



February 2008

Livingston FSA Office News

Livingston County USDA Service Center

Livingston County FSA

1100 Morton Parkway
Chillicothe, MO 64601
660 646 6220 (phone)
660 646 4894 (fax)

Hours

Monday - Friday
7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
The office will be closed
on all Federal holidays.

County Committee

David Williams
Mary Smith
Ben Beetsma

County Committee meets
the third Thursday each
month at 1:00 p.m.

Staff

Program Technicians
Dianna Sewell
Anissa Klingensmith
Jeannette Straker
Diana Briscoe

County Executive Director
David Meneely

Farm Loan Manager
John McKinny

Farm Loan Officer
Gary Elrod

Farm Bill Status - Still Delayed

The U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate have passed their own versions of a farm bill. Both the House and Senate versions are subject to a threatened Presidential veto. A conference committee is working on compromises that could be acceptable to all sides.

Current authorities under the 2002 farm bill expire on March 15, 2008. Absent a new bill by that time or another extension of the current legislation, permanent farm program legislation from 1949 will again become active.

Program provisions and signup dates, under any approved farm bill authority, will be provided through this newsletter as soon as they become available.

USDA Issuing Disaster Payments For Crop, Livestock and Feed Losses

USDA is currently processing payments under the Crop Disaster Program, Livestock Compensation Program and Livestock Indemnity Program. Sign-up is ongoing for these programs. The programs provide payments to agricultural producers who suffered crop or livestock and feed losses in 2005, 2006, and 2007. Producers can apply for all years, but will only receive payment on the year with the largest payment per program. Producers must have carried crop insurance or NAP coverage to be eligible for the Crop Disaster Program and **all 2007 crops are now eligible.**

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

2007 Now Eligible Year for Livestock Program

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) has now been extended to include the year 2007. To apply for 2007, Livingston County producers need to provide the FSA Office with an inventory of their livestock numbers as of 4-1-07. Any livestock sold prior to 5-1-07 will need to be reported to the office as well. For years 2005 and 2006, producers must inventory their livestock numbers as of January 1st of the respective years and report any sales made prior to May 1st of those years. As noted previously, producers can apply for all years, but will only receive payment on the year with the largest payment (this is normally the year that you had the largest number of livestock).

The following groups of livestock are eligible for LCP as long as they have been produced for commercial purposes as a part of the farming operation:
Adult beef cows or bulls
Non-adult beef cattle, 500 lbs. or more,
Adult dairy cows or bulls,
Non-adult dairy cattle, 500 lbs. or more,
And goats, sheep, swine, elk, deer, and equine (confinement operations are not eligible).

There is no sign-up deadline, yet.

County Committee Election Results

Voters in Blue Mound, Green, Monroe, and Mooresville townships (Local Administrative Area #3) elected Ben Beetsma to a three year term on the County FSA Committee based upon the balloting in December. The success of the committee system depends on the continued participation of producers in the annual election process. Congratulations to Ben and thanks to all the voters who completed and returned their ballots.



2008 Livingston County FSA Committee

From left to right, Ben Beetsma, representing LAA #2; David Williams, Chairperson, representing LAA #3; and Mary Smith, Vice Chairperson, representing LAA #1.

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. This also includes reporting title changes from an individual to a revocable (or irrevocable) trust. Program eligibility depends on accurate farm records.

Acreage Reporting

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

Big change for haying or grazing CRP

Beginning in 2008 managed haying or grazing

of CRP 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.

NAP Application Deadline

March 15 is the deadline date for producers to apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, or NAP coverage. NAP is available for crops for which crop insurance is not available like double crop soybeans, oats, hay, and pasture. This program resembles crop insurance since it was designed to reduce financial losses resulting from weather related crop disasters. A loss of 50% must be experienced before a payment will be eligible. The application and service fee must be filed by the applicable closing date for each of the 2008 spring seeded NAP crops. To remain eligible for NAP, a producer must annually report the crop, including: type, variety, location, producer shares, date planted, and the intended use (fresh, processed, etc.). Once the crop is harvested the production must also be reported.

The application 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.

In the event of a crop failure caused by natural disaster, the producer needs to notify the local FSA office by completing a “Notice of Loss” (form CCC-576). The notice of loss must be executed within 15 days of the date the damage became apparent.



Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)

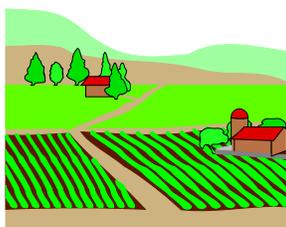
Do you need more storage capacity for your farming operation? Check with your local FSA office to discuss the possibility of a Farm Storage Facility Loan. Now is the time to start planning to have the storage facility of your choice ready for next fall's harvest, and an excellent time to take advantage of many suppliers' pre-season discounts. Low cost loans for storage facilities continue to be available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities.

The seven-year FSFL's are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional type cribs or bins, buildings specially designed for the storage of grain and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.

All FSFL's are secured with 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. Interest rates for February are 3.5%. Contact your local FSA office for complete details concerning the Farm Storage and Facility Loan program.

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA County office staff if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.



Celebrating Service

County Committee member, Paul H. Jones reached the current term limit of three consecutive three-year terms at the end of December, 2007. He represented Local Administrative Area #3 consisting of Blue Mound, Green, Monroe, and Mooresville townships.



Livingston County FSA Committee member, Paul H. Jones (right, above) is presented with a certificate in honor of his 41 years of County and Community FSA Committee service by County Executive Director, David Meneely.

Thanks Paul, for your many years of dedicated service to Livingston County producers!

Website for Digital Imagery

Landowners who have access to the internet may find the following site of interest. Producers can access 2007 digital imagery for their land by using the map room link at <http://www.cares.missouri.edu/index.asp>

There will be no field boundaries present, but distance and area measurement is possible online. Producers can also access topographical maps, floodplain maps.

Official FSA photo maps of your farm based upon 2007 imagery are available in electronic and printed format through your local office.

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 safe and abundant food, fuel and fiber



USDA Farm Service Agency
 Honoring America's Farmers and Ranchers

February interest rate for facility loans is 3.5% and the rate for commodity loans is 4.125%



If you are considering a new grain bin, ask about a Farm Storage Facility Loan!

Dates to Remember	
Feb. 18	President's Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Mar. 15	Deadline to obtain 2008 NAP coverage on spring crops.
Mar. 31	Final Availability for 2007 crop wheat, barley, oats, honey loans and LDPs.
Continues	Livestock Disaster signup
Continues	Crop Disaster signup
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous CRP Signup

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