perform special duties at COC s request.
- Note: Advisors do not have authority to sign documents.



Interested individuals should submit a written letter that outlines their abilities and qualifications, as well as their willingness to serve, postmarked by Feb. 10, 2008. The Linn County Committee will review these submissions and recommend a minority advisor to the Missouri FSA State Committee. The Missouri FSA State Committee will appoint the minority advisor, whose term will begin March 1st, 2008. County Committee advisors serve for a 12-month period not to exceed 9 consecutive years.

Interested individuals should mail their letters to the Linn County Farm Service Agency, 121 Pershing Rd., Brookfield, Missouri, 64628. If you have any questions regarding this position, please contact Greg Smith, County Executive Director at 660-258-7265, or by email at: [greg.smith@mo.usda.gov](mailto:greg.smith@mo.usda.gov).

## Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Selected Interest Rates for January 2008	
90-Day Treasury Bill	3.625%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	4.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.125%
Limited Resource Loans	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans Beginning Farmer Down Payment	4.000%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.625%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	4.250%

## Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the County Executive Director of their local Farm Service Agency office.

## Power of Attorney

We have a power of attorney form available for those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. This can be done by completing an FSA-211, Power of Attorney. The form is available at your local USDA Service Center or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>.

Forms obtained and completed outside the USDA Service Centers offices must be notarized. To find out more, call the office.

## Faxed Signatures

Certain faxed signatures shall be accepted for all applicable program forms or other documents approved for faxed signatures, if all other signature requirements are met.



## Loans for Socially Disadvantaged

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.

## Applications for FSA Loans

Farmers and ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Filing early will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible so that planting decisions can be made. Failure to apply early can result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications that must be processed in date order. Contact your local FSA Loan Approval Official for more details and assistance in applying.

Dates to Remember	
Jan. 21	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. <b>FSA Offices Closed.</b>
Jan. 31	<b>Deadline</b> on 2007 LDPs for wool, mohair and unshorn lamb pelts.
Feb. 18	President's Day Holiday. <b>FSA Offices Closed.</b>
Mar. 15	Deadline to obtain 2008 NAP coverage on spring planted crops.
Mar. 31	Final Availability for 2007 crop wheat, barley, oats, honey loans and LDPs.

Visit our website at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/mo](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo)

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