



January 2008

Platte County News

Platte County
USDA Service Center

Platte County FSA
P.O. Box 1220
Platte City Mo 64079
816-431-2101 (phone)
816-431-2091(fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

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

County Committee
Diana Blankenship
Brian Fulk
Kelly Yulich

County Committee meets
2nd Thursday of each
month at 1:00 p.m.

Staff
Susan Cogan
Michelle Comer
Tim Lowery

CED
Don Boyer

Farm Bill Update

Work by Congress on the 2008 Farm Bill has not been completed at this time and the 2002 farm Bill has expired. No annual farm programs are available for enrollment at this time.

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Diana Blankenship! Blankenship was re-elected to represent farmers from Green and Preston townships on the county committee. Blankenship was elected to her 2nd consecutive term.

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.

The committee members will held their organizational meeting in January to determine who will serve as the county committee chairman and vice-chairman.

Diana Blankenship was elected as chairperson; Brian Fulk was elected as vice-chairperson; and Kelly Yulich will serve as member spouse.

Financial Inquiries

As we begin the new year its time to start thinking about gathering financial records and filling out a 1040. Currently, producer financial information is not available on the USDA Customer Statement under FSA Benefits Summary. Producers can view his or her financial information on the Financial Inquiries website using their-Level 2 account authorization. Producers who want to inquire about a particular electronic deposit, program payment, debt or 1099G should go to www.fsa.usda.gov and select Online Services, then Financial Inquiries for FSA Producers.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal law of planting, producing, cultivating, harvesting, growing, or storing a controlled substance will be ineligible to participate and receive payments under USDA programs. Marijuana, opium poppies, and other drug producing plants are controlled substances.

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.

| Selected Interest Rates for January 2008 | |
|---|--------|
| 90-Day Treasury Bill | 3.625% |
| Farm Operating Loans — Direct | 4.375% |
| 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>.

Forms obtained and completed outside the USDA Service Centers offices must be notarized. To find out more, call the office.

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) programs in which either has an interest. In most cases, this option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

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

Loans for Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has targeted funding for members of 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.

For detailed information on loan eligibility or the different loan programs available, contact your local FSA office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Applications for FSA Loans

Farmers and ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Filing early will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible so that planting decisions can be made. Failure to apply early can result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications that must be processed in date order. Contact your local FSA Loan Approval Official for more details and assistance in applying.

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

Sign-up for the Livestock Compensation Program is currently underway. **This program compensates producers for a portion of their pasture losses during the 2005 2006 or 2007 years.**

The following groups of livestock are eligible

for LCP:

Adult beef cows or bulls,
Non-adult beef cattle, 500 lbs. or more,
Adult dairy cows or bulls,
Non-adult dairy cattle, 500 lbs. or more,
And Goats, Sheep, Swine and Equine.
(Confinement operations are not eligible.)

The livestock must have been produced for commercial purposes as a part of the farming operation. Producers must have owned or cashed leased the livestock on Jan. 1, 2005 or Jan. 1, 2006. Producer's average adjusted gross income (AGI) can not exceed \$2.5 million for the three years immediately preceding the calendar year for which benefits are being requested. Producers are eligible to receive benefits for one of the years and must choose which year's losses they wish to receive benefits. Usually the year in which the most livestock was owned on January 1 will result in the most benefits. Loss of hay or feed grain yields do not qualify for LCP.

A sign-up deadline has not yet been announced. Producers will need to certify to the number of eligible livestock in inventory on Jan. 1, 2005 and Jan. 1, 2006.

Crop Disaster Program

Earlier this past year Congress passed an Appropriations Act that included a Crop Disaster Program (CDP) intended to provide benefits to farmers who suffered production losses because of a natural disaster occurring in 2005, 2006, or 2007. Sign-up for quantity losses is currently underway. The sign-up for quality losses will begin sometime in calendar year 08.

