



May 2007

Clinton County News

Clinton County FSA
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Plattsburg, MO 64477

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(816) 539-2136
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Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Mary Ann Barmann
Jerald Grimes
George Silvius

The COC meets the first
Thursday of each month at
9:00 a.m.

STAFF
Chris Broderick, PT
Peggy Rapp, PT
Norma Stransky, PT

Kent Allen, CED

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Annual DCP Enrollment Period Extended

The deadline to enroll in the yearly Direct and Counter Cyclical Program without a penalty has been extended from June 1 to August 3, 2007. Contracts enrolled after August 3 but before September 30, 2007 will be charged a \$100 per farm late filing fee. All supporting documentation, such as CCC-502, AD-1026, and CCC-526, must be submitted before payments can be issued. Annual acreage reports indicating uses of all cropland on a farm must be filed by the applicable established reporting dates. Producers may receive an advance of the direct payment, beginning December 1 of the program year. The rate for the advanced direct payment has been reduced to 22 percent for the 2007 contract year. Final direct payments will be made after October 1, 2007 for the remaining 78 percent. Please call the office to make an appointment to enroll for the 2007 DCP. FSA county offices around the nation have come under much scrutiny pertaining to eligibility forms, farm corporation documents, trust agreements, articles of partnership, powers-of attorney, limited liability company agreements, etc. In due response, FSA is in the process of assuring that all producer's program files are up to date. This in turn will take more time to accomplish, which is why appointments are crucial.

Please call 816-539-2136, ext 2 to schedule your appointment to sign up for DCP and to report your planted acres.

Crop Reporting Deadlines

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments. Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments.

Please call 816-539-2136, ext 2 to schedule your appointment to file your acreage report. Scheduling an appointment allows us to prepare your farm records prior to your arrival and greatly reduces your time spent in the office.

Participating producers are required to file reports by June 30 for fall and spring-seeded small grains and July 31 for all other crops. Prevented planting needs be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date for the crop.

Failed Wheat Reports
Producers who destroyed their failed wheat and planted a subsequent crop have until June 30 to report the failed wheat in order to receive planted history credit.

Failed Acreage of Spring Planted Crops:
Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.



2007 COC Election Information

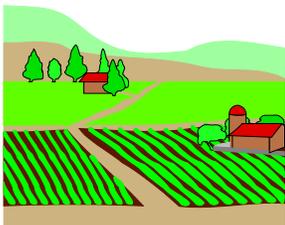
Please Remember the following very important deadlines:

June 30 is the deadline to timely report fall and spring seeded small grains and failed wheat.

July 31 is the deadline to timely report pasture, hay ground, CRP, and all other row crops.

August 3 is the deadline to timely signup for DCP. If late filed from August 4 through September 30 a late filing fee of \$100 per farm will be charged. After September 30 no DCP applications can be approved.

Please call 816-539-2136, ext 2 to schedule your appointment to sign up for DCP and to file your acreage report.



One of FSA's responsibilities is to conduct County Committee elections in an open manner that ensures accountability. FSA is reaching out to agricultural communities to get equitable representation on their county committees.

Groups representing socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, will be actively solicited for COC election candidates, and encouraged to fill out a nomination form (**FSA-669A**). Under represented farmers and ranchers are encouraged to step up and participate in their county's COC election process. **The nomination period opens June 15 and runs through August 1.** COC election fact sheets can be found online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under the News & Events tab on the FSA homepage.

Maintaining CRP Cover

CRP cover maintenance is the participant's responsibility and must be done according to the conservation plan. All CRP maintenance activity, such as mowing, burning and spraying, must be conducted outside the primary nesting season for wildlife and in accordance with the conservation plan. Spot treatment of the acreage may be allowed during the primary nesting season if certain criteria are met. The ending date for the primary nesting season in Missouri is July 15.

Maturing CRP Contracts:

CRP participants with expiring contract acres in the final year of the CRP-1, who intend to destroy cover for preparation for spring or fall-seeded crops, need pre-authorization from FSA to avoid penalty. Authorization can only be granted after a completed CRP-1G (Modification to Allow Early Preparation) is filed and approved.

