



# FSA NEWSLETTER

*Aug 14, 2007 Special ECP Edition*  
For Flood Affected Counties

**Bates County FSA**  
625 W. Nursery  
Butler, MO 64730  
660-679-6112

**St Clair County FSA**  
3835 NE Highway 13  
Osceola, MO 64776  
417-646-8107

**Vernon County FSA**  
102 W. Allison  
Nevada, MO 64772  
417-667-8137

## Emergency Conservation Program

Due to the heavy rains and severe flooding that occurred in our area the first two weeks of July, the following 3 counties; Bates, St. Clair & Vernon, in District 8 have been approved for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). About 54,000 ac sustained damage due to swift flood waters and standing water between July 2 and July 16 destroying fences, conservation structures and leaving large amounts of debris and sand on farmland. The following ECP Practices EC1, 2, 3 & 4 have been approved and are available for 75% cost share assistance:

- EC1 - Removing Debris from Farmland
- EC2 - Grading, Shaping, Re-leveling or Similar Measures
- EC3 - Restoring Permanent Fences
- EC4 - Restoring Conservation Structures and Other Measures

\* (EC7 - Restoring Pasture and Hay Land – Requested but is pending needs determination from Washington)

Land eligibility will be determined based on on-site inspections of damage, taking into account the type and extent of damage. 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. Under the program, 75% cost-share monies would be available for the practices mentioned above.

To qualify for cost-share assistance producers must have suffered a total of at least \$1,000 of eligible cost share expenses. Producers are not eligible to receive compensation to rehabilitate any land on which they are already required to maintain the practice, which includes land under any other Federal or State cost-share program (example – terraces or waterways built using cost-share from Soil and Water Districts within the last 10 years or land currently enrolled in CRP). Levees or the land between the levee and the river and land under easement to the US Army Corps of Engineers for Truman Dam are not eligible for cost-share under the ECP program. Land on which cost-share assistance is received must maintain its agricultural use for a minimum of 10 years following the year the practice is completed.

The Sign-up period for ECP will be for 60 days beginning Aug 6, 2007 and ending **Oct 5, 2007**. Producers should apply for assistance at their local FSA office before beginning the repairs or removing debris from their acreages. However due to emergency situations many have been repairing fence and cleaning up since the flood so if you have pictures of damaged fences or debris on fields etc please provide a copy as it will be helpful in determining amount of assistance. Producers who have already begun repairs before they applied must apply for assistance within 15 days of the signup beginning date or by **Aug 21, 2007** – if missed, this date may be appealed to Washington.

\*Our request for cost share assistance to replant pasture and hay land killed by flood waters is still pending approval in Washington for needs determination. Producers needing to reseed should go ahead and file a request with FSA and we will contact you when word is received. Contact your FSA Office for more information.

## **Emergency Conservation Program: Eligible components**

### **EC1 – Removing Debris from Farmland**

- removing debris from farmland that meets all of the following criteria: material affects the production capacity of the land, prevents carrying out effective conservation measures, prevents returning the land to productive agricultural use, is of a magnitude that requires the use of hired or personal labor not normally required in the operation of the farm or ranch or the use of equipment that would not have been normally required in the operation of the farm or ranch
- removing debris from farmsteads and access roadways that could significantly interfere with normal farming operations

### **EC2 – Grading, Shaping, Re-leveling or Similar Measures**

- grading, shaping and filling gullies created by the disaster
- re-leveling of previously irrigated farmland
- removing humps, ridges, or depressions if they cause water to pond on the land surface
- incorporating sand or silt deposits into the soil (sand must be a depth greater than 6 inches)
- re-establishing permanent vegetative cover on areas where all of the following are present: grading and shaping is required for rehabilitation of the area, the pre-existing permanent vegetative cover was destroyed, the area involved would be subject to critical wind or water erosion unless the cover is re-established

