



Caldwell County News

**Caldwell County
USDA Service Center**

Caldwell County FSA
23 West Main St.
Kingston, MO 64650
816-586-2711 (phone)
816-586-2067 (fax)

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

County Committee
Joe Graham
Kevin Stonum
Terry Wright
Wanda Stubbs, Advisor
*County Committee meets
the last Thursday of each
month.*

Staff
Betty Dunscombe
Debbie Leeper
Carol Gorham
Mary Finch

Fieldman
Mark Burnett

Farm Loan Manager
Annette Brandt
*Will be in Caldwell County
every other Tuesday be-
ginning July 15th*

County Director
Debbie Clevenger



County Committee Elections "FSA Counts on You"

From **June 15 through Aug. 1**, farmers and ranchers can nominate eligible peers as candidates for election to the Caldwell County Farm Service Agency County Committee. Since COC elections happen only once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into *local administrative areas*, or LAA's. Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee.

An election will be held for the Caldwell County Committee position for LAA 2 that includes the townships of Hamilton, Kingston, Gomer, and New York.

Any eligible person residing in one of these townships who is interested in running for the County Committee, or would like to nominate an individual to run for the County Committee, must complete a nomination form. The nomination form for County FSA Committee Election (FSA-669A) is available at the Caldwell 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.

This is an important time for LAA communities, because county committee members make decisions that have significant impacts on you and the area's agricultural sector as a whole. For example, committee members make decisions on applications for federal farm program and disaster payments. Committee members play a vital role by helping local farmers and ranchers manage tough financial times and natural disasters.

Dates to Remember	
June 15	Nomination period for County Committee began
July 18	Deadline to sign up for Livestock Compensation Program
August 1	Nomination period for County Committee ends
August 15	Final Extended Deadline to report all crops and CRP for 2008
Sept. 30	DCP Signup for 2008 Ends
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Crop Disaster Program for Quantity and Quality Losses for 2005-2007

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

Sign-up Deadline for LCP

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). This program provides 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. Producers will choose one year in which to receive benefits. Payments are based on either livestock numbers or the amount of feed loss, whichever is less. The payment rate for adult cows and bulls is \$10.66 per head; non-adult beef, \$8.00 per head. Other grazing livestock is also eligible. Critical dates of ownership are January 1 of 2005 and 2006, and April 1 of 2007. Also, ownership as of May 1st of those same years. Non-adult calves must weigh 500 lbs. and must graze after May 1 of the year selected to be counted. For more information, contact your local FSA office.

2008 Farm Bill



The 2008 DCP Signup period started June 25th and runs through September 30th. The rules for 2008 will be basically the same as the 2007 DCP program. One main change however, is that farms with bases totaling 10 acres or less can not receive payment unless the owner(s) are eligible as a Limited Resource OR Socially Disadvantaged producer. If the farm owner(s) is eligible then anyone sharing on that farm is eligible including any tenants/operators that wouldn't meet the exception. To be eligible the farm must be wholly owned by someone meeting one of the exceptions, or an entity that is completely made up of members that meet the exceptions. Farms jointly owned by husband and wife would only be eligible if both could meet one of the exceptions. A Socially Disadvantaged person is defined as a member of a group who has been subject to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity to a group rather than their individual qualities and a Limited Resource farmer for our area is one whose gross farm sales is less than \$116,800 AND has a total household adjusted gross income of less than \$19,350 in the previous 2 years.



Producers may request 22% advance DCP direct payments beginning in July and final payments will be issued after the first of October. To be eligible to receive payments producers will be required to comply with applicable soil and water conservation and wetland requirements as in the past, use the base acres for an agricultural or conserving use, not plant fruits or vegetables on bases acres, control noxious weeds on base acres not cropped, and file an acreage report. The crop base acres and payment yields will remain the same. Direct payments and price protection are only slightly less. The new farm bill runs through 2012. Because the farm bill was so late getting passed, 2008 rules will be essentially the same as last year except as noted above. A few provisions for 2009 – 2012 have changed. When FSA procedures are finalized we will have additional information detailing the changes.



Final Acreage Reporting Dates Extended to August 15th

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. The minimum fee is \$46.00 per farm.

Producers are required to file an FSA-578, *Report of Acreage*, certification for the farm by the new extended date of August 15 for all crops and CRP. To be considered timely, acreage reports on crops are due in the county office by the earlier of the above, 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 encouraged to visit their local FSA county office to file the required FSA-578 certification report before the deadline. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

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**. All hay and livestock **must be removed by Nov. 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



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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,
- 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% of each eligible field. If grazing, 25% of each field must remain ungrazed or all of the eligible CRP acreage may be grazed at no more than 75% 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 with NRCS.

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 hayed last year has no effect on this policy; however, it is not known for sure if the policy in 2009 will look at 2008 activity.



Other CRP Reminders

The previous 2008 policy does not waive or negate the other on-going CRP requirements:

- Management practices are still required as scheduled in your conservation plan. Be very aware of permitted dates and activity after October 1 will count for 2009.
- You can still participate in managed haying/grazing by paying the 25% rental fee, and thereby hay or graze the entire field. You can hay/graze every third year. Dates are July 15-Sept. 30
- Plant required food plots and report them to FSA.

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.

Disaster "SURE" Program for 2008

There are many questions concerning the 2008 Disaster SURE program that we do not have answers for at this time. We do know that to be eligible the producer will be required to have all crops in all counties covered by NAP and/or crop insurance. Producers, for 2008 only, will have the opportunity to pay the fees now for 2008 for both CAT insurance and NAP (\$100 per crop) in order to get eligible for SURE assistance. We should have the capability to collect these fees soon. Producers will not have coverage under NAP or crop insurance for 2008; the fees only allow them to be eligible for SURE. The fees for 2008 must be paid by **September 16** for a producer to be eligible for SURE.

Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the Farm Service Agency county office staff, and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are necessary.

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For 2009 and future years the fees would have to be paid by the regular sales closing deadlines and the producer would actually have coverage for NAP and/or Insurance.

SURE will not offer payments for specific crop losses, but rather will provide assistance for overall Revenue losses which is computed based on all commodities produced. Producers can be eligible if in a county that has a Secretarial Disaster Designation or are adjacent to one or if the producer has a greater than 50% loss regardless of county designation. The SURE program will not offer any immediate payments to producers who are suffering from the current weather conditions. Payments could not be computed until marketing prices and farm revenue can be computed sometime during the following year.



Crop Disaster Program Sign-up Continues and Quality Sign-up has Begun

Eligible farmers and producers who suffered crop loss damage between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007, can still apply to receive disaster assistance. **Sign-up** for quality losses under the CDP has also begun. 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. The commodity must have sustained a 25% economic loss and does not have to be the entire production. It can be certain loads. Call for more details.

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