



May-June 2007

USDA County News

**County
USDA Service Centers**

Grundy Co FSA Office
3415 Oklahoma Ave
Trenton, MO 64683
660-359-2006
CED: Julie Stoecklein

Mercer Co FSA Office
Route 2 Box 317
Hwy 65 N.
Princeton, MO 64673
660-748-7385
CED: Cristal Dunklin

Putnam Co FSA Office
28988 US Hwy 136
Unionville, MO 63565
660-947-2439
CED: Douglas Newland

Schuyler Co FSA Office
200 Green
P.O. Box 249
Lancaster, MO 63548
660-457-3715
CED: Brandi Roper

Scotland Co FSA Office
Hwy 136 E
Route 1 Box 73H
Memphis, MO 63555
660-465-8517
CED: Gary Kittle

Sullivan Co FSA Office
23487 Eclipse Dr.
Milan, MO 63556
660-265-3440
CED: Patrick Mosley

COC Election Nominations

From June 15 through Aug. 1, farmers and ranchers can nominate eligible peers as candidates for election to the County Farm Service Agency County Committee. This is an important time for Local Administrative Area communities, because county committee members make decisions that have significant effects on you and the area's agricultural sector as a whole.

For example, committee members make decisions on applications for federal farm program and disaster payments. Committee members play a vital role by helping local farmers and ranchers manage tough financial times and natural disasters.

County committee members make many other important decisions that affect local farmers and ranchers, such as whether haying and grazing should be allowed on Conservation Reserve Program land. Talk to a county committee member or the County Executive Director for details on the types of decisions county committee members make.

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet basic eligibility requirements. Contact the county office staff or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections> for details about candidate eligibility. Nomination forms can be obtained at the county office or online at the above address. Remember, the nomination period runs June 15 through Aug. 1. Voting takes place in the fall. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 2. Dec. 3 is the last day to return voted ballots to the county office. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office Jan. 1, 2008.

Acreage Reporting

The timely filing of an acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a number of programs, including Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, as well as marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments. To be timely, you must file an FSA-578 by **June 30** for small grains and by **July 31** for all other crops and land uses.

To be considered timely, acreage reports for:

- prevented planted acreage must be filed no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date for the applicable crop
- failed acreage must be filed before the disposition of the crop.

FSA will accept crop certifications from farm operators, farm owners, persons authorized by power of attorney and tenants and sharecroppers, for which they have a share. Crop acreage reports from producers are accepted for multiple future applications.

Measurement Service

Farmers who would like a guarantee on their crop plantings and land use acreages can make it official by using the FSA measurement service. Producers must file a request with the county office staff and pay the cost of a field visit to have stake and referencing done on the farm.

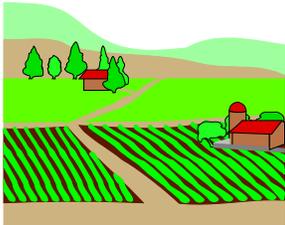
Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty, or loss of eligibility.

Wetland Blue Dot Identifiers

Before the implementation of the FSA Common Land Unit (CLU) project, maps created for producers contained labels and delineations of Natural Resource Conservation Service wetland determinations. The move to using CLU and other digital data to create producer maps brought about the blue dot to represent these wetland determinations. **A blue dot on a map provides no information other than the fact that a determination exists in the area.** The intent of the blue dot is simply to provide a wetland symbol on producer maps until a wetland layer, including delineations of the wetland area, can be completed by NRCS.

In response to concerns expressed about the use of the blue dot symbols, some changes will be made to how wetland determinations are identified on maps. Wetland types will be grouped into the following three categories referred to as Wetland Determination Identifiers on CLU maps:

- **“Restricted Use”** (W, CW, CW+YR, AW/W, GFW, GFW+YR, RSW, RSW+YR, RPW), which is represented by a **red octagon**
- **“Limited Restrictions”** (FW, FWP, CWNA, AW/FW, CWTE, TP, WX, MIW, MW, MWM, CMW, NI, OW, Easement), which is represented by an **upside-down yellow triangle**
- **“Exempt from Conservation Compliance Provisions”** (PC, NW, PC/NW, CC, NW/NAD, AW), which is represented by a **green square**.



