



September 2007

County News

Phelps/Crawford County USDA Service Center

FSA
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Rolla, Mo. 65401

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800-364-USDA
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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

SIGN-UP DATES FOR NEW LIVESTOCK AND CROP DISASTER PROGRAMS

Sign-up dates for the new Livestock Compensation Program, Livestock Indemnity Program and Crop Disaster Program have been announced. Eligible ranchers and other livestock producers can apply to receive benefits under the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) starting September 10, 2007. Eligible farmers can sign-up for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) beginning October 15, 2007, if they suffered quantity losses to their crops. USDA will announce and conduct CDP sign-up for quality losses as soon as possible.

LCP compensates livestock producers for feed losses and the LIP for livestock losses occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 28, 2007, 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. All counties in Missouri are eligible for all 3 years (2005, 2006, and 2007).

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters 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. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to 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% to be eligible for CDP. Contact the

county office for details. Crop Disaster rules are not final at this time.

Livestock Compensation Program Applicants need to call for appointment. Appointments are required. See left column for numbers.

Livestock producer will need to provide the following information: Livestock numbers as of 1-1-2005 and 1-1-2006 in the categories listed below. We will print maps for producers to designate grazed acres. Please read the article on record changes.

Beef adult cows and bulls
Beef non-adult 500# + but not adult
Dairy adult cows and bulls
Dairy 500# + but not adult
Buffalo/beefalo same as beef
Sheep all
Goats all
Swine <45#
45-124#
125-234#
Sows 235# +
Boars 235# +

Other livestock may qualify but space limits what I can print. Bring those numbers with you to the office.

For Livestock Indemnity Program producers will need certifications of livestock deaths due to the disaster. If evidence of loss is not available a third party certification is required. Other compensation such as insurance will be a factor in the payment. If you had death losses of livestock due to a disaster between 1-1-05 and 2-28-2007, contact the office for more information.

County Committee Elections

Nominations for the county committee election were due in the county office by Au-

gust 1, 2007. The next step in the election process is the mailing out of the ballots, which will begin on November 2, 2007. Voters have until December 3, 2007, to return their properly completed ballots to the county office. Elected committee members and alternates take office on Jan. 1, 2008.

The nominees for Phelps/Crawford Counties are Helen Denise Hughes and Gary Mullen in LAA#2. Anna Edgar in LAA#5.

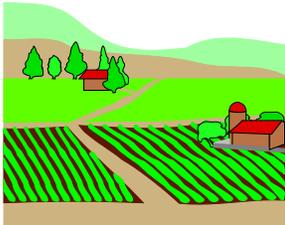
Prospective Voter Requirements - Anyone who meets the requirements in either, 1 or 2, as well as Item 3, is eligible to vote for county committee members.

1. Voter is of legal voting age and participates or cooperates in any FSA program, or

2. The voter is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.

3. The voter must also be eligible to participate in any FSA program 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.



NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

Producers who already have coverage on 2007 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2008, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Final DCP Payments For 2007

Enrolled producers can expect their final direct payment to be directly deposited into personal bank accounts sometime during the first few weeks of October.

Producers who did not elect to receive an advance direct payment will receive their entire direct payment for the year in one lump sum after the end of the fiscal year (Sept. 30).

The direct payment for a crop equals 85 percent of the farm's base acreage times (x) the farm's direct payment yield times (x) the payment rate.

Payment Limitations

USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. Documents and forms to determine eligibility and limitation once completed are reviewed on an annual basis.

It is the producer's responsibility to report changes in the farming operation that may affect payment eligibility and payment limitation.

The following limitations apply to Direct and Counter-cyclical Program payments for each contract year. For all covered commodities (except peanuts): \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program has a \$450,000 payment limitation.

The Conservation Reserve Program annual limit is \$50,000 per person.

Entities such as corporations, limited partnerships, trusts and estates are required to provide names, addresses, and ID numbers of their members. These entities should also identify every payment under more than one entity.

Adjusted Gross Income - Effective through 2007, an individual or entity shall not be eligible for certain program benefits during a crop, program or fiscal year if both of the following apply.

- The three-year average of the adjusted gross income for the individual or entity exceeds \$2.5 million; and
- Less than 75 percent of the average AGI is derived from farming, ranching or forestry operations.

Signing for Entities

To sign FSA forms for trusts, limited liability companies, cooperatives, partnerships, act. producers need a document on file at the county office saying you're authorized to sign for the entity. It could be a copy of the articles of partnership or articles of corporation or a valid power of attorney.

Record Changes

If you have bought, sold or are renting different land, make sure you report the changes to the Farm Service Agency office as soon as possible after they occur. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or recorded land contract. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and fines if you are participating in our program.



Sign-up now for EQIP

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has set a sign-up deadline of October 5, 2007 for landowners to sign-up for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) to be eligible for the next round of funding.

The EQIP program provides program payment funds to assist producers in implementing conservation practices on their farms. Some of the practices that can receive program payments include fencing, wells, pipelines, watering facilities, wildlife habitat improvement, and animal waste storage structures. Incentive payments for up to three years for such practices as excluding cattle from woodlands and streams, upland wildlife habitat management and rotational grazing are also available. New this year are some forest stand improvement practices and incentives for improving forest land damaged by severe insect, disease, storm and or wildfire.

Producers interested in this program or wanting additional information on this program are encouraged to contact the Service Center, Natural Resources Conservation Service office at 573-364-2088, ex.3 or visit us at the USDA Service Center, Rolla, Mo.

Gregg's Comments

Livestock Compensation Program is the big news. We are scheduling appointments to avoid producers having to wait in line for hours. Deadlines to apply have not been announced. I recommend scheduling your appointment and we will try to serve the public to the best of our ability. Normally if appointments are made we can get you in and out of the office in a timely manner. Also for those producers who do not have a Direct Deposit set



up with us, we will need a voided check from you so we can data load your routing number in the computer. All payments will be made by Electronic Funds Transfer.

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 program 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 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.

| Dates to Remember | |
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| Sept. 10 | Livestock Programs Starts |
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| Oct. 8 | Closed for Columbus Day |
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