



January/February 2007

USDA County News

County USDA Service Centers

Grundy Co FSA Office
3415 Oklahoma Ave
Trenton, Mo 64683
660-359-2006

Mercer Co FSA Office
Route 2 Box 317
Hwy 65 N.
Princeton, MO 64673
660-748-4385

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

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

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

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

1099-G Mailed from Kansas City

During the last week of January, producers who have received payments from FSA should have also received a CCC-1099-G from the Kansas City office. A CCC-1099-G is a report to the Internal Revenue Service about FSA payments made to you in calendar year 2006. The CCC-1099-G is a service to help participating producers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the program participant's responsibility to report income to the IRS.

If you received a CCC-1099-G, we recommend that you check the amounts shown with those in your records to see that the amounts are correct. Refunds will no longer be reported on the 1099-G, but will be available online from the FSA Financial Inquiries (FSA-FI) web-based database. Program participants with eAuthentication user ID's and passwords can access their refund information at FSA-FI and select "Inquiry Type 1099/Refund Reports". Refund amounts are displayed on the Producer's Year-to-Date Activity web page.

If you have a question concerning the 1099-G refund information, you may contact your local FSA office for assistance locating the correct payment data. If you choose to visit the office, bring your CCC-1099-G with you.

County Committee Advisors

FSA County Committee (COC) Advisors are a valued voice for under represented groups and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

County committee members and their county executive directors, actively reach out to producer groups who are under represented on county committees. The COC shall have

submitted the name of their nominee to the State Committee for confirmation, no later than February 1 of each year.

Eligibility requirements for COC advisor nominee include:

- be actively participating in farming or ranching in the county or area
- be willing and able to serve as an advisor, if appointed
- indicate in writing a willingness and ability to serve

County committee advisors serve:

- for a 12-month period not to exceed 9 consecutive years beginning March 1 each year

Duties and Responsibilities of COC Advisors include:

- attending each COC meeting, including executive sessions
- participating in all deliberations
- increasing awareness of and participation in FSA activities, including elections, by eligible voters to ensure that socially disadvantaged group problems and viewpoints are understood and considered in FSA actions
- helping to develop interest and incentives in socially disadvantaged group members for considering FSA work as a career
- actively soliciting candidates from socially disadvantaged groups for nomination during the election process
- able to perform special duties at COC's request.

Note: Advisors do not have authority to sign documents.

County Committee Meetings

Your Local County Farm Service Agency committee meets once a month. The committee establishes its regular meeting time each year at its organizational meeting in January and the sets the local County FSA Office as its meeting place.

We will post a notice on the county office bulletin board if the committee must reschedule the time or place of its next meeting.

Listed below are the set meeting times of the six local FSA offices this newsletter covers. Find your county below to review your local committees meeting time.

Grundy Co FSA Committee-3rd Thursday of the month at 10:00 AM

Mercer Co FSA Committee-2nd Thursday of the month at 1:00 PM

Putnam Co FSA Committee-3rd Thursday of the month at 1:30 PM

Schuyler Co FSA Committee-2nd Thursday of the month at 8:30 AM

Scotland Co FSA Committee-3rd Wednesday of the month at 9:00 AM

Sullivan Co FSA Committee-4th Tuesday of the month at 1:00 PM

FSA Spot Checks

All member information (CCC-501s) and payment eligibility (CCC-502s) are subject to spot check through our end-of-year review process. If selected for a spot check, producers will be asked to submit proof of their contribution to the operation such as seed, fertilizer and chemical bills, land lease agreements, land contracts or property tax payments, equipment lists, cancelled checks for paid labor or hired management, and any other items the FSA County Committee determine are necessary.

The producer is required to provide these items for the spot check so that the FSA county committee can make a determination that the farming operation is actually being performed as was stated on the applicable

CCC-501 or CCC-502 that was originally completed.

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.

What is Continuous CRP?

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program allows participants to voluntarily enroll acreage in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

Eligible landowners enter into 10- to 15-year contracts in return for receiving annual rental and perhaps maintenance, incentive and cost share payments.

To be eligible, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. If eligibility requirements are met, the Farm Service Agency 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, please contact the county office staff or visit

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=crp>.

NAP Coverage Deadline

March 15 is the deadline date for producers to apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance

Program, or NAP, coverage using Form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, and pay the

service fee at the county office. The application and service fee must be filed by March 15, the application closing date for 2007 spring seed crops along with vegetables.

The service fee is \$100 per crop per county or \$300 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$900 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees.

To qualify, a producer must be a landowner, tenant or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop.

Direct and Guaranteed Loans Available

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are available now.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Loan funds are available now — applying early is important so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

Most of our loan programs have special funding available for minority, female and beginning farmers.

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

Wool & Mohair Loans or LDPs

Wool and mohair producers will find applying for commodity loans and loan deficiency payments for the wool, mohair and unshorn pelts a little simpler this year thanks to the Farm Service Agency's new CCC-633 EZ form.

The EZ form will take the place of the older CCC-633 PELT and CCC-709 PELT forms.

Page one of the EZ form takes the place of the 709 PELT form and indicates the producer's intention to receive LDP benefits later on. It's important to complete EZ page one before losing beneficial interest in the commodity.

Producers should complete page one of the EZ form as soon as possible for their current crop year wool, mohair and unshorn pelts. After page one is completed, producers can request benefits at any time during the period that loans or LDPs are available, before or after losing beneficial interest.

Grain growers also use the CCC-633 EZ. Once page one is on file, grain producers can complete page two at a later date when they want to apply for an LDP.

The CCC-633 EZ simplifies requests for LDPs for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts. Page four of the revised EZ form is specifically for wool and mohair producers to request an LDP.

Real Estate for Sale

The Farm Service Agency's Inventory Property Web site provides an online guide to government-owned real estate and potential foreclosure sales information, which includes farm/ranch properties, houses, lots and buildings. Purchase preferences are given to beginning farmers who have operated a farm or ranch for more than three years, but not more than 10 years; this requirement also applies to all members of an entity.

The site provides access to detailed information about each of the properties and links to other USDA Web sites providing a variety of services. Lenders are welcome to use this Web site as a resource by visiting:
<http://www.resales.usda.gov>.

Bank Account Changes?

As of Jan. 1, 1999, all Farm Service Agency payments are supposed to be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers.

**PRESORTED STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 Columbia, MO
 PERMIT #230**

Selected Interest Rates for February 2006	
90-Day Treasury Bill	5%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	5%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.125%
Limited Resource Loans	5%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	4.625%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	%

Visit our Web site at
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo>

Dates to Remember	
Feb 19	Office Closed – Washington’s Birthday
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Grasslands Reserve Program

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.

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