



March 2007

Newton/McDonald County News

Newton/McDonald Co.
USDA Service Center

**Newton/McDonald
County FSA**
1900 S. Business HWY 71
Neosho, MO 64850
417-451-1007 (phone)
417-451-9244 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

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

County Committee
Ted Dana
Thadd Reynolds
Don Boyer
Kenneth Christerson

**County Committee
Advisors**
Minnie Kelly
Rose Fox

County Committee meets
once a month and it is
usually the second Tues-
day of every month. The
meetings start at 8:30 a.m.

Staff
Kimberly A. Webber
Janet Baker
Carol Pendergraft

Deadlines Approaching

The following deadlines are approaching:

March 15, 2007

Final day to purchase coverage for the NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program)

March 31, 2007

Final availability date for loans or LDPs (Loan Deficiency Payments) on Barley, Canola, Crambe, Flaxseed, Honey, Oats, Rapeseed, Wheat and Sesame Seed

April 10, 2007

Final date to sign-up for the Emergency Conservation Program which is otherwise known as the Debris Removal Program

May 31, 2007

Final availability date for loans or LDPs (Loan Deficiency Payments) on Corn, Dry Peas, Grain Sorghum, Lentils, Mustard Seed, Saf-flower Seed, Small Chickpeas, Soybeans and Sunflower Seed

June 1, 2007

Final date to sign-up your 2007 contracts for the Direct & Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) without having to pay a \$100 late-fee per farm

June 30, 2007

Final date to file an acreage report on small grain crops (**UNLESS: you have purchased NAP coverage then more restrictive reporting dates will apply – contact your local FSA Office for reporting dates**)

July 31, 2007

Final date to file an acreage report on all other crops (**UNLESS: you have purchased NAP coverage then more restrictive reporting dates will apply – contact your local FSA Office for reporting dates**)

NAP (Noninsured Assistance Program) Application Deadline

March 15, 2007 is the deadline for producers to apply for the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. The application fee must be filed by the applicable closing date for each of the 2007 spring seeded NAP crops. To remain eligible for NAP, a producer must annually report the crop, including: type, variety, location, producer shares, date planted, and the intended use (fresh, processed, etc.). Once the crop is harvested the production must also be reported. The application fee is \$100 per crop per county or \$300 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$900 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees.

In the event of a crop failure caused by natural disaster, the producer needs to notify the local FSA office by completing a "Notice of Loss" form. The notice of loss **MUST** be executed within 15 days of the date the damage became apparent.

Acreage reporting dates are very important in regards to crops that have NAP coverage. It is very important that the crops be reported by the required NAP reporting dates **OR** 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported. Please contact your local FSA Office immediately for crop reporting deadlines relating to NAP crops.

**ECP (Emergency Conservation Program)
Assistance for Debris Removal from Farmland**

Due to the severe ice storm that occurred on January 12, 2007, both Newton County and McDonald County are approved for the Debris Removal Program. **HOWEVER – funds are NOT available at this time.** Sign-up starts on March 12, 2007 and will end on April 10, 2007. FSA (Farm Service Agency) will accept applications and will visit farms to determine eligibility. The minimum amount of eligible cost-share expense that the landowner must incur is \$1000.00. The purpose of this practice is to remove debris on farmland caused by a natural disaster to return the land to agriculture use. Removal of debris from farmsteads and access roadways will **ONLY** be eligible if it significantly interferes with normal farming operations. **For those of you that have already started or completed your debris clean-up – YOU MUST sign an application no later than March 26, 2007.** County average costs and County FSA Committee cost-share rates for each component eligible for cost-sharing are as follows:

COST-SHARE LEVEL = 75%

COMPONENT	COUNTY AVERAGE COSTS	COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE COST-SHARE RATES
Personal Manual Labor	\$11.13/hr.	\$ 8.35/hr.
Hired Labor	\$13.20/hr.	\$ 9.90/hr.
Chain Saw Labor	\$17.50/hr.	\$13.13/hr.
Tractor Labor	\$38.50/hr.	\$28.88/hr.
Skid Loader Labor	\$50.53/hr.	\$37.90/hr.
Dozer Labor	\$90.00/hr.	\$67.50/hr.

Please keep in mind that the County FSA Committee will establish how funds will be disbursed based on the number of approved applications and available funding once the sign-up period has ended. Approval does not guarantee funds will be available. If funding is not received from the National Office, you will not get paid.

