



November 2007

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
John Bell (Chairperson)
Anna Edgar (Vice-Chair)
Tom Strain (Member)
Rod Frees (Member)
Jim Parker (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

Crop Disaster Program Signup

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

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.

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.

For more information contact the Farm Service Agency office.

Livestock Indemnity Program

This program compensated producers who had livestock killed as a direct result of the January ice storm. Producers will either need evidence of the death loss or be required to provide a certification and provide a certification by a third party. Compensation will be reduced by any insurance or other compensation received. A deadline to sign up has not been established. For more information contact the local office. Appointments are necessary to apply.

LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM

This program compensates producers for a portion of the pasture loss during the 2005-2006 droughts.

Payments are based on livestock numbers as of January 1 2005 or 2006. To be counted the livestock must have been owned past April 15 of the chosen year. Payments will be made only on one year, whichever year would have the highest payment. Most producers will have adequate pasture losses to qualify for the following payment amounts:
\$10.66 for mature beef
\$ 8.00 for beef or dairy over 500#
\$27.72 for mature dairy
\$2.67 for sheep or goats
Other livestock may qualify if on pasture.

*An ending date for sign -up has not been announced. **Please call and schedule an appointment.** This has kept producers from having to wait for long periods. We are not able to make payments at this time.*

Producers need the following information to sign an application. Livestock numbers as of January 1, of the year they wish to apply. Reduce that number by any livestock that were not on the farm past April 15, the start of the normal grazing period. Location the livestock grazed and if those acres were hayed, the date the last cutting of hay was taken. We will also need to update the producer's eligibility files. A voided check for the account you wish us to pay will be needed if it was not provided earlier.

FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- ❖ A married woman shall sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, not Mrs. John Doe
- ❖ For a minor, FSA requires the minor's signature and one from an eligible parent (Note, by signing the applicable document, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc.)
- ❖ When signing on one's behalf the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form, or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. Example - John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc.
- ❖ Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- ❖ Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities
- ❖ All members of a general partnership must sign for the general partnership unless an individual is authorized to act on the behalf of the general partnership and bind all members
- ❖ Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts shall consist of an indicator "by" or "for" the individual's name, individual's name and capacity, or individual's name, capacity, and name of entity

For additional clarification on proper signatures and FAXED forms contact your local FSA office.

County Committee Election

Just a reminder: Be watching your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters starting on November 2, 2007. If, for some reason, you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office. Completed and signed ballots must be postmarked by December 3, 2007. Candidates in Crawford County are Helen Denise Hughes and Gary Mullen. The candidate for Phelps County is Anna Edgar.

Spot Check Determinations and Notification

Each year the Farm Service Agency completes spot checks of acreage reports and maintenance of conservation practices. Acreage reports are the basis for delivery of many farm programs. Acreage and compliance spot checks are completed to ensure accurate acreage reports and practice receiving cost share are maintained.

FSA will spot check a selected number of farms in each state. Color imagery flown in summer 2007 will be used to complete all acreage determinations.

All acreage spot checks will be completed using the Geographic Information System official acreages. After farms are spot checked, a Notice of Determined Acreage will be sent to the farm operator.

Producer notifications will be issued by FSA as spot checks are completed. Questions concerning determined acres should be directed to your local FSA office for clarification.

Wool Producers

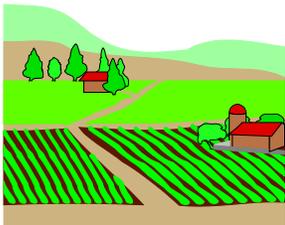
Turn in your wool tickets for Loan Deficiency Payments. Sign up for LDP for 2008.

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.

Socially Disadvantaged Farmers

FSA has loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operat-



ing expenses and to purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has priority funding for Socially Disadvantaged applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

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.

Deadlines to apply have not been announced for LCP, LIP or CDP.

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.

Prices on crops have been high enough to prevent deficiency payment. However, keep your evidence of production. This is needed for crop insurance and may be needed for future farm legislation. No, there is not a new farm bill yet. We will all have to see what is coming next.

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 any time 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/>.

Dates to Remember	
Nov. 12	Closed for Veterans Day
Nov. 22	Closed for Thanksgiving
Dec. 25	Closed for Christmas
Jan. 1	Closed for New Years
Dec. 3	Last Day to return ballots
Dec. 6	Committee meeting and count ballots

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