



November 2007

Missouri Producer

Missouri Farm Service Agency

Parkade Center, Suite 225
601 Business Loop 70 W
Columbia, MO 65203
www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

Hours

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

State Committee

Don Fischer, Chairman
Julie Hurst
Craig Westfall
Barbara Wilson
Dan Jennings Jr.

Staff

Tim Kelley, State Executive Director
Patty Dick, Administration
Dan Gieseke, Farm Loans
Bo Wendleton, Compliance
Gerald Hrdina, Conservation
Everette Wood, Price Support
Mike Lafolette, Production Flexibility

Disaster Program Sign-Up Continues

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops. **CDP sign-up** for quantity loss began **October 15, 2007**.

Losses from natural disasters may qualify for financial assistance if the crop was planted before Feb. 28, 2007, or, in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before Feb. 28, 2007. 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.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP.

For more information about CDP and other disaster programs implemented by FSA, visit: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) began September 10, 2007. LCP compensates livestock producers for feed losses and LIP for livestock losses, due to a natural disaster. Producers in primary counties declared Secretarial disaster areas or certain counties declared Presidential disaster areas between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, are eligible as are producers located in counties contiguous to those counties. Producers in a primary (or contiguous) county that received an Administrator's Physical Loss Notice directly associated with a disaster declaration will also be eligible.

Visit your local service center to see if you're eligible.

Voting for County Committee Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election were mailed to eligible voters 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,

Dates to Remember	
Nov. 2	County committee election ballots mailed.
Nov. 12	Veteran's Day Holiday. FSA offices closed.
Nov. 20	Last day to apply for NAP Coverage for apples, grapes and peaches.
Nov. 22	Thanksgiving Holiday. FSA offices closed.
Dec. 1	Last day to apply for NAP Coverage for honey.
Dec. 31	Last day to apply for NAP Coverage for potatoes.
Dec. 3	Last day to return voted ballots in county committee election.
Dec. 25	Christmas Day Holiday. FSA offices closed.
Jan. 1	New Year's Day Holiday. FSA offices closed.

2007. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 3rd

Voter Requirements Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, is 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.

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/>.

Operating Loan Applications

Farmers who plan to apply to the Farm Service Agency for annual operating loan assistance this year are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. The earlier an application for loan assistance is filed, the quicker

Selected Interest Rates for November 2007	
90-Day Treasury Bill	4.125%
Farm Operating Loans - Direct	4.750%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct	5.375%
Limited Resource Loans	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4.000%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	4.375%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	4.875%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	5.125%

the FSA staff can process your request. In addition, due to budget constraints, farmers that wait until later in the year to apply, often run the risk of finding out that our funding allocations have been utilized already. Farmers should also contact their local FSA office to setup an appointment with a Farm Loan Official for information as to what is required in order to have a complete loan application on file. Decisions on loans can not be made until a complete application is received.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

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

The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans 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 Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required. For details, contact the county office staff.

Conservation Programs Available

Now is the time for farmers to look at their crop fields and determine which acres are unproductive. Whether this is a perimeter of a field, a tree canopy, for instance, or a wet area in the field. These areas may be eligible for an enrollment into a CRP conservation practice. For example, quail buffers, filter strips along ditches and streams or wetlands are available. Farmers should consider the economic benefits from 10-15 year enrollment in CRP.

Annual payments are guaranteed for the length of the contract, where as crop yields and prices don't have those guarantees. Additionally, the conservation practices can benefit wildlife and improve water quality.

Producers should visit their local FSA office to learn more details about conservation and the CRP program and where these practices will fit into the farm operation and landscape.

Unauthorized Disposition of Loaned Grain

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for³

unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producers name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call the office before any grain under loan is fed or sold.

Selling Land

If you're planning to sell farmland, there may be some program consequences you should be aware of. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't want to continue the CRP contract, you might have to refund all of the payments you've received to date.

Reviewing program implications with your local Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.

Farm Reconstitutions

In program terminology, farms are *constituted* to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit. Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

e-Forms

To save forms online and submit them to the appropriate USDA Service Center Office requires a USDA eAuthentication Account with Level 2 Access (User ID and password).

If you do not have a current USDA eAuthentication Level 2 Access Account, you can register to obtain one by visiting the USDA eAuthentication Web site at www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/eauthCreateAccount.html.

After you have register on line, take your official identification (state ID, state driver's license, military ID or passport) to the local FSA Service Center. The staff will verify your identity and validate your Level 2 access.

Submitting an e-Form is convenient. You can access information anytime day or night seven days a week. It's also faster. Forms and applications can be submitted and received in the county office in a matter of minutes, not days or weeks.

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