

USDA NEWS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Contact Information

Grundy County

3415 Oklahoma Ave
Trenton, MO 64683
Phone: (660) 359-2006
Fax: (660) 359-3249

Mercer County

Route 2, Box 317
Hwy 65 N.
Princeton, MO 64673
Phone: (660) 748-4385
Fax: (660) 748-4589

Putnam County

28988 Hwy 136
Unionville, MO 63565
Phone: (660) 947-2439
Fax: (660) 947-3141

Schuyler County

200 Green
Lancaster, MO 63548
Phone: (660) 457-3715
Fax: (660) 457-3239

Scotland County

Hwy 136 E.
Route 1, Box 73H
Memphis, MO 63555
Phone: (660) 465-8517
Fax: (660) 465-2518

Sullivan County

23478 Eclipse Dr
Milan, MO 63556
Phone: (660) 265-3440
Fax: (660) 265-3410

Voting for County Committee Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election were mailed to eligible voters on November 3, 2006. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 4, 2006. If mailed, ballots must be post-marked by midnight December 4.

The candidate(s) in this year's elections are:

Grundy County

Melissa Lowrey, 470 SE Ivy Lane, Laredo, MO, Warren Kirby, 616 SE 8th Street, Trenton, MO and Larry Schmidt, 216 Highway JJ, Laredo, MO are nominated in LAA #3, Grundy County, to serve as a committee member.

Mercer County

Kirk Ellis, RR 1, Box 265, Mercer, MO is nominated in LAA #2, Mercer County, to serve as a committee member.

Putnam County

Ann Burkhiser, 12635 State Highway U, Unionville, MO is nominated in LAA #2, Putnam County, to serve as a committee member.

Schuyler County

Shirlene Hartsock, Glenwood, MO and Dean Brown, Lancaster, MO are nominated in LAA #1, Schuyler County, to serve as a committee member.

Scotland County

Sharon Bradley, RR 1, Box 116, Baring, MO is nominated in LAA #1, Scotland County, to serve as a committee member.

Sullivan County

David Callihan, 24407 Hwy CC, Milan, MO is nominated in LAA #2, Sullivan County, to serve as a committee member.

Eligible voters in the respective local administrative area who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

<i>Unauthorized Disposition of Loaned Grain</i>	2
<i>Farm Reconstitutions</i>	2
<i>eLDP Service</i>	2
<i>Continuous CRP</i>	3
<i>Changing Financial Institutions</i>	3
<i>Selling Land</i>	3
<i>Milk Program</i>	3
<i>Eligibility Reviews</i>	4

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





90-Day Treasury Bill	5.00%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	5.25%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.50%
Limited Resource Loans	5.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4.00%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	4.625%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	6.00%

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 for 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 loan grain is fed or sold.

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.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

Estate Method — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

DCP Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

Default Method — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

2007 DCP Sign-up Continues

The 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP) began October 1, 2006, and continues until June 1, 2007. Farmers are encouraged to sign up for the DCP program online. The online service is an example of the technological innovation USDA is using to make its programs more accessible.

Following the June 1, 2007, deadline, USDA will accept late applications through Sept. 30, 2007, with a \$100 late fee. While DCP participants must sign DCP contracts annually, producers can choose not to participate in the program in any given year.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service saves producers time, reduces paperwork and speeds up contract processing at USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices. It is available to all producers who are eligible to participate in DCP and who establish an eAuthentication account. The service has strict security measures to protect participants' private information. Only authorized federal employees have access to information producers submit electronically.

USDA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2007, eligible producers may request to receive direct advance payments based on **22 percent** of the direct payment rate for each commodity associated with the farm. USDA will issue DCP advance direct payments beginning Dec. 1, 2006. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate) for a commodity is below its target price.

eLDP Service Available

Producers who are connected to the Internet can now apply from the comfort of their own home for an Electronic Loan Deficiency Payment, or eLDP, on stored grain 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The producers will receive approval and payment by direct deposit normally within 48 hours.

To participate in the new service, you must meet all eligibility requirements for marketing assistance loans and LDPs for the commodity. You must also establish a customer profile at the county FSA office.

You will need an active USDA eAuthentication level 2 account which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/>, followed by a visit to the county office for identify verification.

During your visit to the FSA county office you can create your own unique customer profile in the computer system. A CCC-633EZ (page 1) also needs to be on file at the county office.

E-file participants must have an e-mail address, direct deposit and a customer profile established by their county office to enable their online capability. The voluntary eLDP service has stringent security measures to protect your private information.



Reminders . . .

- * Cost Share is available for CRP management practices. Be sure to turn in your bill for maintenance.
- * CRP REX (2008–2010) contracts need to be approved by December 31, 2006



Farm Record Changes

Any ownership, operator, or address changes should be reported timely to the FSA office to keep records current. Adding or dropping a farming interest will also require you to update your conservation plan and payment limitation requirements. If you transfer your land into a trust, you must bring in your trust paperwork and report the change to our office.

Continuous CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is a private lands environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll 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 establishment.

To be eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, 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 Continuous CRP enrollments or local Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) availability, please contact your local FSA office or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/crpcont03.htm>.

Changing Financial Institutions

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 determined that the chance of 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.

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 does not 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

Milk Producers Reminded of Program Requirements

Dairy producers participating in the Milk Income Loss Contract Extended (MILCX) program are being reminded to select a the month they wish production payments to begin.

If producers start month for fiscal year 2006 was never modified, then the production start month will remain in effect for this fiscal year and no action by the producer is necessary. Also, if producers have already designated a production start month for FY2007 and they do not wish to change it, no action is necessary."

Changes to the MILCX start month must be submitted to the County Office on or before the 14th of the month originally selected as the start month or as the newly selected start month. If the 14th of the month falls on a weekend, as is the case this month, the dairy operation production start month selection must be made on the last working day proceeding the weekend. The start month designation cannot be changed if the new month being selected has already begun or already passed.



Offices Perform Eligibility Reviews

Over the next couple of months, Missouri FSA county offices will be conducting an in-depth review of the documents used to support producer eligibility. The review is the Agency's effort to ensure the accuracy of all payments made. This process takes great attention to detail and more time. As a result, some future payments may not get to you as quickly as they have in the past.

You can assist with this process by contacting your local office to make an appointment before coming in to sign-up for programs or request program payments.

In addition, if you wish to receive the 2007 advance DCP direct payment for the month of December, consider contacting the county office as soon as possible. Scheduling an appointment early may increase your likelihood of receiving this payment before the end of the calendar year as a review of your eligibility file must be completed before payment disbursement.

Although the eligibility reviews may consume more time of the county office employees, FSA remains committed to outstanding customer service and timely distribution of payments to producers.

Want to conduct your FSA business online?

Go to the following website and request a level 2 ID.

<http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/#L2>



FSA Information on the Internet

Want to check out daily LDP prices, news releases, and other FSA information? Log on to these user friendly websites:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

The Missouri State FSA home page is <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo/>

Dates to Remember	
Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Dec. 4	Last day to return county committee election ballots
Dec. 25	Christmas Day Holiday
Continues	Continuous CRP
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.