



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



December 2007

# Nodaway County News

Nodaway County  
Farm Service Agency

**Nodaway County FSA**  
502 W South Hills Dr  
Suite 104  
Maryville, MO 64468  
660-582-7423 (phone)  
660-582-8366 (fax)

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

**County Committee**  
Joyce Ecker, Chairperson  
Larry Tobin, Vice Chair  
Richard Fletchall, Member

**Staff**  
Tim Dreier, CED  
Charlotte Holeman, FLM  
Tom Shelton, FLO  
Marianne Adkins, PT  
Teresa Blackford, PT  
Marilyn Buhman, PT  
Judy Fast, PT  
Tammy Luke, PT  
Re'nee Schrader, PT  
Norma Kenny, Temp  
Jana Ruoff, Temp  
Megan Dunkle, Temp  
Megan Schuman, Intern  
Cody Blackford, FA

## CROP DISASTER PROGRAM

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and/or quality losses on 2005 or 2006 eligible crops or 2007 wheat. **CDP sign-up for quantity losses is currently underway.** Sign-up for quality losses will begin in January 2008. An ending date has not been determined yet.

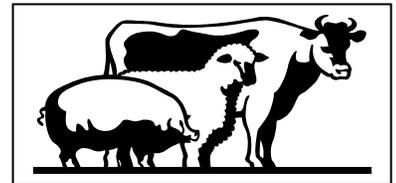


**Only producers who obtained Federal Crop Insurance with the Risk Management Agency (RMA) or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.** NAP is a voluntary program for crops that are not insurable through RMA, such as certain fruits and vegetables. Crops that were not insured through RMA or NAP are not eligible. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible. A payment limitation of \$80,000 per person applies.

For 2007, losses from natural disasters may qualify for financial assistance only if the crop was planted or prevented-planted before Feb. 28, 2007. **2007 spring-planted crops are not eligible.** Prevented planted acreage will not qualify for CDP unless a loss was submitted and paid through RMA or NAP. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose **only one year** to apply for benefits. Participants may apply for loss benefits on multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

## LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM

This program compensates producers for a portion of their pasture loss during the 2006 drought in Nodaway County.



The new **Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) sign-up is currently underway.** Eligible ranchers and other livestock producers can apply to receive LCP compensation for feed losses occurring between Jan. 1, 2006, and December 31, 2006, due to a natural disaster. The natural disaster that occurred in Nodaway County during that time period was drought.

All applicants need to provide their livestock numbers as of January 1, 2006. These numbers are primarily divided into adult cattle (cows that have calved and bulls 2 years or more in age) and non-adult cattle (cattle that do not meet the criteria of adult livestock but weighed greater than 500 pounds on January 1, 2006). The applicant must also submit his pasture acreages which in most cases can be obtained by crop reports certified previously in the office.

The LCP program provides monetary assistance for livestock feed losses that occurred because of an adverse weather condition including drought. Producers will be paid the lesser of the total value of pasture loss or a flat payment rate per head (adult livestock-\$10.66, non-adult-\$8.00).

### Facts or Opinions?

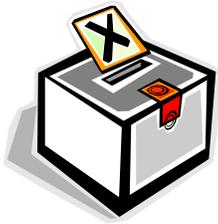
Which would you choose to make decisions?

Make the facts known to agriculture's leaders. If asked, please respond to USDA's Agricultural Resource Management Survey.



**NASS**  
Feed Tenders for Agriculture  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

## Voting for County Committee Begins



Ballots for this year's county committee election were mailed to eligible voters in LAA 3 (Independence, Jackson, & Polk Townships) on November 2, 2007. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December

3, 2007. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 3<sup>rd</sup> and be signed properly.

Only one candidate was nominated for this year's election:

Larry Tobin is nominated in LAA 3 of Nodaway County, to serve another three year term as a committee member. Larry is currently the Vice-Chairperson of the County FSA Committee.

Eligible voters in local administrative area 3 who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

**Voter Requirements:** Persons meeting requirements in 1 or 2, plus 3, below, are eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following: an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, *or* a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper; or
2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; *and*
3. Eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

**Discrimination Prohibited.** No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

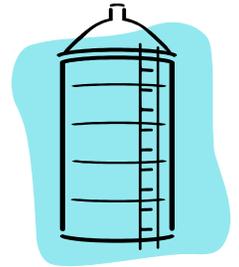
## Emergency Compensation Program (ECP)

Producers who submitted applications for ECP to repair land damaged as a result of the flooding and excessive rains in May, are reminded to contact the office when crops are out so the required field visit can be completed. Many producers have already made the office aware of this and we will be making the field visit as quickly as possible. Also, producers must submit repair bills once ECP work has been completed so that the cost share payment can be issued. Producers must incur a minimum of \$1,000 of out of pocket expenses on eligible practices to qualify.

