



March 2008

Christian/Stone/Taney FSA News

**Christian/Stone &
Taney County
USDA Service Center**

FSA
1786 S.16th Ave, Ste.101
Ozark, MO 65781
(417)581-2718 phone
(417)485-3863 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/MO

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

County Committee
Wesley Roller
Mike Rauch
John Calhoun
George Gatton
Marie Day

County Committee
meets the second
Wednesday of each
month at 9:30 AM

Staff
Donna Nave - PT
Lexie Thompson - PT
Jim Kyle - DD
Mark Aycock - FLM
Mark Hultgren - CED



Disaster Eligibility Dates Extended

Disaster dates for eligible farmers and producers who suffered livestock, livestock feed and crop losses have been extended to include the 2007 calendar year. What this means is eligible producers will now have 3 years (2005, 2006 & 2007) from which to choose. So, if you have already applied for years 2005 or 2006 and you suffered a greater loss in 2007, you may be eligible for additional assistance.

Also, Stone and Taney County have received an additional disaster declaration in years 2005 and 2006. This declaration allows eligible producers in Stone and Taney County to claim livestock owned on May 1, 2005 or June 1, 2006. Generally speaking, producers in Stone and Taney County may claim owned livestock on one of the following dates: January 1, 2005; May 1, 2005; January 1, 2006; June 1, 2006 and April 1, 2007.

If you have any questions concerning either of these issues, please contact our office at 417-581-2718 ext. 2.

Dairy Disaster Assistance Program Sign-up Begins

Beginning March 5, eligible dairy producers can sign-up for the Dairy Disaster Assistance Program (DDAP-III) at your local FSA Service Center. DDAP-III will compensate producers for production losses that resulted from cattle and yield losses and produced milk that had to be dumped because of lack of electricity, closed milk plants, damaged containment equipment and other related issues.

Sign-up will conclude May 5, 2008.

A producer's operation must be in a county designated a major disaster or emergency area by the President or declared a natural disaster area by the Secretary of Agriculture **between Jan. 1,**

2005, and Dec. 31, 2007. Counties contiguous to such counties will also be eligible. Producers in counties declared disasters by the President may be eligible, even though agricultural loss was not covered by the declaration, if there has been a FSA Administrator's Physical Loss Notice covering such losses.

Under proposed DDAP-III regulations, the following are some of the eligibility requirements producers must meet to receive benefits:

- Producers must have produced and marketed milk any time between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007;
- Producers must have suffered dairy production losses attributed to the declared natural disaster during the eligible period in an approved area.

Losses will be calculated by comparing the expected base annual production (from 2003 and 2004) and the actual production during the applicable disaster claim year. Calculations may be adjusted when losses are not caused by disaster.

Producers will need to provide their annual marketed production and average number of cows in the dairy herd for 2003 and 2004 to determine the base production. To calculate the loss, the dairy must provide the dairy's actual production and average number of cows in the dairy herd for the applicable disaster year(s).

To find out more information about the DDAP- III visit our website at www.fsa.usda.gov or to apply for the program, contact your local FSA Service Center.

Christian/Stone/Taney County Committee Advisor Appointed

Congratulations to Marie Day! Marie was re-appointed as advisor to represent farmers on Christian/Stone/Taney County committee. Marie was appointed to her second consecutive term which began on March 1, 2007.

Advisors play an important role by providing diverse viewpoints and by representing the interests of minorities and women in decisions made by county committees.

NAP Coverage Deadline

March 17th is the last day for producers to apply for Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (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 17th**, the deadline date for 2008 spring planted crops which include: forage sorghum, oats, potatoes, soybeans, sunflowers and all spring planted specialty crops grown for food.

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.

CREP & Continuous CRP Available

USDA has recently indicated there will not be general signups scheduled for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in 2008. The budget for FY 2008 assumes no available funding for CRP general signups.

However, environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Programs (CREP) or Continuous CRP will still be eligible for enrollment. These targeted programs are funded, and will continue to provide a heightened environmental benefit on select areas. Remember, the deadline date for approval for all CRP, including CREP program practices in the 2002 Farm Bill Extension is March 15, 2008.

Not Too Late To Return Your 2007 Ag Census Form

The 2007 Census of Agriculture, the only source of consistent and comprehensive agricultural data for every state and county in the nation, was mailed out to agricultural producers across the United States last December with a Feb 4th due date for return. Officials at the National Agricultural Statistics Service say that while the deadline has passed, completed forms are still being accepted.

Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the Census provides detailed data covering nearly every facet of U.S. agriculture. Government organizations, lawmakers, town planners and individual farm operations can use this vital information to help them plan for future facilities, services and community growth.

