



June 2008

Christian/Stone/Taney FSA News

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

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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



Sign-up Deadline for LCP and LIP

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced that livestock producers have **until July 18, 2008**, to enroll in the 2005-2007 Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Sign-up began on Sept. 10, 2007, for the two programs that provide aid to livestock producers who suffered eligible livestock or livestock feed losses between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007, because of a natural disaster.

For more information, contact your local FSA office for program sign-up details.

Farm Bill Information

Late last month Congress overrode the President's veto of the Farm Bill and it became law. While many of the details are still being ironed out we do have a general understanding of how the Bill affects FSA and the programs we administer. Here is a very brief synopsis of what we know thus far:

- The 2008 farm program will be a continuation of the existing program.
- Signup for the 2008 program will begin as soon as software is available which (we are told) should be early July.
- The 2009 program will maintain the programs authorized from the 2002 Farm Bill with minor changes and new options.
- The 2009 program will offer the option to enroll in a new revenue-based counter-cyclical program called the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE).
- Included in the 2009 program is Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance which offers new disaster assistance programs such as: Supplemental Revenue Program (SURE), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

- The Bill raised loan limits for Direct FO loans to \$300K and made vast changes on Beginning Farmer Down Payment loans that include better fixed interest rates, 5% down payment amounts, increased sales amounts to \$500K, and 20 year terms.

This is just a brief over-view of the Bill and we are getting more information on how we will administer it daily. The Christian/Stone/Taney County FSA Office will keep you informed on all the new Farm Bill changes as the information trickles down to us.

Final Acreage Reporting Dates Quickly Approaching

Farm Service Agency (FSA), would like to remind producers of the acreage reporting requirements that must be met prior to receiving program benefits. **If producers miss the acreage reporting deadline dates, a late filing fee will be charged.**

Producers are required to file an FSA-578, *Report of Acreage*, certification for the farm by the **June 30 deadline for small grains** and by **July 31 for all other crops except small grains**. To be considered timely, acreage reports on crops are due in the county office by the earlier of June 30 for small grains and July 31 for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

It is also very important that producers report crop losses, including those insured under Federal Crop Insurance (FCIC) and Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) within 15 days of the date damage occurred or 15 days from the date damage is apparent. Losses and or damages to crops must be reported after each disaster occurrence and in a timely manner to insure continued eligibility for benefits. Producers are en-

couraged to visit their local FSA county office to file the required FSA-578 certification report before the deadline dates expire.



County Committee Elections

The Christian/Stone/Taney Farm Service Agency is looking for individuals interested in serving on the Christian/Stone/Taney County Committee. This year LAA-3 will be having an election. LAA-3 is comprised of the all the townships in Stone County. Any eligible person residing in one of the townships who is interested in running for County Committee, or would like to nominate an individual to run for County Committee, must complete a nomination form. The Nomination Form for County FSA Committee Election (FSA-669A) is available at the Christian/Stone/Taney County FSA office. You may also go online and download the form from our Missouri FSA website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/mo>. The document is located under the "I Want To" section on the right side of the screen.

Members of socially disadvantaged groups (a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities) are strongly encouraged to complete the Nomination Form for County FSA Committee Election (FSA-669A) and nominate themselves or another eligible candidate. Committee members make decisions on applications for federal farm program and disaster payments. Committee members play a vital role by helping local farmers manage tough financial times and natural disasters. County committee members make many other important decisions that affect local farmers such as whether haying and grazing should be allowed on Conservation Reserve Program land.

For more information regarding the County Committee Elections, talk to the Christian/Stone/Taney County Committee, Mark Hultgren, County Executive Director at (417)581-2718, ext.2 or stop in the office located at 1786 South 16th Avenue, Ozark, MO, for details on the types of decisions county committee members make. Or visit the County Committee Elections website to learn more about the County Committee Election process and read over the fact sheets at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.

The nomination period begins June 15th and runs until August 1, 2008. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters November 3rd and must be returned by

December 1, 2008. The elected Committee Member and Alternates will take office January 1, 2009.

USDA Announces CRP Permitted Use for Livestock Feed Needs

Recently, USDA authorized certain acreage enrolled under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to be available for hay and forage after the primary nesting season ends for grass-nesting birds, which is after July 15, 2008. This is available for CRP participants until November 10, 2008. This modification for critical feed use is only available in 2008.

CRP participants with certain established vegetative cover may voluntarily have their CRP contract modified by CCC to utilize certain land enrolled in CRP for critical feed use, including haying or grazing. Acreage eligible for critical feed use includes acreage that is fully established and devoted to the following CRP practices in Missouri:

- CP1, Establishment of Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes,
- CP2, Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses,
- CP4B, Permanent Wildlife Habitat – Corridors,
- CP4D, Permanent Wildlife Habitat,
- CP10, Vegetative Cover – Grass – Already Established,

The most environmentally sensitive land enrolled in CRP is ineligible for critical feed use. These lands include wetlands, buffers, filter strips and other practices not listed as eligible. In addition, acreage ineligible for critical feed use includes acreage devoted to useful life easements, as determined by CCC, and land within 120 feet of a stream or other permanent water body.

