



Barren County News

January 2008

Barren County FSA Service Center

207 YMCA Way
Glasgow, Ky. 42141
270-629-2081(phone)
270-629-2706 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/ky

Hours

Monday - Friday
7:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

County Committee

Watha B. Wood
Kristie D. Payne
Rita Berry
Bobby Elliott

County Committee meets 1st Tuesday of each month from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

Staff

Jeff Houchins, CED
Helena Pitcock, FLM
Cherry Martin, PT
Sherry Perry, PT
Martha Steen, PT
Diane Williams, PT
Debbie Turner, FLO
Nancy Geraldts, PT
Becky Bush, PT
Clay Chase, Field Reporter

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LOANS AVAILABLE FOR BEGINNING FARMERS AND SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED APPLICANTS

Farm Service Agency (FSA) is authorized to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. **FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person whom:**

- Has operated a farm for not more that 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed, applicants must meet all requirements for FSA's regular farm loan program assistance. **Socially disadvantaged groups are Hispanics, American Indians, African Americans, Asians, Pacific Islanders and women.**

Direct loans may be made to applicants by FSA for both farm operating and farm ownership loans. 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 (e.g. banks 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.

Emergency Loans Available

Currently, we are designated for Emergency Loans which can be made to those farmers that are eligible at the interest rate of 3.75%. To qualify, you must have had at least a 30% on any one crop or enterprise during the disaster period, according to your records. If you do not have the records available to establish your eligibility, county averages must be used. The EM actual loss loans can be made for the actual amount of your loss due to the late winter freeze or the drought in 2007, for eligible purposes. For further information, please contact your local office who will have details of eligibility.

Current interest rates for FSA's direct loans are as follows:

- Operating Loans (e.g. livestock, machinery, crops) -4.375%
- Farm Ownership (purchase of farm) – 5.125%
(These rates are current as of 01-01-08)

Guaranteed loans are at the lenders' rates and terms but must stay within the guidelines of FSA.

YOUTH LOANS AVAILABLE

Youth Loans are available to rural youth up to a maximum of \$5,000 for supervised agricultural related enterprises, such as cow/calf operation, show heifers, feeder operation, crops, etc. These loans are available for youth from the ages of 10 to 20 years old that are a member of an organized group such as 4-H and FFA.

To discuss any of these loans or to apply, please contact Helena Pitcock, Farm Loan Manager or Debbie Turner, Farm Loan Officer at the local USDA service center (629-2085).

NOTIFICATION OF COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Rita Berry was elected to represent LAA-1 in this year's County Committee election. Joe Allen Mutter was elected 1st alternate and David F Weaver was elected 2nd alternate.

LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM (LCP)

Livestock producers who suffered an eligible feed loss between January 01, 2005 and February 28, 2007 may be eligible to receive disaster payments. Barren County producers not currently enrolled may call (270) 629-2081 and make an appointment to signup in LCP.

PARTNERSHIP AND ENTITY ORGANIZATIONAL PAPERS

Our office pays many general partnerships, corporations, limited liability companies, and trusts. Our county committee must determine that these partnerships and entities are eligible for payment under "actively engaged in farming" rules and a "separate person" for payment purposes. We need organization papers, articles of incorporation, operating agreements, trust agreements and resolutions stating who the members are, their percentage of shares, and who has signature authority for the entity. Much of our documentation is incomplete, and we have been contracting people to provide us with this information. If you are contacted concerning this lack of documentation, please feel free to ask additional questions.

CREP INFORMATIONAL MEETING

There will be an informational meeting for producers with new CREP contracts that have practices to establish during FY2008. The meeting will be held on February 14, 2008 @ South Central Bank's Operations Facility in the Bale/O'Bryan Room beginning at 9:30 and ending at 12:00.

BARREN COUNTY FSA 2008 OFFICE DIRECTORY

Phone Number: (270)629-2081 – Farm Programs
Fax Number (270)629-2706

Jeffrey Houchins, County Executive Director
Cherry Martin, Program Technician – Conservation, Risk Management, Reconstitutions, Disaster
Martha Steen, Program Technician – Price Support, Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP), Wool and Mohair
Sherry Perry, Program Technician – Payment Limitations, Sodbuster, Compliance, GIS
Diane Williams, Program Technician – Farm Records, Counter
Clay Chase, Field Reporter

Phone Number (270)629-2085 – Farm Loan Programs
Fax Number (270)629-2706

Helena Pitcock, Farm Loan Manager
Debbie Turner, Farm Loan Officer
Nancy Gerald, Program Technician
Becky Bush, Program Technician