### **EC3 – Restoring Permanent Fences**

- restoring or replacing fences needed to restore the land to productive agricultural use
- restoring or replacing the smaller of the same type of fence existing before the disaster or cost-share for the actual cost of the fence restored or replaced
- cross fences, boundary fences, cattle gates
- an age factor may also be applied based on the age of the fence 0-5yr=100%, 6-10yr=75%, 11-30yr=60% & 30yr+=0%

### **EC4 – Restoring Conservation Structures and Other Installations**

- dams, ponds, and other water impoundments for agricultural uses
- sod waterways, terrace systems, springs- diversions or spreader ditches
- installed open or closed drainage systems if purpose is to remove silt deposited by the current disaster
- structures for the protection of outlets or water channels before the disaster
- ditches and other permanently installed systems
- permanent vegetative cover including re-establishment where needed in conjunction with eligible structures or installations to prevent critical erosion and siltation

### **EC7 - Restoring Pasture and Hay Land Grass Cover Destroyed as a Result of the Flood (Pending Approval)**

- grass and legume species authorized per NRCS approved seeding mixtures.
- fertilizer applied per soil test or blanket application guidelines
- cost of seeding conventional or no-till
- cost of spreading fertilizer and or lime
- the seeding period for cool season grasses and legumes is Aug 15 – Oct 15
- cost share is not authorized for seed or fertilizer in excess of allowed rates

Cost-Share Rates are flat rates based on 75% of established county average cost not to exceed 100 percent of the cost of the producer's eligible contributions to the practice.

## **Haying and Grazing of CRP allowed with 25% payment reductions**

Managed haying or grazing will be allowed on CRP beginning July 16, 2007 with an ending date for haying of Oct. 13 & grazing Nov 12 and producers must remove all hay bales from hayed acreage by Nov 13, 2007. Annual rental payments producers receive for enrolling land into CRP will be reduced by 25% for acreage that is hayed. Producers can hay or graze no more than once every three years or you may hay or graze 1/3 of your CRP acreage each year. Producers must file a request with FSA and revise your conservation plan with NRCS before you hay or graze any acreage.

## **Mowing Limitations on CRP Contracts**

CRP contracts effective prior to Oct '03 are permitted to mow only up to 1/2 of their CRP acreage in each field each year and mowing should only be done between July 15 & Aug 15. Acreage mowed in excess of the 50% will be ineligible for payments the year it is mowed. Noxious weeds (multiflora rose, musk thistle, field bineweed, marijuana) are required to be controlled and can be mowed anytime with written approval by NRCS and FSA. Also if weeds are inhibiting your CRP approved cover then mowing or chemical application may be approved any time with written approval by NRCS and FSA. Mowing is not an approved practice or authorized on CRP contracts effective Oct '03 and after. These new CRP and CREP contracts require Maintenance Practices including prescribed burns, chemical application, or light disking per your management plan and no mowing is allowed except during establishment or with written approval by NRCS for noxious or heavy weed infestation.

## **DCP Program Payments**

The deadline to sign up in DCP Regular Farm Program was Aug 3. Late filed DCP contracts may be approved up to Sept. 30 if producer pays \$100 late file fee per farm and producer is in compliance with all other eligibility requirements. The final date to correct shares on your 2007 DCP contract is Sept. 30. Effective Feb 8 congress changed the advance payment rate from 50% to 40%. For 2007 the advance payment rate is 22%. The balance of the direct payment will still be made in October.

## **Livestock Assistance Program (LAP)**

A LAP Program has been approved but regulations and requirements are still being determined in Washington. Sign-up is not expected until this October. The current wording of the program will require livestock producers who receive a LAP payment to purchase NAP insurance on your pasture and hay land from the FSA Office for the next two years – current cost is \$100/yr per producer per county for hay and \$100/yr for pasture. Also any payment producers received under the 2006 Livestock Assistance Grant Program last Oct will be deducted from your payment. Producers may want to review the cost before applying as you would have a \$400 minimum NAP Insurance cost. (Due to the loss requirements of the current NAP Program the past 4 years, the county average hay yield would need to be below 1/2 ton/ac to qualify so it could be very unlikely for producers to qualify for payment even in severe drought years) More information will be available in October.