FSA's GIS Mapping

The Farm Service Agency currently utilizes a Geographic Information System (GIS), a computer-based tool for capturing, storing, mapping and analyzing geographic farm data. FSA uses GIS to replace the old manual system of hard copy maps and aerial photographs. This digital technology is faster and more accurate than the old way, and saves taxpayers money over the long term.

Here's how GIS works. Up-to-date aerial photographs of the entire county are scanned so they can be stored in the computer. The photos become the base layer of the GIS. Technicians examine the photos and identify individual farms. They then outline each farm field, creating another layer of data called the Common Land Unit (CLU).

The software stores the shape of the field as a "polygon," and ties it to a specific location using latitude and longitude. The software can then automatically calculate the size of each field. The CLU layer will be connected to a database that contains information about the cropping history for each particular field.

GIS gives us the tools to provide quicker, more accurate information to producers and reduce the amount of time the producer must spend in the FSA office.

Bank Account Changes?

As of Jan. 1, 1999, all Farm Service Agency payments are supposed to be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers.

Farm Loan Programs

Are you interested in discussing the farm loan programs available through FSA?

If so, please contact our FSA Farm Loan Manager, Mike Harwood, at 660-663-3703. Mike administers the farm loan programs for Clinton, Daviess, and DeKalb County. His headquarters office is located in Gallatin, but appointments are available at your local FSA office.



The Farm Service Agency makes direct and guaranteed loans to eligible applicants, enabling them to buy and operate family-size farms and ranches. Direct loans may be made to qualified applicants by FSA for both farm operating and farm ownership purposes. Guaranteed farm loans also may be made for ownership or operating purposes, and may be made by any lending institution subject to Federal or state supervision (banks, savings and loans, and units of the Farm Credit System) and guaranteed by FSA. FSA typically guarantees 90 or 95 percent of a loan against any loss that might be incurred if the loan fails.

Persons who are primarily and directly engaged in farming and ranching on family-size operations may apply. A family-size farm is one that a family can operate and manage itself. Individual applicants under this program must meet all requirements for FSA's farm loan program assistance, including:

- Have a satisfactory history of meeting credit obligations.
- Have sufficient education; training, or at least one-year's experience in managing or operating a farm or ranch within the last five years for a direct operating loan, or, for a direct farm ownership loan, have participated in the business operation of a farm or ranch for three years;
- Be a citizen of the United States (or a legal resident alien), including Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and certain former Pacific Island Trust Territories;
- Be unable to obtain credit elsewhere at reasonable rates and terms to meet actual needs; and
- Possess legal capacity to incur loan obligations.

Interested producers may contact the FSA County Office Farm Loan Program staff for more details about this program, and other financial options.

Various Lease Agreements

Recently there has been increased interest in flexible or combination leases. These rental provisions are developed to protect landlords and tenants, as well as to insure compliance with payment limitation rules.

The key determinant in terms of how FSA looks at these leases is whether the landlord shares in the production risk of the crop. Cash leases have a guaranteed amount, certain cash payment or a fixed quantity of a crop. Leases which are based on a share of the crop or proceeds are considered share leases and must be reported as such by the producer when signing up for DCP payments.

If the lease bases the rent on the amount of crop produced or the income derived from that crop (whether or not the crop is actually grown), or any combination of the two, it is a share lease and the landlord must receive a share of the DCP contract payment. This is because the landlord now shares the risk in the crop. The more bushels produced or the higher price received for that crop creates a higher rent.

NASS to Survey Local Farmers

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) begins their annual area survey on May 25, 2007. All producers are encouraged to complete the surveys and let the financial facts be known for agriculture's policies and programs.

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 USDA office.

Dates To Remember

May 28	Memorial Day – USDA Service Center Closed
June 15	Nomination forms for the County Committee Election may be accepted
June 30	Last day to file an acreage report for small grains and Failed Wheat
July 4	Independence Day – USDA Service Center Closed
July 31	Last day to file an acreage report for spring planted crops
August 1	County Committee Election Nomination period ends
August 3	Final day to timely signup for DCP

Foreign Landowner 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 within 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.

Visit our Web site at:
www.fsa.usda.gov

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