



February 2007

Webster & Wright County News

USDA Service Center

Webster County FSA
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County Committee

Darrell Ragsdale
Joe Bill Day
Carolyn Leonard

Program Technicians

Cheryl Grass
Sue Price

Wright County FSA

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Hartville, MO 65667
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County Committee

Evelyn Livermore-Fisher
Gale Kinser
Gary Taylor

Program Technicians

Sheila Divine
Samm McDaniel

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Executive Director

Clyde Connelly

District Director
James J. Kyle

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Gale Kinser and Joe Bill Day! Gale was elected to represent farmers from Local-Administrative Area 1 in Wright County, and Joe Bill was re-elected for LAA 1 in Webster County. Gale was elected to his first term. Joe Bill was elected to his third consecutive term

The election results for Local Administrative Area #1 Wright County are:
Gale Kinser — Elected to the county committee (COC).

The election results for Local Administrative Area #1 Webster County are:
Joe Bill Day — Elected to the county committee (COC)
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 held their organizational meeting in January to determine who would serve as the county committee chairperson and vice-chairperson. Evelyn Livermore-Fisher is the chairperson and Gale Kinser is the vice-chairperson in Wright County and Darrell Ragsdale is chairperson and Caroline Leonard is vice-chairperson for Webster County.

County Committee Meetings

The three-member Wright and Webster County Farm Service Agency committee meet once a month. The Wright County committee has established 8:30 a.m. on the third Friday of each month as its regular meeting time at the Wright County FSA office. The Webster County committee has established 9:00 a.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month as its regular meeting time at the Webster County FSA office.

We will post a notice on the county office bulletin board if the committee must reschedule

the time and place of the next meeting and will also notify members by telephone.

County committee members for Wright are: Chairman Evelyn Livermore-Fisher, representing LAA 2.

Gary Tayler, representing LAA3.

Gale Kinser, representing LAA1.

County committee members for Webster are: Chairman Darrell Ragsdale, representing LAA2.

Joe Bill Day, representing LAA1.

Carolyn Leonard, representing LAA3.

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, hay and pasture. 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 reluc-

tant 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. Grain growers also use the CCC-633 EZ.

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.

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.

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.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies, and other drug producing plants.

Payment Limitation/Eligibility

USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. Documents and forms to determine eligibility and limitation once completed are reviewed on an annual basis. It is the producer's responsibility to report changes in the farming operation which may affect payment eligibility and payment limitation. The following payments apply to DCP for each contract year under the new Farm bill comes through both direct and counter-cyclical payments. For all covered commodities, except peanuts: \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments. For peanuts: \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program has a \$450,000 payment limitation. The Conservation Reserve Programs annual limit is \$50,000 per person. Entities such as corporations, limited partnerships, trusts and estates are required to provide names, addresses, and ID numbers of their members.

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other as individuals for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., we have a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more in-

formation.

Farm Storage Facility Loans Storage Limitations

If you noticed you didn't have enough room to store your silage then maybe it is time for a new bunker. Did you know FSA's Facility Loan Program provides funding to finance bunkers and other facilities to store silage and high moisture corn?

If interested, be sure you contact the office for details. It is important to remember that you cannot start any work on the site or have any material delivered until after your loan has been approved by FSA.

Youth Loans

Remember FSA makes operating loans to individual rural youths age 10 through 20 to establish and operate income producing projects. These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H Clubs, FFA, or a similar organization or with a vocational teacher or county extension agent. The project must be an organized and supervised program of work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. Contact your local FSA office for more details.

Loans for Socially Disadvantaged

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) can make and guarantee loans to socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family size farms and ranches. Funds specifically for these loans are reserved each year. A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, and Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager or Officer for more details and assistance in applying.

Emergency Ice Storm Assistance

Several producers have received damage from the ice storm that recently passed through Webster and Wright Counties. According to the Missouri FSA State Office we will be taking sign ups for assistance for debris removal in both these counties. At this time neither county has been approved or funded for this program. Tentatively those counties approved have been informed they are not to expect funding until late summer. An eligible producer must have at least a \$1000.00 worth of damage. Criteria available at this time is a minimum of two miles of debris removal off of damaged fence to meet the \$1000.00, minimum. Additionally, fencing through wooded areas is ineligible. We have not received clarification on debris removal at this time. Except the following, debris must be on agricultural land. Removal of tree debris only includes tree debris that extends past the drip line. For more information and clarification please call you local county FSA office.

Black History Month

Dr. Carter G. Woodson organized a week-long celebration in 1926 to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, two men who had greatly impacted the black population. This week-long celebration eventually evolved into the Black History Month that we know today—a four week long celebration of African American History. This month, and throughout the year, we reflect upon the history of African-Americans who were champions of liberty, human dignity, and equality. We learn to admire individuals like, Paul Lawrence Dunbar, James Weldon Johnson, Frederick Douglas, Thurgood Marshall, Roy Wilkins, Martin Luther King, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, and others.

Requirement Changes and System Upgrades

New eligibility requirements and system upgrades have greatly decreased county offices abilities to process payments quickly. We request patience on the part of

Selected Interest Rates for December 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	%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	%

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

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

Requirement Changes and System Upgrades continued from page 3

our producers as these changes have been directed by the National Office in Washington D.C. Both counties have a new temporary Program Technician. Having an additional PT in each office is helping us to keep up with these new demands . Sue Price has tranfered to Webster County from Laclede County and has been with the FSA for over one year. Samm McDaniel is retired from the US Army and has return home to Wright County. She has been working in the Wright County office for six months.

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