## **2005 & 2006 Crop Disaster Program (CDP)**

The Sign-up for the 2005-06 Crop Disaster Program is projected for Oct. No provisions are currently available.

## **2007 Crop Loan & LDP Reminders**

Producers who have reported their crop acres and are in compliance with their conservation plan are eligible to apply for a loan or LDP on their warehouse or farm stored grain. Grain loans are for a 9-month period following the month the loan was disbursed and may be redeemed at any time during the term of the loan at principle + interest; or at the maturity date of the loan you may request to deliver the grain to CCC and the loan will be settled at the loan rate based on quality with applicable price discounts for grade and quantity delivered; or you may request to repay the loan at the Posted County Price (PCP) through the maturity date of the loan. LDP payments are based on the difference in the Posted County Price (PCP) from the loan rate. Currently no crops are paying an LDP due to the current higher markets. LDP and PCP Rates are online –at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov). Loan rates may vary a penny or two by county- Vernon County Loan rates are: Wheat SRW \$2.49/bu., Wheat HRW \$2.92/bu, Corn \$2.03/bu., Milo \$3.49/cwt., and Soybeans \$4.97/bu. The Aug interest rate is 6.0%. The PCP for Aug 9 was SRW Wheat \$5.85, HRW Wheat \$6.15, Corn \$3.23, Soybeans \$7.70, Grain Sorghum \$5.68/cwt, Oats \$2.20.

## **Farm Storage Facility Loans**

The term of the loan is seven years. A \$45 application fee is required at the time of filing. The principal amount of any Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) will be 85% of the net cost of the needed storage/handling equipment, not to exceed \$100,000. The Aug interest rate for FSFL is 5.0%. Producers must have a satisfactory credit rating via credit report as determined by CCC; have no delinquent Federal Debt; be a producer of facility loan commodities; provide proof of crop insurance; be in compliance with USDA provisions for highly erodible land and wetlands; demonstrate the ability to repay the facility loan debt through the USDA Farm Business Plan (all income/expenses, assets/liabilities, cashflow, etc); be in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and with any applicable local zoning, land use and building codes for the applicable farm storage facility structures. All loans shall be secured by a promissory note and security agreement covering the farm storage facility. A lien on the real estate will be required on all loans exceeding \$50,000, CCC's lien on the real estate shall be superior to all other lien holders.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
**Vernon County FSA Office**  
**102 W Allison**  
**Nevada, MO 6477**

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### Dates To Remember

<b>Sept 30</b>	Final date to revise shares and successor-in-interest changes for DCP contracts
<b>Ongoing</b>	CRP continuous Signup – (For waterways, filter strips, buffers, CP-33's etc.)
<b>Ongoing</b>	CREP continuous Signup --75% cost share and incentives for seeding warm season grass, etc (Program ends 12-31-07 or when 40,000 acres are enrolled)
<b>Ongoing</b>	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program
<b>July 15 -Aug 15</b>	CRP Authorized Mowing Period (Limited to contracts approved before 10/1/03 and is limited to ½ of each field) Weeds may be controlled any time if inhibiting the stand but only upon written request to FSA and NRCS and approval.
<b>October</b>	Projected start of sign-up for 2005 & 2006 Crop and Livestock Losses
<b>Aug 6 - Oct 5, 2007</b>	Sign-up period for ECP 75% cost share assistance for flood damaged land
<b>Aug 21</b>	Final date to apply for ECP cost share assistance for producers who began repairs and cleanup on flood damaged land before they signed up (Appealable)
<b>July 16 - Oct 13</b>	CRP managed haying period Bales must be removed by Nov 13
<b>July 16 - Nov 12</b>	CRP managed grazing period Livestock must be removed by Nov 13

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