



October 2006

## Muhlenberg County FSA News

### Muhlenberg County USDA Service Center

**Muhlenberg County FSA**  
340 Dean Road, STE 1  
Greenville, KY 42345

270-338-3741 (phone)  
270-338-7754 (fax)  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/ky](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ky)

**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**County Committee**  
Anita Crafton  
Ella McPherson  
Greg Petrie

County Committee meets  
First Thursday of each  
Month at 8:00 a.m.

**Staff**  
Mary J Amos  
Deetra Slaughter  
J Tim Taylor



### County Committee Elections

Ballots will be mailed around November 3, 2006 to eligible producers in LAA 2. This LAA includes the area of the county South of the Western Kentucky Parkway and East of Highway 181. Three candidates will be included on the ballot this year. Anita Crafton, Tim Sapp, and Melody Mercer Vaught have been nominated and are eligible if elected to serve for a three year term beginning January 2007.

Please don't miss out on voting. The 2006 election will end December 4. Ballots must be completed, signed, and returned to the Muhlenberg County FSA Office by December 4, 2006. If you have any questions or do not receive a ballot, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Muhlenberg County is divided into three LAA's or communities. Next years election will of course be held in a different LAA. The Muhlenberg County committee consists of three members each elected from a different LAA or community. The committee system dates back to the 1930's when Congress set up federal farm programs. The county committee is a grassroots approach to give farmers and ranchers a much needed say in how federal actions affect their communities and individual operations.

### Maintenance of CRP Cover

Cover maintenance of CRP acres is your responsibility. Established practices must be maintained according to your CRP conservation plan throughout the contract period. The responsibility includes controlling soil erosion, noxious weeds, undesirable growth, keeping livestock off. The control of undesirable growth includes the control of woody growth on grassland plantings.

### Mowing of CRP

While annual mowing of an entire field is prohibited, the conservation plan of operations outlines acceptable maintenance alternatives to insure that the established cover is not adversely affected by undesirable growth. All mowing operations must cease during the nesting

period which runs from May 15 to August 1.

### Spot Checks of CRP

Once established, contracts are periodically spot checked to insure that maintenance requirements are fulfilled. Failure to maintain the established practice according to the guidelines of the program may result in loss of benefits including annual payment reductions and/or contract termination and liquidated damages. Please contact your office if you have any questions.

### Marketing Assistance Loans and LDP's

With fall harvest underway, please don't forget about our Commodity Loans and LDP's. Marketing assistance loans provide interim financing at harvest time to meet cash flow needs with having to sale the commodity when market prices are typically at harvest time lows. Commodity Loans are 9 month loans that mature the 9 month after the month the loan is disbursed.

Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's) provide producers who are eligible to obtain a loan, but who agree to forgo the loan with payments. The LDP rate equals the amount by which the applicable loan rate where the commodity is stored exceeds the alternative loan repayment rate for the commodity. Loan deficiency payments are paid on those commodities for which a producer has beneficial interest at the time of application.

### Unauthorized Disposition

If grain under loan is disposed of through feeding, selling, or any other form of disposal without County Office approval, it is considered UNAUTHORIZED DISPOSITION. The financial penalties are severe and a producer's name will be placed on a loan violation list for 2 years. Always call the county FSA office before moving or feeding grain under loan.

**Payments Are Coming!**

October is a very busy month for the county office. We will be issuing Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) payments as well as 2006 Final Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) payments. Direct Deposit is a very safe and efficient way to receive payments, but please remember if you make ANY CHANGES in your bank account or change banks notify our office. Payments can be delayed if we are not aware of changes to your account or routing numbers. If you are not on direct deposit at this time we strongly encourage that you come by the office and apply. It is a very simple process and your payments will usually make it to your account much faster than by paper check. Contact your county office for more details.

**Controlled Substance Violation**

Any person who is convicted under Federal or State Law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments and/or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting, or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium poppies and other drug producing plants.

**Foreign Buyers Notification**

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to

the Secretary of Agriculture. 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 report could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

**Farm Record Changes**

If you have bought, sold or are renting different land or have a change of address please make sure you report the changes to the staff at your local FSA office as soon as possible so our farm records can be updated. Specific proof of ownership is required to support record changes and signature authority. Copies of partnership, estate, or corporation documents are required for entity and payment limitation purposes. Remember failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have in interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and fines if you are participating in farm programs.

**Farm Storage Facility Loans**

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, corn, and soybeans.

The seven year FSFL loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities.

**Conservation Reserve Program**

Offers for continuous CRP can be accepted at any time. Continuous CRP allows eligible landowners on eligible acreage to enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners may receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities and cost share for establishment. Please let us know if you have any questions.

**Special Accommodations**

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in FSA meetings or activities should contact Tim Taylor at (270) 338-3741 or email: [tim.taylor@ky.usda.gov](mailto:tim.taylor@ky.usda.gov)

**Important Dates**

- Nov 3 COC Election Ballots Mailed
- Nov 10 Veterans Day Office Closed
- Nov 23 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed
- Dec 4 Last Day to return COC Ballots
- Dec 25 Christmas Day Office Closed
- Jan 1 New Years Day Office Closed

**Attention Producers**

Do you intend to clear timber areas to create or expand existing crop fields?

Are you converting a pasture field into a crop field?

Are there areas on your farm that you are considering cropping that have not been cropped in recent years?

If so please check with our office or NRCS. Don't jeopardize your eligibility for USDA payments!!