



Hart County News

January 2008

Munfordville FSA Service Center

809 Main St.
P.O. Box 116
Munfordville, KY
42765
270-524-5631 (phone)
270-524-4457 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/ky

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

County Committee
Diane Choate
Paul Dennison
William Scott
Andre Barbour,
Advisor

County Committee
meets the 3rd
Wednesday of each
month.

Staff
Mary W. Mills-Turner,
County Exec. Director
Carolyn Hash, PT
Marla Gardner, PT
Paul Hawkins, Field
Assistant
Helena Pitcock, FLM

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program 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.



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 than 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.

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.

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% loss 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, to be used for eligible purposes. For further information, please contact your local office who will have details of eligibility.

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).

COUNTY COMMITTEE MEETS THE 3RD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

The Hart County FSA Committee meets for one half day on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Hart County FSA Office. The meetings begin at 8:30 a.m. The Committee representatives are: Diane Choate who represents the areas of Bonnieville, Cub Run, Part of Munfordville, and Upton which are identified as LAA1; Paul B. Dennison represents the areas of Horse Cave, Northtown, Part of Legrande and Cave City which are identified as LAA2 and William Scott who represents the areas of Magnolia, Jonesville, Canmer, Hardyville, Part of Legrande which are identified as LAA3. The COC advisor is Andre' Barbour.

The County Committee members are a critical part of the day to day operation of FSA. They help run farm programs at a local level. Farmers who serve on committees help decide the kind of programs their counties will have and how they will be run. They help make the program fit the needs of local producers. They operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. The members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

All meetings of the County Committee are open to the public.