



March 2007

Farm Service Agency

# 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  
Paul H. Jones  
Mary Smith

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

**Staff**  
Program Technicians  
Dianna Sewell  
Anissa Klinginsmith  
Jeannette Straker

County Executive Director  
David Meneely

Farm Loan Manager  
John McKinny

Farm Loan Officer  
Gary Elrod

## Acreage Reporting

Acreage reporting time will soon be here. Please remember that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by the June 30th deadline on small grains and a July 15th deadline on all other crops.

Acreage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of June 30th for small grains and July 15th for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

## Continuous CRP Available

There will be no general signups scheduled for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in 2007 or 2008. The President's FY 2008 Budget assumed no available funding for CRP general signups.

However, environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) or Continuous CRP will still be eligible for

enrollment. These targeted programs will remain funded, and continue to provide a heightened environmental benefit on select areas.

## No 2<sup>nd</sup> Advance CC Payments for 2006 Grains & Oilseeds

Based on supply/demand and price projections from USDA's World Agriculture Supply and Demand Estimates, producers of crops **other than** cotton and peanuts, will not receive a second partial counter-cyclical payment. When effective commodity price projections are equal to or more than their respective target prices; the commodities do **not** qualify for counter-cyclical payments.

Overpayments to producers can be repaid to USDA, or the computer system will automatically deduct any unearned amount from a producer's future payments.

## Flexible or Cash Lease

Producers should be careful to differentiate between flexible leases and cash leases when reporting to the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Flexible leases, in which the producer pays a base rent, and offers a bonus on yield and/or price increase to a landowner, are considered by FSA as share leases. Cash leases specifying a fixed amount, not subject to changes from yield or price are common and the norm across the country. Flexible or hybrid leases are now coming to the attention of FSA.

---

Each year FSA participants complete form CCC-502 Continuation Sheet for Leased or Owned Land which are subject to spot check. Paying more than what the original lease specifies may violate a producer's CCC-502, if not completed correctly. A violation could make an operator ineligible for Loan Deficiency Payments, commodity loans, Direct Counter-cyclical Payments, or crop insurance.

Example: A lease that is for \$100 acre plus an additional \$40 per acre if the crop exceeds \$4/bushel or 170 bushels corn/acre or \$7/bushel or 40 bushels of soybeans per acre is by FSA procedure a share lease. FSA procedure states that, a lease is a share lease if the lease sets the amount of rent on the quantity of crop produced or the proceeds from the crop, or the interest a producer would have if the crop had been produced.

## Toll-Free Number

Direct loan borrowers with USDA's Farm Service Agency can now check the status of their accounts around the clock using a new toll-free telephone number.

The toll-free number, 1-888-518-4983, is available in both English and Spanish. The system delivers information on active FSA loans 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

During the first call to the new system, borrowers will enter their tax identification number or the Social Security Number associated with the loan. They also will need to enter their ZIP code. Borrowers will create a personal identification number for security. Customers must enter their PIN every time they use the system and may change their PIN. The system menu helps users access helpful information. The system may also direct borrowers to contact their local FSA servicing office if action is necessary on their accounts.

## 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. By signing the first page of the EZ form, the producer indicates his or her intentions to receive LDP benefits. This one page covers all counties and all eligible harvested commodities for the entire crop year for the individual, joint operation or entity identified on the form.

Once the first page of the form has been signed and submitted, the producer can submit an LDP request by completing page 2 for all harvested commodities, except cotton; page 3 for cotton; or page 4 for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts. The LDP request can be submitted at any time during the loan availability period, before or after losing beneficial interest.

A key point to remember is that page 1 of the EZ form must be signed by the producer before beneficial interest in the commodity is lost. Once beneficial interest is lost the commodity is ineligible for an LDP even if beneficial interest is regained.

All producers are encouraged to submit page 1 of the EZ for each crop year whether or not they plan to subsequently request a loan or LDP.

## Crop Insurance Fraud

FSA will be monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse in crop insurance to the Risk Management Agency. Producers should refer

all suspected cases to their local office. Stopping waste and abuse is everyone's responsibility.

## Choose An Administrative County

Until recently, there was limited opportunity to move FSA farm records to another County Office. Now a change in administrative county for a farm may be permitted if it is significantly more convenient for the land owner or operator to do business in another county. The county must be an adjoining (contiguous) county to where the farm is physically located. Changing an administrative County Office because of convenience is a one time selection (for the current operator) and can not be used to evade program rules.

A farm transfer can be initiated by the farm's operator or owner(s) or the receiving or transferring county committee. All owners and the operator must sign a form FSA-179, TRANSFER OF FARM RECORDS BETWEEN COUNTIES. Any DCP advance payments issued for 2007 would have to be refunded in the transferring county before the farm could be transferred.

Selected Interest Rates for March 2007	
90-Day Treasury Bill	5.000%
Farm Operating - Direct	5.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.375%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4.000%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility	4.750%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	6.125%

## Annual Notice to Producers

The insert page contains information that is made available annually to producers.

## Livingston County 2007 DCP Signup

3/15/2007	Numbers of Farms	Percentages
Initiated but not enrolled (not all signatures)	124	10.26%
Enrolled but not approved	17	1.41%
Cancelled	6	0.50%
Approved	407	33.66%
Base > 0 but no contract yet.	655	54.18%
Total	1209	

The signup deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup> and a \$100 per farm late file penalty applies after that date!

## Livingston County Crops Reported for 2006

Grain sorghum	4,396 ac.
Wheat	12,087 ac.
Corn	21,543 ac.
Mixed forages (hay)	37,844 ac
CRP	40,337 ac.
Soybeans	108,725 ac.

## Livingston County 2006 Yields

Grain Soghum	92.6 bu./ac.
Wheat	63.8 bu./ac.
Corn	144.0 bu./ac
Soybeans	40.0 bu./ac.

# Financial FACTS

## for agriculture's future

Respond to USDA's Agricultural Resource Management Survey and let the financial facts be known for agriculture's policies and programs.



**NASS**  
 Fact Finders for Agriculture  
 U.S. Department of Agriculture

### Dates to Remember

March 31	Final Date to Apply for 2006-Crop Wheat, Barley, Oats & Honey Loan or LDP
May 31	Deadline to obtain a corn, soybean, or grain sorghum loan
June 1	DCP signup deadline; \$100 late file penalty after 6/1/07
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous CRP Signup

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (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 USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.