



Grayson County News

January 2008

Leitchfield FSA Service Center

119 Commerce Dr.
Leitchfield, Ky.
270-259-3716 (phone)
270-259-9729 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/ky

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

County Committee:
Glenn Higdon
Randy Langley
Ray Ramsey

County Committee
meets monthly on
The First Wednesday.

Staff:
Kay Barton
Charlie Singleton
James Thomason
Michael Shull

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FSA 2008 ANNUAL CROP REPORTING INFORMATION

Annual crop acreage reporting is now a requirement for most FSA programs. Crop reports are **mandatory** for any farm that participates in the Direct and Counter Cyclical (DCP) program. All crops and land use on the farm must be reported to remain eligible for program benefits. Crop reports are also required for any farm that is enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). In order to maintain eligibility for commodity loans and loan deficiency payments (LDP), a producer must report acreage of all crops on which a loan or LDP will be requested. If a producer has a Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) policy, they must report all crops which may be affected by the policy. Farm owners, operators, persons authorized by Power-of-Attorney, and persons with an interest in the affected crop can file a crop acreage report. The deadlines for 2008 crop reporting are May 31, 2008 for small grains and July 15, 2008 for spring-seeded crops and burley tobacco. With a new farm bill scheduled to begin /sometime in 2008, it is more important than ever that your farm's cropping history be complete and accurate. Your cropping history file will likely determine the extent of your program options under any new farm bill program. *Don't forget to report your wheat! Even wheat for hay and wheat for silage/chop has implications for program benefits.*

RAY RAMSEY ELECTED TO COUNTY COMMITTEE

County farmer Ray Ramsey has been elected by his neighbors in the central third of Grayson County to fill the County Committee seat being vacated by Eugene Bratcher. Ray and his wife Cuba manage a farm in the Little Clifty community. Ray will serve a three-year term on the Committee beginning in 2008. Everyone associated with FSA in Grayson County wants to extend their thanks and appreciation to outgoing Committeeman Eugene Bratcher for his hard work and dedication. He has served our county farmers well during his tenure on the County Committee.

NAP OFFERS RISK MANAGEMENT OPTION FOR LOW PRICE

The NAP (noninsured assistance program) provides a risk management option for those crops not covered by conventional crop insurance against natural disasters. Eligible crops include commercial crops such as fruits/vegetables and other agricultural commodities produced for food or hay/pasture. NAP covers losses greater than 50% of the expected production at 55% of the average market price. Form CCC-471 must be filed with FSA and a nominal service fee of \$100 must be paid by the applicable sales closing date in order to obtain NAP coverage. The closing date for forages such as hay/pasture is March 1, 2008. The closing date for most fruits and vegetables is March 15, 2008. NAP policyholders must report annual production figures, file annual crop acreage reports, and file timely notices of loss in the event of a claim. The loss must be verified by FSA. **These areas of production carry a high weather-related risk and it just makes good sense to insure that risk, if possible.** *The modest cost of the coverage can be considered another legitimate input cost for the operation. One policy covers all of your county acreage of the insured crop.*

Check out the Farm Service Agency website @ www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/default.asp for current LDP rates, complete program details, FSA for kids, upcoming farm bill debate news, and other ongoing agricultural issues.

FARM RECORD UPDATES

It is critical that FSA has current producer and farm records on county farming operations. More and more, programs are implemented on short notice and this requires FSA to get word out quickly. Incorrect addresses and phone numbers not only delay that notification, but sometimes the delay results in missing an enrollment deadline and not being able to participate in a beneficial program. Additionally, it is equally important that FSA be notified of any changes in your direct deposit account. Incorrect account numbers result in unnecessary payment delays and nobody is pleased with that. If you buy or sell farmland, the buyers in the transaction need to bring in their deeds so that we can change the farmland over to their name. It is very important that this change occur as soon as possible after closing. Many times, program benefits are pro-rated on the basis of the date on the deed. Estate management and settlements are top priorities also. We need to know as soon as possible the contact persons for the estate. Another phase that FSA is moving into is online communications. Our programs are migrating to a web-based platform, program access and enrollment is becoming increasingly available online, and we are beginning to build our database on email addresses. If you want to advise us of your current email address, please call or write and we will update our records accordingly. It is anticipated that in the foreseeable future, we will have an electronic newsletter that will be going out on a monthly basis. Only those people with email addresses on file will be receiving this electronic newsletter. Help us to help you...keep us informed and we'll do our best to keep you informed.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT LOANS

USDA's Rural Development offers loans and grants to very low income homeowners for repairs and modifications to their homes. The loan is at a rate of 1 percent with a maximum repayment period of 20 years. A grant program is available if the repairs are to remove major health and safety hazards, the applicant is at least 62 years of age, and the applicant is unable to show repayment capability for a loan. Contact the rural development office in Elizabethtown at 270-769-1555 for further information.

GCCD COST SHARE PROGRAMS

The Grayson County Conservation District is taking applications for the Forage Improvement Program. The program has two opportunities for local producers. **Lime** – The landowner will be paid \$4.50/ton flat rate up to \$500.00 according to soil test. Eligible land must have cropping history of forage, grain or horticulture. No farmland cleared within the last 3 years will be accepted as well as acres that were previously limed in any of the previous programs. Also, land enrolled in CRP or tobacco patches are not eligible for the program. **Hay Storage Pads** – Cost share for first time participants will be \$1,000.00 or \$500.00 for second time participants in the program. Minimum herd size is 10 animals. Installation of hay storage pads must meet NRCS specifications and only #3 rock will be eligible for cost share. For more information call 259-3738, Ext. 101 or visit our office at 115 Commerce Drive. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday – Friday. All practices must be completed by March 31, 2008.

FSA OPERATING LOANS

Harvest is complete and now is the time to get your financing in order for spring seed bills, fertilizer bills, chemical bills, equipment repairs, and a list of never ending expenses. If you find yourself needing operating funds, Farm Service Agency may be able to help. Farm Service Agency can advance operating funds for crop expenses, repairs, feed, and other typical expenses. The one year funds are due back at the end of your operating cycle and are at a fixed rate of interest. The December rate for operating loans is 4.75%. Farmers must meet basic eligibility requirements such as; having acceptable credit, provide a positive cash flow and unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere at rates and terms you can afford. If you have any questions, a representative of the loan staff is available to help you, just call us at 270-756-5292. We would be happy to discuss your operating needs with you. We will be more than happy to meet you at the Grayson County FSA office or at your farm. We are typically in the Grayson County office on Thursdays from 8:00 to 11:30 am. Give us a call if you think we could be of assistance. *Juanita R. Ballman, Farm Loan Officer, Farm Service Agency, P O Box 71, Hardinsburg, KY, 40143, PHONE 270-756-5292*

ONGOING DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAMS

As we begin to implement the emergency programs designed to provide some relief for this year's freeze and drought, we ask for your patience. We are working with a limited staff and we will not be processing applications until we have all the facts and are confident in our abilities to "do it right the first time". We will do our dead level best to serve you promptly and efficiently, while at the same time trying to eliminate duplications and multiple trips to the office. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. We are currently accepting disaster-related applications from producers who (1) owned livestock on February 1, 2005 under the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), (2) Who had insured crops in 2005 or 2006 or insured small grains or forage in 2007 under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP), and (3) dairy producers will soon be receiving information in the mail regarding the Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment Program III (DDAPIII). We want to make certain that all eligible producers receive their appropriate benefits.