## Farm Storage Facility Loans

Do you need more storage capability for your farming operation? Check with your local FSA office to discuss the possibility of a Farm Storage Facility Loan. Low cost loans for storage facilities continue to be available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, grain sorghum, corn and soybeans.

The seven-year FSFL's are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.



All FSFL's are secured with a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85% of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required. A \$45.00 application fee is assessed and other fees are incurred depending on the type of loan being processed.

## Waiting on a Farm Bill

Authority to hold an annual signup for the Direct and Countercyclical Program (DCP) expired with the old farm bill on September 30, 2007. The U.S. House of Representatives passed their version of a new farm bill in July and the U.S. Senate is



currently considering their version. The remaining steps to implementation are passage of a farm bill in the Senate, agreement and passage of a conference version between the House and Senate, signature by the President, and publication of new rules in the Federal Register. Looking at that timeline, a signup before early spring is unlikely. However, program provisions and signup dates will be provided through this newsletter as soon as they become available.

## FARM RECORDS CHANGES

Any ownership, operator, address, or even bank account changes should be reported to the FSA office to keep our records up to date. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in or your operation could result in delays of payment, program ineligibility, or fines. Consult the local FSA office if you have questions.

## Wind Power



Several wind power companies are either in the process of building wind turbines or have expressed an interest in doing so in the area with the purpose of generating renewable wind energy. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) supports the continued development of wind power. However, this type of development work on a farm typically requires the consent of lien/contract holders as well as the owner of the property. As a part of the lien/contract holders consent process, for any land where government assistance is being received by the farmer, (CRP, WRP, direct and/or guaranteed loans, etc.), an assessment of potential environmental impact is required by federal law.

These federal environmental laws require FSA to assess what impact, if any, the wind turbine could have on historical sites or on endangered species of plants and animals. Some of these environmental evaluations are fairly simple; others require professionals in the field and can be expensive for the farmer to complete. If you are participating in the FSA CRP or WRP programs or have a direct and/or guaranteed FSA loan, please contact the our office prior to executing any leases and/or contracts with any wind power company.

The Nodaway County FSA office will be happy to help you through this process.

## Required CRP Mid-Contract Management Practices

If you enrolled land in CRP with the 26<sup>th</sup> signup (contracts that became effective October 1, 2003) or after, certain contracts are required to complete a series of mid-contract management practices on the acreage. These practices include: strip disking, prescribed burning or chemical applications. These management practices are mandatory and there are no waivers or options to avoid the requirement to complete them.

There is a certain time period during each year that the management practice must be performed depending on the established cover. These practices were contained in your conservation plan of operation that you completed with NRCS at the time your acreage was enrolled in CRP. Cost-share is available for all three practices and you must report completion of the practice to your FSA office. If you have any questions concerning these management practices contact your local NRCS or FSA office. Penalties for non-compliance can be expensive.

## Youth Loan Projects

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other youth organizations. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

### Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Live in the open country or in a town of less than 10,000 people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing the application forms. The FSA staff will be happy to answer your questions. FSA is an equal opportunity lender.

## Managed CRP Haying and Grazing Reminder



Nodaway County saw a tremendous increase in the number of CRP producers that released their acreage for haying and grazing this summer and fall compared to previous years. Once the dust had settled on the applications a little more than 11,000 acres had been released.

Because of this dramatic increase the county office just wanted to remind all the producers that utilized the program that the deadline for grazing CRP and also for having hay bales removed from the CRP acreage was November 13<sup>th</sup>. Hay bales CANNOT be stored on CRP contract acres.

Nodaway County FSA Office  
 502 West South Hills Drive  
 Suite 104  
 Maryville, MO 64468



### Census Gives Farmers a Voice in Their Future

America's farmers and ranchers will soon have the opportunity to participate in shaping the future of agriculture. The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will begin distribution of the 2007 Census of Agriculture next month.

According to NASS, the Census of Agriculture provides information that is not available anywhere else – information that benefits agricultural producers and their communities in many ways. Policy-makers use Census data for decisions concerning agricultural and rural programs. Community planners use Census information to target delivery of local services. Companies rely on Census data when determining where to locate their operations. And farmers themselves look at Census data when deciding to make changes in their production strategies.

Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Census is a complete count of the nation's farms and ranches and the people who operate them. The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures, and other topics. It provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation.

NASS will mail out Census forms on December 28, 2007 to collect data for the 2007 calendar year. Completed forms are due by February 4, 2008. Producers can return their forms by mail or, for the first time, they have the convenient option of filling out the Census online via a secure web site at <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/>.

Dates to Remember	
Nov. 22	Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Dec. 3	COC election ballots must be returned
Dec. 25	Christmas Holiday
Jan. 1	New Years Holiday
Ongoing	Continuous CRP
Ongoing	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Ongoing	Crop Disaster Sign Up
Ongoing	Livestock Compensation Sign Up

**Please visit the FSA Website:**

[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

**Farm Service Agency**



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