Crop Insurance Fraud

FSA will be monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse in crop insurance to the Risk Management Agency. Producers should refer all suspected cases to their local FSA Office. Stopping waste and abuse is everyone's responsibility.

Sodbuster, Swampbuster

Most FSA programs require compliance with sodbuster and swampbuster provisions. These provisions require producers to follow an approved conservation system on all highly erodible land planted to an annual crop as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Be sure to have determinations made on any new land you plan to plant to annual crops. If you plan to plant a different crop on your current cropland, check with NRCS to assure the new crop will qualify under your conservation system. Swampbuster provisions state that converting a wetland to make possible the planting of a crop will result in the loss of all

USDA benefits. To avoid this possibility it is strongly recommended that producers check with NRCS before starting to work in the fields.

CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) & Continuous CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) Available

There will be no general signups scheduled for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in 2007 or 2008. The President's Fiscal Year 2008 Budget assumed no available funding for CRP general signups.

However, environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) or Continuous CRP will still be eligible for enrollment. These targeted programs will remain funded, and continue to provide a heightened environmental benefit on select areas.

Honey Loans

Marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments (LDPs) for 2006 crop year honey are available until March 31, 2007. The national loan rate for honey is \$0.60 per pound. Market prices currently exceed the loan rate, so LDPs are not available at this time.

To be eligible for a loan, the producer must have produced honey in the United States during the calendar year for which the loan is requested, and extracted the honey on or before December 31st of the applicable crop year; have continuous beneficial interest in the honey through date of repayment of the loan; and been responsible for the financial risk of keeping. Producers are responsible for maintaining the quality of farm-stored honey during the term of the loan.

The honey must be produced in the United States by an eligible producer, from an approved floral source, and stored in approved containers.

The containers must be marked with the producer's name, type of honey, number of container and net weight. Pre-loan inspections are required before the loans can be disbursed. Honey used as collateral may not be disposed of without approval of the county office staff.

Emergency Loans Available

Due to the drought conditions that occurred throughout the 2006 year; severe winter storms that occurred between November 30, 2006 and December 2, 2007; and the severe ice storm that occurred in January of 2007, there have been several natural disaster declarations for emergency loans. Please contact Farm Loan Manager – Russ Neill at (417)847-2862 Extension #2 for more information regarding emergency loan application deadlines, interest rates and eligibility requirements.

Toll-Free Number

Direct loan borrowers with USDA's Farm Service Agency can now check the status of their accounts around the clock using a new toll-free telephone number.

The toll-free number, 1-888-518-4983, is available in both English and Spanish. The system delivers information on active FSA loans 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

During the first call to the new system, borrowers will enter their tax identification number or the Social Security Number associated with the loan. They also will need to enter their ZIP code. Borrowers will create a personal identification number for security. Customers must enter their PIN every time they use the system and may change their PIN. The system menu helps users access helpful information. The system may also direct borrowers to contact their local FSA servicing office if action is necessary on their accounts.

Acreage Reporting

Acreage reporting time will soon be here. Please remember that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

REMEMBER: Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency Programs. For crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program), acreage reports are to be certified by the June 30th deadline on small grains and by the July 15th deadline on all other crops.

Grazing School Set For June 20-21, 2007

A two-day seminar on management intensive grazing for economic and environmental sustainability has been set for June 20-21, 2007. On June 20, 2007, the seminar will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 5:30 p.m. On June 21, 2007, the seminar will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 4:00 p.m.

The location for the seminar will be at the Williams Ag Building on Crowder College Campus (east end of campus), located on Highway D on the south side of Neosho. Seminar fee is \$85.00 per person or \$100.00 if spouse attends. The seminar is sponsored by Newton & McDonald County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Crowder College, NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) and the University of Missouri Extension. For more information, contact the McDonald County University Extension Center at (417)223-4775 or NRCS at (417)451-1007 Extension #3.

Dates to Remember	
March 15	Final day to purchase NAP coverage
March 31	Final availability date for loans or LDPs on barley, canola, crambe, flaxseed, honey, oats, rapeseed, wheat and sesame seed
April 10	Final date to sign-up for the Debris Removal Program
May 28	Office Closed for Memorial Day
May 31	Final availability date for loans or LDPs on corn, dry peas, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, safflower seed, small chickpeas, soybeans and sunflower seed
June 1	Final date to sign-up 2007 DCP contracts without a late-fee being accessed
June 30	Final date to file an acreage report on small grain crops
July 31	Final date to file an acreage report on all other crops

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