



November 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  
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

## Waiting on a Farm Bill

Authority to hold an annual signup for the Direct and Countercyclical Program (DCP) expired with the old farm bill on September 30, 2007. The U.S. House of Representatives passed their version of a new farm bill in July and the U.S. Senate is currently considering their version. The remaining steps to implementation are passage of a farm bill in the Senate, agreement and passage of a conference version between the House and Senate, signature by the President, and publication of new rules in the Federal Register. Looking at that timeline, a signup before early spring is unlikely. However, program provisions and signup dates will be provided through this newsletter as soon as they become available.

## Livestock Disaster Programs

The new Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) signup is going on now. No ending date has been set for signup and payments will be authorized after rules are published in the Federal Register.

Eligible ranchers and other livestock producers can apply to receive LCP compensation for feed losses or LIP for livestock losses occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, due to a natural disaster. Check with the county office for details.

Producers will need to know how many head of livestock they had on Jan. 1, 2005 or 2006. They will also need to know the date of sale for any livestock during those years in order to complete the application.

## Crop Disaster Program Signup

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops. **CDP signup** is going on now!

Losses from natural disasters may qualify for financial assistance 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. Participants may apply for loss benefits on 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 percent to be eligible for CDP. For more information contact the Farm Service Agency office.

## FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- ❖ A married woman shall sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, not Mrs. John Doe
- ❖ For a minor, FSA requires the minor's signature and one from an eligible parent (Note, by signing the applicable document, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for

- refunds, liquidated damages, etc.)
- ❖ When signing on one's behalf the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form, or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. Example - John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc.
  - ❖ FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the acceptable program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information.
  - ❖ Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
  - ❖ Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities
  - ❖ All members of a general partnership must sign for the general partnership unless an individual is authorized to act on the behalf of the general partnership and bind all members
  - ❖ Spouses may sign on behalf of each other's individual interest in a partnership, unless notification denying a spouse that authority is provided to the county office
  - ❖ Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts shall consist of an indicator "by" or "for" the individual's name, individual's name and capacity, or individual's name, capacity, and name of entity

For additional clarification on proper signatures and FAXED forms contact your local FSA office.



## 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.

Only voters in Blue Mound, Green, Monroe, and Mooresville townships will be electing a committee member this year. .

## Commodity Loans Available

Producers are reminded of the Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) program.

To be eligible for MAL, producers must comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements; report how you use cropland acreage on the farm; and ensure that the commodity meets CCC minimum grade and yield standards. Producers must also meet other payment limitation criteria. Keep in mind the following information when requesting a loan:

- Producers must have beneficial interest in the commodity on the date the loan is requested and they must retain beneficial interest while the loan is outstanding. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity, responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity, and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan – even if beneficial interest is regained.
- For commodities to be eligible for loans, they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence, in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other use as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained

throughout the term of the loan.

- Interest rates for loans vary monthly and are based on the month of approval.
- The loan term is nine months and there is no penalty for early payoff. A market repayment rate will be used when available, if less than principal plus interest. The market gain associated with repayment of the CCC loan, whether repaid with cash or a commodity certificate, will be reported on an IRS Form 1099G. The total of market gain and LDP's is limited to \$75,000 per person.

Violating provisions of the loan and LDP program may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm stored loans and LDP's. The most common loan violations are removal or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing incorrect quantity certifications.

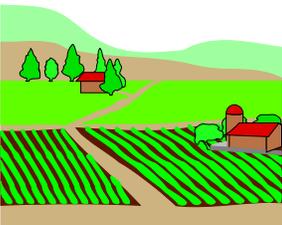
Contact the office for complete MAL details.

## **FSA Farm Loans Available For Beginning Farmers or Ranchers**

Beginning farmers or ranchers can get direct farm ownership loans by using funds set aside especially for them by the Farm Service Agency. These loans finance up to 100 percent of the land's purchase price (up to the \$200,000 loan limit), and the term of the loan can be up to 40 years. The interest rate can be 5.5 percent, or the "limited resource" rate of 5.00 percent.

The direct farm ownership loan funds may also be used in joint financing where FSA lends up to 50 percent of the amount financed and another lender provides 50 percent or more. FSA may charge an interest rate of not less than 4 percent with terms up to 40 years.

Beginning farmer applicants must have been farming for at least three years and not more than ten. Applicants cannot own real estate that exceeds 30 percent of the average farm size for the county.



## **Youth Loan Projects**

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other youth organizations. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Live in the open country or in a town of less than 10,000 people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing the application forms. The FSA staff will be happy to answer your questions. FSA is an equal opportunity lender.

## Farm Ownership and Record Changes

Producers are required to notify the office of any changes in their farming operation. The following are examples of the types of changes producers should report:

- Farm ownership changes (this includes transferring your land into a trust).
- Changes in entity structure.
- Changes in entity members.
- Operator changes.
- Changes in land use.

Failure to disclose this information could result in the loss of payment benefits

### Dates to Remember

Nov. 2	County Committee Election Ballots Mailed to Voters
Nov. 12	Veterans Day Holiday
Nov. 22	Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Dec. 3	Last day to return County Committee Election Ballots
Dec. 25	Christmas Day Holiday
Continues	Livestock Disaster signup
Continues	Crop Disaster signup
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.