



November 2006

Newton/McDonald County News

Newton/McDonald Co. USDA Service Center

**Newton/McDonald
County FSA**
1900 S. Business HWY 71
Neosho, MO 64850
417-451-1007 (phone)
417-451-9244(fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Ted Dana
Tom Reynolds
Brenda Burleson
Don Boyer
Kenneth Christerson

**County Committee
Advisors**
Minnie Kelly
Rose Fox

County Committee meets
once a month and it is
usually the second Tues-
day of every month. The
meetings start at 8:30 a.m.

Staff
Kimberly A. Webber
Janet Baker
Carol Pendergraft

Livestock Assistance Program

The Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA) will be providing a total of \$2.7 million in Livestock Assistance grants to help Missouri livestock producers partially recover forage production losses due to certain drought conditions in 2006.

Applications are available at the following locations:

- Farm Service Agency
- Extension Service
- On-line at www.mda.mo.gov

Applications must be postmarked no later than Friday, November 17, 2006. Once the application period closes, the number of eligible livestock certified to MDA will be calculated and the \$2.7 million will be prorated on a per-head-basis. Until the application deadline passes, MDA does not know for certain how much, per head, producers will receive. However, the maximum payment per taxpayer identification number is \$10,000.

For questions regarding the application process, please contact the MDA at (573)526-4727.

Farmer Seminar

Farmers, particularly minorities, are invited to a seminar held on November 8th at the El Charro Restaurant located at 1025 S. Neosho Blvd in Neosho, MO from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Presenters include; Lynn Jenkins with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Jose Garcia with the Sustainable Agriculture Program of the University of Missouri. Additional information will be provided through Rural Development, Farm Service Agency and the Extension Service. To make reservations for this **free seminar and dinner** or if you would like additional information regarding this seminar, please contact Jose Garcia at (573)884-3794 or Casi Lock at (573)882-0393.

AG Appreciation Dinner

The Neosho Area Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring their 4th Annual Agriculture Appreciation Dinner. The event will be held on November 9th at the Neosho High School Cafeteria from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. A **Free Meal** will be sponsored by Bank of America. Farmers, ranchers and anyone interested in agriculture in the Newton and McDonald County areas are invited to attend. There will be several exhibitors. Brent Bryant, Executive Vice -President for the Missouri Cattlemen's Association, will be the guest speaker. The "Agribusiness of the Year" and "Farm Family of the Year" will be announced. For more information, contact the Neosho Area Chamber of Commerce at (417)451-1925.

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 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, 2006.

The candidates in this year's election are:

Local Administrative No. 1:

- Ted Dana
- Jim Russell

Local Administrative No. 3:

- Thadd Reynolds

Eligible voters in local administrative areas Number 1 or Number 3 who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff immediately.

If you would like to know what Local Administrative area you are in, feel free to contact the FSA Office and we will be happy to assist.

Voter Requirements

Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, is 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.

2007 DCP (Direct & Counter-cyclical) Sign-up Continues

The 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP) began October 1, 2006, and continues until June 1, 2007.

Following the June 1, 2007, deadline, USDA will accept late applications through Sept. 30, 2007, with a \$100 late fee. While DCP participants must sign DCP contracts annually, producers can choose not to participate in the program in any given year.

USDA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2007, eligible producers may request to receive direct advance payments based on **22 percent** of the direct payment rate for each commodity associated with the farm. USDA will issue DCP advance direct payments beginning Dec. 1, 2006. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate) for a commodity is below its target price.

NOTE: Please be aware that the sign-up may require more time than usual due to the fact that we have to update forms on *EVERYONE* for the 2007 year. So please allow yourself plenty of time when you come in to sign your DCP Contract for the 2007 year.

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 — or recon — 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.

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 (CRP), 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.

FSA Farm Loan Available for Beginning Farmers or Ranchers

Beginning farmers or ranchers can get a "regular" farm ownership loan 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 regular 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. All Farm Loan Program loans are approved subject to availability of funds.

Qualification: 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.

For more information, contact Farm Loan Manager, Russ Neill at (417)847-2862 Extension #2.

Beginning Farmer Down Payment Ownership Program (10-40-50)

Purpose: Obtain help financing the purchase of a farm up to \$250,000 of the purchase price or the appraised value whichever is less. The applicant must put down 10 percent. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) finances up to 40 percent of the purchase price. The remaining 50 percent of the purchase price can be financed on contract with the seller or through a conventional lender. The lender can obtain a guarantee from FSA if customer is eligible.

Rates: The FSA loan for 40 percent will be locked in for the full 15 years. The loan for the balance of 50 percent should be the rate the contract holder or lender would charge an average customer. ALL Farm Loan Program loans are approved subject to availability of funds.

For more information, contact Farm Loan Manager, Russ Neill at (417)847-2862 Extension #2.

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.

To keep the system running smoothly, it is 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.

Acresage Spot Check Determinations and Notification

Each year the Farm Service Agency completes spot checks of acresage reports. Acresage reports are the basis for delivery of many farm programs. Acresage spot checks are completed to ensure accurate acresage reports which are used for farm programs.

FSA will spot check acresages on over 10 percent of the farms in each county. Color imagery flown in August 2006 will be used to complete all acresage determinations. All 2006 acresage spot checks will be completed using the FSA Geographic Information System official acresages. Questions concerning determined acres should be directed to your local FSA office for clarification.

Conservation Programs

EQIP: Environmental Quality Incentive Program (otherwise known as EQIP) is a program designed to provide cost-share on conservation practices for animal waste management, livestock grazing system development, wildlife habitat development, stream bank protection as well as other conservation practices. The sign-up ends on November 17, 2006

WHIP: Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (otherwise known as WHIP) is a program designed to provide cost-share on wildlife habitat development practices such as; Timber Stand Improvement, Edge Feathering along woodlands and Native Grass Establishment as well as other conservation practices. The sign-up ends on November 17, 2006.

For more information, please contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service at (417)451-1007 Extension #3.

NAP Coverage Deadlines Approaching

The following lists the deadlines to purchase NAP (Non-insured Assistance Coverage) for the following crops:

- November 20, 2006** – Apples, Grapes and Peaches
- December 1, 2006** – Honey
- December 31, 2006** - Potatoes

Dates to Remember	
Nov. 8	Farmers Seminar at El Charro Restaurant in Neosho, MO
Nov. 9	4 th Annual Ag. Appreciation Dinner in Neosho, MO
Nov. 10	Veterans Day Holiday – Office will be closed.
Nov. 17	Deadline to have the Livestock Assistance Applications sent to Missouri Department of Ag. in Jefferson City, MO
Nov. 17	EQIP & WHIP sign-up ends
Nov. 20	Deadline to purchase NAP coverage for Apples, Grapes and Peaches
Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Day Holiday - Office will be closed.
Nov. 24	Emergency Loan application deadline for storms, tornadoes and flooding that occurred 3/11/06 through 3/13/06
Dec. 4	Last day to return county committee election ballots

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.