



November 2006

# 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

Charles Pfaff  
David Williams  
Paul H. Jones  
Mary Smith, Advisor

County Committee meets  
on 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

## DIRECT & COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

Producers are reminded of the following information regarding the annual direct and counter-cyclical payment program sign-up:

### Farm Specific Crop and Share

**Information:** To participate in DCP, producers are required to **designate shares and sign the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program Contract (CCC-509) on a yearly basis.** The annual DCP sign-up period runs from October 1 to June 1 of the applicable program year. CCC-509 must be submitted by June 1 of the applicable program year. In cases where a farm is reconstituted, all resulting farms will need to enroll (signatures obtained) if the producers intend to participate. CCC-509s with signatures obtained after June 1, but by September 30, will be accepted, but the farm will be assessed a late-filed sign-up fee of \$100. **All supporting documentation, such as CCC-502, AD-1026, FSA-570, and CCC-526, must be submitted before payments can be issued.** We are completing new eligibility documents for all producers this year which may slow down the sign-up process. Appointments are available if producers want to schedule a block of time to complete their forms. Annual acreage reports indicating uses of all cropland on a farm must be filed by the applicable established reporting dates. Acreage reports filed after the applicable final reporting date may be accepted if all requirements are met and a late-filed fee is paid.

**Payment Options:** Payments are calculated by taking 85 percent of the base acre, multiplied by the farm yield, times the applicable payment rate, times the producer

share. Producers may receive an advance of the direct payment, beginning on December 1 of the program year. Final direct payments will be made on or after October 1 following the contract period. Counter-cyclical payments may also be authorized for one or more covered commodities, depending on the projected and actual market prices. Producers may elect to receive up to two counter-cyclical payments per year: (1) the first partial payment, if any, is available in October of the calendar year in which the crop is harvested, and cannot exceed 40 percent of the total projected payment; (2) final payments, if any, are made after the end of the marketing year for the crop. Producers who do not elect to take the first advance payments will receive the entire counter-cyclical payment at this time. The amount of a counter-cyclical payment is dependent upon the average of the actual prices received by farmers during the marketing year, and it is possible they would need to be refunded.

### Planting Fruits and Vegetables or Wild

**Rice:** Planting fruits, vegetables, or wild rice on base acres may adversely affect your program benefits. Please contact your local county FSA office before you plant or lease land for production of fruits, including nut trees, vegetables or wild rice, to discuss acreage reporting requirements, prevention of possible violation of program provisions, payment reductions, and severe penalties. In Missouri, the following counties are considered double-crop counties for fruits and vegetables purposes: Barton, Butler, Cape Girardeau, Dade, Dunklin, Jasper, Lawrence, Mississippi, New Madrid, Newton, Ripley, Scott, and Stoddard.

**Changes in Farming Operation:** Failure to notify FSA of changes in your farming operation may adversely impact your eligibility for USDA benefits. You should

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also be aware of Highly Erodible Land Conservation, Wetland Conservation, Payment Eligibility, and Payment Limitation provisions, which impact your eligibility for DCP payments. Changes to your farming operation may include, but are not limited to, a change in the structure of your farming operation or changes in your rental agreement. Any change to your farming operation must be reported to FSA when the change occurs, but **no later than September 30**, of the program year. Failure to timely report changes may result in ineligibility for DCP benefits. Further information on DCP and other FSA programs are available at local FSA offices or on FSA's website at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

## Voting for County Committee Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election were mailed to eligible voters on November 3, 2006. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 4, 2006. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 4.

**Voter Requirements** Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, are eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following:  
an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, *or*  
a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper; *or*
2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; *and*
3. Eligible to participate in any FSA program that is 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, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

## Farm Reconstitutions

In program terminology, farms are *constituted* to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

**Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

**Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

**DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

**Default Method** — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

If DCP direct payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded.

## Changing Financial Institutions

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been determined that the chance of having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit. Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours. To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

## Continuous CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is a private lands environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources. The Continuous CRP program is a voluntary enrollment program. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment.

To be eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year. For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments or local Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) availability,

please contact your local FSA office or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/crpscont03.htm>.

## Selling Land

If you're planning to sell farmland, there may be some program consequences you should be aware of. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't want to continue the CRP contract, you might have to refund all of the payments you've received to date.

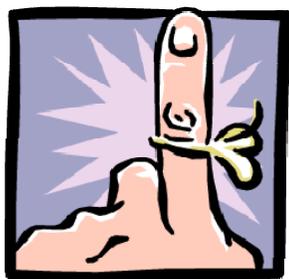
Reviewing program implications with your local Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.

## Acreage Spot Check Determinations and Notification

Each year the Farm Service Agency completes spot checks of acreage reports. Acreage reports are the basis for delivery of many farm programs. Acreage spot checks are completed to ensure accurate acreage reports are used for farm programs. FSA will spot check acreages on over 10 percent of the farms in each county. Color imagery flown in August 2006 will be used to complete all acreage determinations. All 2006 acreage spot checks will be completed using the FSA Geographic Information System official acreages. After farms are spot checked, a Notice of Determined Acreage will be sent to the farm operator. Producer notifications will be issued by FSA as spot checks are completed. Questions concerning determined acres should be directed to your local FSA office for clarification.

## Farm Storage Facility Loans

The seven year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment or remodeling



*Program  
Reminders*

existing facilities.

All farm storage facility loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required. For details, contact your local FSA Office.

Dates to Remember	
Nov. 3	County committee ballots mailed to voters
Nov. 10	Veteran's Day Holiday
Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec. 4	Last day to return county committee election ballots
Dec. 25	Christmas Holiday
Continues	MILC Program
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans

### Website for Digital Imagery

Landowners who have access to the internet may find the following site of interest. Producers can access 2004 digital imagery for their land by using the map room link at

<http://www.cares.missouri.edu/index.asp>

There will be no line work on the fields, but it is a good source of current photography. Producers can also access



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.