Producers can return their forms by mail or, for the first time, they have the convenient option of filling out the Census online. For more information about the Census, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov. The Census is your voice, your future and your responsibility.

CRP Program Participant Reminder Letter

CRP participants are reminded to report to their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) when there are changes that occur due to transfer of ownership, death, incompetent or missing persons.

The following changes must be reported to the FSA office; changes to banking information for direct deposit payments, mailing address changes, land ownership changes--including land transfers to living trusts, irrevocable trusts, etc. Estates of CRP participants need to contact their local FSA Service Center while the Estate is open to obtain and submit documents needed to ensure earned CRP payments can be issued.

Representatives of deceased CRP participants must inform their local FSA Service Center by submitting one or more of the following applicable documents:

- Copy of death certificate;
- Copy of Court appointment for estate;
- Estate ID number if available; and/or
- Copy of deed transferring ownership to survivor.

Failure to report these changes may result in ineligibility for CRP annual rental payments or termination of CRP contracts, which requires the refund of all payments received under the CRP contract including annual rental payments, cost share and incentive payments plus interest and liquidated damages. It is extremely important that all Conservation Reserve Program Contracts contain accurate information.

CRP Program participants are reminded to take action to report changes immediately to avoid unnecessary delays in program benefits or inaccurate payments. Lastly, contact your local FSA county office if you have any questions regarding the terms and conditions of your CRP contract.





ATTENTION LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) for the droughts in 2005 and 2006 is well underway. This month, we will start issuing payment to producers in Christian, Stone and Taney counties with approved applications. If you have not applied, please call our office to schedule an appointment.

If you owned or cash leased eligible livestock on January 1st of 2005 or 2006 and suffered an eligible feed loss; you can be compensated.

Payment rates for some eligible livestock are:

BEEF (Adult) – \$10.66/head
DAIRY (Adult) - \$27.72/head
BEEF & DAIRY (500#’s plus on Jan. 1st) - \$8.00/head

Other eligible livestock include: Buffalo, Beefalo, Sheep, Goats, Equine, Swine, Poultry, Deer and Elk. **(Claimed livestock must be for commercial purposes to be eligible).**

Producers incurring losses in 2005 and 2006 must choose only one year for which to receive benefits. Also if a producer selects to receive LCP benefits for 2006 and they participated in the Livestock Assistance Grant Program (LAGP), their benefits will be reduced by the dollar amount they received from the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

If you have any questions, give us a call. If not, get your livestock numbers and schedule an appointment.

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!

Sodbuster, Swampbuster

Most Farm Service Agency programs require compliance with sodbuster and swampbuster provisions. These provisions require producers to follow an approved conservation system on all highly erodible land planted to an annual crop as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Be sure to have determinations made on any new land you plan to plant to annual crops. If you plan to plant a different crop on your current cropland, check with NRCS to assure the new crop will qualify under your conservation system.

Swampbuster provisions state that converting a wetland to make possible the planting of a crop will result in the loss of all USDA benefits. To avoid this possibility it is strongly recommended that producers check with NRCS before starting to work in the fields.

Toll-Free Number for Borrowers

Direct loan borrowers with USDA’s Farm Service Agency can check the status of their accounts around the clock using a new toll-free telephone number.

The toll-free number, 1-888-518-4983, is available in both English and Spanish. The system delivers information on active FSA loans 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

During the first call to the system, borrowers will enter their tax identification number or the Social Security Number associated with the loan. They also will need to enter their ZIP code. Borrowers will create a personal identification number for security. Customers must enter their PIN every time they use the system and may change their PIN. The system menu helps user’s access helpful information. The system may also direct borrowers to contact their local FSA servicing office if action is necessary on their accounts.

Selected Interest Rates for March 2008	
90-Day Treasury Bill	3.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.750%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.875%
Limited Resource Loans	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans Beginning Farmer Down Payment	4.000%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.125%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	4.250%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	3.125%

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the County Executive Director of their local Farm Service Agency office.



Dates to Remember	
Mar. 15	2002 Farm Bill Extension deadline for 2008 LDP's on wool, mohair and unshorn pelts.
Mar. 15	2002 Farm Bill Extension deadline for Contract Approval for all CRP, including CREP program practices.
Mar. 17	Deadline to obtain 2008 NAP coverage on spring planted crops.
Mar. 31	Final Availability for 2007 crop wheat, barley, oats, honey loans and LDP's.
May 26	Memorial Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
May 31	Deadline to apply for 2007 commodity loans and LDP's on feed grains, soybeans, pulse crops.
Continuous	Farm Storage Facility Loan program.

Visit our website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/oh

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