



January 2008

Farm Service Agency

County News

**Phelps/Crawford County
USDA Service Center**

FSA

1050 Hwy 72 East
Rolla, Mo. 65401

573-364-2088 (phone)
573-364-7936 (fax)
800-364-USDA
www.fsa.usda.gov

Hours

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

County Committee

Jim Parker (Chairperson)
Rod Frees (Vice-Chair)
Tom Strain (Member)
Anna Edgar (Member)
Gary Mullen (Member)

County Committee meets
The 3rd Thursday of every
month.

Staff

Gregg Barrows
County Director
Londa Mathis
Program Technician
Brenda Herrman
Program Technician
Steve Sullivan
Field Assistant

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Gary Mullen. Gary was elected to the county committee to represent Local Administrative 2 which includes Meramec, Courtois, Union, and Osage townships. Gary replaced John Bell who has served three, three year terms. Gary lives on a farm in the Steelville area and is a beef producer. Denise Hughes was elected first alternate.

On January 10, 2008 the committee met to organize for the 2008 year. Jim Parker was elected Chairperson and Rod Frees was elected Vice Chairperson.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

ATTENTION LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) for the droughts in 2005 and 2006 is well underway. This month, we will start issuing payment to producers in Phelps and Crawford Counties with approved applications. If you have not applied, don't let this program slip by.

If you owned or cash leased eligible livestock on January 1st of 2005 or 2006 and suffered an eligible feed loss, you may be compensated.

Payment rates for some eligible livestock are:

- BEEF (Adult) – \$10.66/head
- DAIRY (Adult) - \$27.72/head
- BEEF & DAIRY (500#'s plus on Jan. 1st) - \$8.00/head

Other eligible livestock include: Buffalo, Beefalo, Sheep, Goats, Equine, Swine, Poultry, Deer and Elk. (Claimed livestock must be for commercial purposes in a farming operation to be considered eligible).

Producers incurring losses in 2005 and 2006 must choose only one year for which to receive benefits.

If you have any questions, give us a call. If not, get your livestock numbers and come by our office.

No deadline has yet been established for sign up in the LCP program.

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!!!

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA County office staff if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold

agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other as individuals for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

LDP Deadline on Wool, Mohair and Unshorn Lamb Pelts

Eligible producers have **until Jan. 31, 2008**, to apply for LDP's for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts produced during the 2007 crop year.

Eligible producers must:

- have beneficial interest in the wool or unshorn pelts
- owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of shearing or slaughter
- sold the unshorn lambs for immediate slaughter or slaughtered the lamb for personal use
- comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in.

| January 2008 | |
|---|--------|
| 90-Day Treasury Bill | 3.625% |
| Farm Operating Loans — Direct | 4.375% |
| Selected Interest Rates for Farm Ownership Loans — Direct | 5.125% |
| Limited Resource Loans | 5.000% |
| Farm Ownership Loans Beginning Farmer Down Payment | 4.000% |
| Emergency Loans | 3.750% |
| Farm Storage Facility Loans | 3.625% |
| Commodity Loans 1996-Present | 4.250% |

Power of Attorney

We have a power of attorney form available for those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. This can be done by completing an FSA-211, Power of Attorney. The form is available at your local USDA Service Center or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the County Executive Director of their local Farm Service Agency office.

Faxed Signatures

Certain faxed signatures shall be accepted for all applicable program forms or other documents approved for faxed signatures, if all other signature requirements are met.

Wool Producers

Turn in your wool tickets for Loan Deficiency Payments. Sign up for LDP for 2008.

Wheat Producers

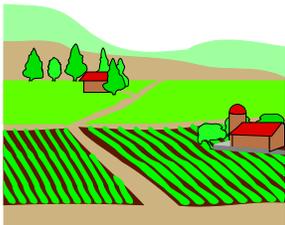
And other fall seeded crops you have planted; report now so you don't forget. We need planting date. Deadline to report is June 30.

Gregg's Comments

The Livestock Compensation Program is still the big news. We are scheduling appointments to avoid producers having to wait in line for hours. This has been very effective; by scheduling appointments we have much of the producer's information ready before their appointment and actually serve them in less time.

The deadline to apply has not been announced for LCP.

Sign up has been slower than previous livestock programs. Please schedule now and avoid the rush when a deadline is announced. Pass the word to your friends and neighbors. I don't want anyone to miss the opportunity to apply.



CREP

Farmers and landowners in the Meramec River Watershed are encouraged to take advantage of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). CREP will reimburse farmers for enrolling cropland or pastureland adjacent to streams, ponds, and rivers. Program participants will receive annual rental payments, cost-share assistance, and other financial incentives for a period of 14-15 years for installing and maintaining buffer strips and riparian buffer strips along the streams, rivers, and ponds. In addition, if this is your main water source for your livestock operation, we could possibly cost-share with you to develop an alternate source of water.



Continuous CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is a private lands environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll environmentally sensitive acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality, and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

The Continuous CRP is a voluntary enrollment program. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost-share for establishing the practice.

To be eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Then the FSA will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at anytime during the year.

For more information on the Continuous CRP enrollments or local Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) availability, please contact your local FSA office.

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/>.

Money Available!

Are your pastures in need of some assistance due to the dry weather conditions we have had during the past summer and fall? The Phelps and Crawford County Soil and Water Conservation Districts have cost-share funds available to assist landowners with pasture improvements and establishments. The cost-share program provides up to 75% of the county average cost for seed, seedbed preparation, fertilizer and lime. For more information on the program or to set up an appointment for a field visit, contact the Soil and Water District offices at (573) 364-6202 or (800) 364-8732 ext. 3.



Direct and Guaranteed Loans Available

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are available now. Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan. Loan funds are available now — applying early is important so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner. Most of our loan programs have special funding available for minority, female and beginning farmers. FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

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.

| Dates to Remember | |
|-------------------|---|
| Jan. 31 | Deadline on 2007 LDP's for wool, mohair and unshorn lamb pelts. |
| Feb. 18 | President's Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed. |
| Feb. 25 | Beef and Forage Conference, Cuba, MO (Knights of Columbus) |
| Mar. 15 | Deadline to obtain 2008 NAP coverage on spring planted crops. |
| Mar. 31 | Final Availability for 2007 crop wheat, barley, oats, honey loans and LDP's. |

Visit our website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

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