The following are the basic eligibility requirements: ***Producers must have obtained crop insurance on the applicable crop or coverage under the Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program for the disaster year.***

Production loss must exceed 35% of the expected production of the insured unit. FSA will use crop insurance loss records obtained through the USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) to determine eligibility. If insurance loss records are not available, the producer must provide verifiable and reliable records to substantiate the loss.

If a qualifying loss occurred in more than one year on the unit, the payment will be based on the year for which benefits are highest. A sign-up deadline has not yet been announced.

NAP Program

FSA administers a program called the Non-Insurable Assistance Program or NAP, which is modeled after crop insurance to provide protection against loss for crops on which crop insurance is not available. Examples of crops in this area which are eligible for coverage under this program would include double crop soybeans and most forage crops used for hay, pasture or seed production. The cost of the coverage is \$100 per crop per county with a maximum charge of \$300 per county. If you are interested in protection for non-insurable crops, contact the office. The sales closing date is March 15.

Marketing Assistance Loans

Producers are reminded of the marketing assistance loan program which offers nine month loans using grain as collateral. The loans are non-recourse which means the grain can be forfeited to CCC for settlement of the loan. The current interest rate for these loans is 4.25%. This loan interest rate varies from month to month but the rate in effect when you obtain a loan will remain the same through the maturity date of the loan, with the exception that on January 1 of each year all outstanding loan interest rates change to the January rate. The quantity of grain for loan can be certified by the producer or measurement service is available. Loan rates for Platte County are: Corn - \$1.92 and Soybeans - 5.11. Loans are also available for other commodities such as wheat and oats. Check with your local office for loan rates on other commodities. The final date to request loans is March 31 for small grains such as wheat and oats and May 31 for most spring planted crops. You must now make an application before loan processing can begin.

For those producers who have CCC loans, please be reminded to contact the county office when moving or selling the grain, and watch grain closely when the weather begins to change so that the condition of the grain may be properly maintained.

Acreage Reporting

Remember to report CRP, and all land uses. It is not too early to report CRP, wheat, or fall seeded barley NOW. Every one that has CRP must report those acres every year.

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)

Do you need more storage capacity for your farming operation? Check with your local FSA office to discuss the possibility of a Farm Storage Facility Loan. Now is the time to start planning to have the storage facility of your choice ready for next fall's harvest, and an excellent time to take advantage of many suppliers' pre-season discounts. 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, buildings specially designed for the storage of grain 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. Interest rates for January are 3.625%. Contact your local FSA office for complete details concerning the Farm Storage and Facility Loan program.

Conservation Compliance

All participants in USDA programs are required to have a conservation system in place on all the highly erodible land (HEL) that they operate. Several areas where problems can arise with complying with a conservation system are; renting new cropland, purchasing new land, breaking out additional cropland, planting different crops such as soybeans, and changing or removing existing conservation practices. It is very important that you contact the FSA office before doing any of the above. Also, it is very important that you contact our office before modifying - tiling, draining, dredging, filling or leveling - any wetland or drainage ditch. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in loss of all Federal payments and eligibility.



Reporting Farm Changes

It is also the producer's responsibility to notify FSA of ANY changes in their farming operation or entity status throughout the year. Changes that may affect a determination include, but are not limited to a change in contract shares of a contract which may reflect change of land lease from cash rent to share rent or from share rent to cash rent; modification of a variable/fixed bushel rent arrangement; a change in the size of the producer's farming operation by the addition or deletion of a farm; a change in the structure of the farming operation, including any change in the member's shares; a change in the contributions of farm inputs of capital, equipment, active personal labor, or active personal management; and a change of farming interest not previously disclosed on CCC-502 or update, including the farming interests of a spouse or minor child.

| Dates to Remember | |
|-------------------|---|
| Jan. 21 | Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. FSA Offices Closed. |
| Jan. 31 | Deadline on 2007 LDPs for wool, mohair and unshorn lamb pelts. |
| Feb. 18 | President's Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed. |
| 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 LDPs. |

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

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