



# Taylor County News

January 2008

## Campbellsville FSA Service Center

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Campbellsville Ky 42718  
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270 789-4574 (fax)  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/ky](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ky)

### Hours

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

### County Committee

Clem Haskins  
Robbie Hunt  
Lavoy Price  
Lewis Weatherford

County Committee meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of month at 8:00 am

### Staff

Gloria Kreilein  
Martha Price  
Runita Rice  
David Claycomb

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## County Committee Election

Congratulations to Lewis Weatherford on his re-election to the Taylor County FSA Committee. This is Lewis's 2<sup>nd</sup> term as FSA Committee representative from LAA-1. LAA-1 covers the southern portion of Taylor County, and includes Bengal, Meadow Creek, Burdick, Lemons Bend, Yuma, and Speck Ridge.

The FSA County Committee consists of 3 voting members who each represent one of the three LAA's in Taylor County. The members are elected to 3 year terms on a rotating basis, with farmers in one LAA electing their representative each year. Advisors are appointed annually by the Ky State FSA Committee to represent socially disadvantaged farmers who do not have representation on the committee. The 2008 election will be held in LAA-2 which is the north-western third of Taylor County and includes Hibernia, Mac, Sandy Y, White Rose, Saloma, Finley, Red Fern, and Palestine. LAA-2 is currently represented by Robbie Hunt.

Nominations of candidates begin in June and the completed nominating petition must be received by the FSA office no later than August 1 for that person to appear on the ballot. Only persons who are nominated appear on the ballot, unless no nominations are received. Ballots are mailed in November and must be completed and returned to FSA by the first Monday in December. Ballots are counted by the second Monday of December, and the Committee member's term begins on January 1.

FSA's committee structure is unique in that it is the only federal agency in which the committee members are elected by the persons whom they represent. The local committee members are responsible for overseeing the operation of the local FSA office. The committee helps make decisions that affect the administration of FSA programs at the local level, and are the first level of the FSA appeal process when farmers feel that they have been treated unfairly by the agency.

## Livestock Compensation Program

FSA is currently taking applications and making payments for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP). This program provides payments to commercial livestock farmers for grazing losses suffered due to either the 2005 or 2007 drought, whichever is the greatest loss. The application is based on the livestock that you owned or cash-leased on February 1 of the applicable year. You also had to still own (or lease) the livestock on April 7. Eligible livestock include beef and dairy cattle, sheep, goats, swine, equine, reindeer, elk, poultry, and deer. Livestock must have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation, and can not be for non-commercial uses such as recreational purposes or for consumption by the owner.

Cattle producers will be asked to break their numbers into 2 categories: 1) Adult cattle, and 2) non-adults that weighed at least 500 pounds on February 1. Swine and poultry must also be broken into weight ranges. Swine and poultry producers who suffered pasture loss should contact the FSA office to obtain the weight ranges prior to visiting FSA to file their application.

The farmer will also certify to the number of acres of pasture that was being grazed in the applicable year, whether the pasture was improved or unimproved, and the percent loss suffered on the pasture.

The payment is calculated on both the number and type of livestock and on the value of the pasture loss suffered in each year, with the final payment for that year being the smaller of the two values. The producer's payment is then based on the year that resulted in the larger loss.

The national rates established for each type of livestock are designed to pay 61 percent of the cost for corn needed to maintain that specific type of livestock for a 30 day period.

Farmers who purchased additional feed due to the drought may provide proof of this additional feed purchase and include it on the application. This will normally not be necessary unless you are in a highly over-stocked situation. Proof would include total feed costs for 2004 and 2005 (or 2006 and 2007) and a certification that increased feed cost were due to the drought and not some other factor such as increased livestock numbers.

LCP applications will be subject to spot check to verify the accuracy of the application. If your application is selected for spot check, you will be required to provide proof for the sale or death of any livestock claimed on the application.

The final date to apply for LCP has not been announced at this time.

### **Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment Program**

Dairy producers may now apply for benefits under the Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment Program (DDAP-III) for production losses due to the 2005 drought. One application is filed per dairy operation. Losses claimed must be due to the drought conditions experienced in 2005. The application asks for the number of cows in the dairy herd on the first day of each month of 2005. This number includes both lactating cows and dry cows, but does not include cows purchased and added to the herd to offset production losses. It also requires the total amount of milk commercially marketed for 2005, and any changes in cow numbers that were not due to the drought. The farmer must provide adequate documentation when applying for DDAP-III. This would include dairy herd inventories for each month, commercially marketed production for the year, dumped production not marketed, and dairy cows added to offset losses.

Losses are calculated by subtracting the expected production from the actual production. Expected production is computed by multiplying the average number of cows in the herd by the 2005 NASS average production for Kentucky (12,896 pounds per cow). Payment rates will be based on the annual state average mailbox milk price as reported by AMS. Payments will not be issued until after the end of the signup period, and may be factored so that total payments do not exceed the \$16 million dollars allocated for DDAP-III.

Final signup dates have not been announced for DDAP-III.

### **Green River CREP Program**

Processing of applications for the Green River CREP program has been put on hold for any applications received after September 28, 2007. The Green River CREP program is limited to enrollment of 99,500 acres. Since the addition of the 1000 foot buffer around sinkholes in grassland, and the addition of portions of 6 new counties into the CREP area in February, the enrolled acres have increased dramatically.

We are currently working to complete all applications filed before September 28, 2007. Once these applications have all been completed, we will see how many total acres are enrolled. If additional acres are still available, we will begin processing new applications based on the date of application and possibly other ranking criteria as established by the Ky State FSA Office.

If you are interested in CREP, but have been putting off filing an inquiry, I would recommend that you file as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that applications filed now will be enrolled into CREP, but the sooner you file, the better chance you have. We do not know when we will be instructed to begin work on the applications filed after September 28, 2007, but I feel that it will not be too much longer.