Haying is limited to 50 percent of each eligible field. If grazing, 25 percent of each field must remain ungrazed or all of the eligible CRP acreage may be grazed at no more than 75 percent of the stocking rate, as determined by NRCS.

Participants who request a voluntary modification to the CRP contract to allow critical feed use must also obtain a modified conservation plan for haying and grazing management in accordance with NRCS Field Office Technical Guide haying and grazing standards and elect to either hay or graze their contracted acreage.

No payment reduction will be assessed on contracts being utilized for this critical feed use. However, producers will be required to pay a fee of \$75, per contract, for the modification of their CRP contract before COC approves the modified

conservation plan.

CRP participants may request the voluntary modification to the CRP contract **beginning June 2, 2008**, at your local FSA office. For more information about this program, or to see if your acreage is eligible for this program, contact your local FSA office.

Maintaining CRP Cover

Participants are required to maintain Conservation Reserve Program acres according to the Conservation Plan agreed to with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Participants must:

Have adequate approved vegetative cover to control erosion for the contract period;

Control weeds and other types of undesirable vegetation; and

Take control measures outside of the primary nesting season which is **March 1-July 15**.

Please keep in mind mowing for cosmetic purposes are prohibited at all times. That is why it is important to review your Conservation Plan and talk to NRCS for the best control method(s), if you think noxious weeds or undesirable plant species are invading your CRP land. Contact your local FSA office **if cover maintenance is required before July 15**, to control weeds or erosion problems.

2008 Compliance and Spot-Check Review

Compliance and spot checks will once again be utilized during the 2008 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers is used to achieve a statistical sampling of participating producers. A statistical sample of FSA employees, County Committee (COC) and State Committee (STC) members have also been selected for review using this same process. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc.

FSA may review a producer's operations in multiple states and counties, depending on the scope of the producer's operations. FSA will review both the accuracy of the representations made by the selected producers in connection with participation in FSA programs as well as the producer's compliance with applicable program requirements. The reviews may need to be conducted at various times throughout the year depending on the FSA programs in which the producer is participating. If an entity is selected from the national database that is no longer farming or participating in the 2008 crop year, a notation shall be made on the spot check list.

FSA appreciates the cooperation of its customers as the agency continues to enhance its operations. FSA's goal is to ensure that program dollars are delivered effectively and efficiently so America's farmers and ranchers can provide safe and abundant food, fiber and fuel for consumers at home and abroad. For more information about the new spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local Farm Service Agency office for additional clarification.

Crop Disaster Program Sign-up Continues and Quality Sign-up to Begin Soon

Eligible farmers and producers who suffered crop loss damage between Jan. 1, 2005 and Dec. 31, 2007, can still apply to receive disaster assistance. FSA continues to accept applications and make payments for quantity losses under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP), for losses that occurred before the end of the 2007 calendar year.

Also, sign-up for Quality losses under the CDP will begin soon at the county office. For Quality losses, producers must apply for quantity loss to be eligible to apply for a quality loss. However, producers do not need to qualify for a quantity loss. In addition, the requirement for Crop Insurance or NAP coverage still applies. Quality loss participants will be required to provide actual production evidence. The actual production evidence will need to show the quantity, price AND quality factors.

Stored and fed production must have a quality test indicating quality and quantity by January 1 of the year following harvest. For stored production, the price is determined using the local market conditions in effect on the date the production evidence is submitted. For fed production, the value is determined using the local market conditions in effect on the crop's final harvest date. The commodity must have suffered at least a 25% reduction in value to meet the Economic Loss Minimum. The National FSA office is developing a software program to determine whether the producer meets the Economic Loss Minimum.

For more disaster program information go online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov> or visit your local FSA office.

Preliminary Information on 2008 – 2012 Farm Program

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008(Act), Pub. L. 110-234, was enacted into law on May 22, 2008. This law authorizes continuing the Direct and Counter-Cyclical (DCP) program for 2008 – 2012. Following are some of the provisions of the new law:

- Crop acreage bases in effect 9/30/2007 will be in effect for 2008 DCP
- Direct and counter-cyclical payments are prohibited if the sum of the base acres on a farm is 10 acres or less
- Advance direct payments will be available at 22% of the payment rate. For 2008, the payment will be made as soon as practical after the producer makes a selection
- Planting flexibility is allowed similar to the 2002 Act.
- Must comply with conservation compliance requirements
- Control noxious weeds
- File an annual acreage report
- For 2008 the same payment eligibility, payment limitation and adjusted gross income rules are applicable. Big changes are coming for 2009 – 2012
- an agricultural disaster relief trust fund (“trust fund”) established
- supplemental agricultural disaster assistance programs.

Stay tuned because more information will be coming on all these programs.

Dates to Remember	
June 15	County Committee Nomination period begins.
June 30	Final certification date for small grains.
July 4	Independence Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
July 18	Deadline to sign-up for LCP and LIP.
July 31	Final certification date for all crops except small grains.
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan program.
Selected Interest Rates for June 2008	
90-Day Treasury Bill	1.250%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.125%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.875%
Farm Ownership Loans — Beginning Farmer Down Payment	4.000%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.375%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	4.500%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	3.000%

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