Wetland Determination Identifiers	
●	Restricted Use
▼	Limited Restrictions
■	Exempt from Conservation Compliance Provisions

All FSA producer maps will feature the following disclaimer:

“Wetland identifiers do not represent the size, shape, or specific determination of the area. Refer to your original determination (CPA-026 and attached maps) for exact wetland boundaries and labels, or contact NRCS.”

Additional information on map wetland identifiers can be provided by either FSA or NRCS staff.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, rice, soybeans and corn. The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans 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 and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures. All Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required. For details, contact the county office staff.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP):

Due to the heavy rains and flooding that occurred during the first part of May, Grundy Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office will be implementing the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP).

For land to be eligible, the disaster must have created new conservation problems that, if untreated, would impair or endanger the land and materially affect its productive capacity. To qualify for cost-share assistance producers must have suffered at least \$1,000 of eligible cost share expenses. Sign-up for ECP will be for 60 days beginning June 4, 2007. Producers should apply for assistance at their local FSA office before beginning the repairs or removing debris from their acreages. However, if repairs have already begun then producers must apply for assistance within 15 days of the program beginning date or by June 19, 2007. Producers should take pictures of the damage and document the repairs they make if they make them before it has been inspected by an FSA official.

For more detailed information contact the Grundy county FSA office.

Youth Loan Projects

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other youth organizations. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.



Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Live in the open country or in a town of less than 10,000 people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office. We'll help prepare and process the application forms and answer any questions you may have about the program. Remember, FSA is an equal opportunity lender.

For the 2007 crop year, the CCC-633 EZ and eLDP online requests are the only methods available to request LDPs.

Signing for Entities

To sign FSA forms for trusts, limited liability companies, cooperatives, partnerships or corporations, 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.



CCC-633-EZ Reminder

The Farm Service Agency currently uses the CCC-633-EZ form. CCC-633 EZ, Page 1, is a one-size fits all form you can fill out to indicate your intention to receive loan deficiency payments for all your crops at the beginning of the crop year, long before you've lost beneficial interest.

CCC-633 EZ, Page 2, 3, or 4 is then used to submit a request for an LDP any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest.

For the 2007 crop year, the CCC-633 EZ and eLDP online requests are the only methods available to request LDPs.

Preventing Fraud & Waste

The Farm Service Agency and Risk Management Agency are partners in preventing fraud, waste and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to RMA. Producers can report suspected cases to FSA or RMA.

Haying or Grazing CRP Acres

Haying or grazing Conservation Reserve Program acres may be permitted, but you need prior approval from the county committee, and you must have an approved plan. Acres may be hayed or grazed once every three years, and a 25 percent payment reduction is assessed for every approved acre hayed or grazed.

Haying and grazing is not authorized under managed or emergency provisions during the primary nesting and brood-rearing season, which runs through July 15.

CRP program participants wishing to utilize the managed haying and grazing program may make a written request to their County Committee beginning July 16. Haying must be completed by October 13. Bales and livestock must be removed by November 13.

Detailed information is available from FSA county office staff.

Selected Interest Rates for June 2007	
90-Day Treasury Bill	5%
Farm Operating - Direct	5.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.375%
Limited Resource	5%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility	5.875%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	4.625%

Dates to Remember	
June 5	Corn final planting date for crop insurance and FSA
June 20	Soybean & Grain Sorghum final planting date for crop insurance and FSA
June 30	Final date to file an acreage report on small grain crops
July 4	Office closed for Independence Day
July 31	Final date to file an acreage report on all crops and land uses not required to be reported on June 30 (above) including CRP
August 3	DCP Enrollment Deadline

Visit the FSA Website:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

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