



Lawrence Co. FSA Office
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COC meetings are scheduled
for the 2nd Thursday of each
month beginning at 9:00 am at
the County Office.



Farm Service Agency

Lawrence County News

January 2, 2009

Milk Income Loss Contract Program signup underway

Signup for the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program began December 22, 2008 and will continue through the expiration of the program, September 30, 2012. However, in order for producers to have maximum flexibility in choosing a contract start month, contracts must be signed no later than January 21, 2009.

The 2008 Farm Bill reauthorized the MILC program and made three key changes in operations.

There is now a 'feed cost adjuster', which increases the \$16.94/cwt benchmark price upward depending on the cost of feed rations. When the monthly National Average Dairy Feed Ration Cost exceeds \$7.35/cwt then 45% of the excess will be added to the \$16.94 price when figuring MILC payment rates. The production limits per operation increased to 2.985 million pounds per fiscal year from October 1, 2008 through August 31, 2012 and

then reverts back to the original 2.4 million pound limit for September 2012. Also, if an individual or entity has annual non-farm adjusted gross income exceeding \$500,000 they will not be eligible for MILC benefits. Dairy producers can apply for MILC at their local FSA office. Remember that January 21, 2009 is the deadline to complete your contract and choose any month as your contract start month.

DCP Program signup underway (ACRE signup to begin in Spring)

Enrollment for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program for farms with commodity base acres began December 22, 2008 and will continue until June 1, 2009. No late-filed applications will be accepted. DCP payments are computed using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Direct payment rates are established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, eligible producers may request to receive an advance direct payment of 22%. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices

and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price. Producers eligible for DCP will also be eligible to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. Enrollment for ACRE will begin in the spring. ACRE provides a safety net based on revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of DCP counter-cyclical payments. ACRE payments are computed on the crops planted each year rather than the historical base acres. ACRE payments are issued when

both the State and farm incurs a revenue loss from price and/or production losses. The total acres a producer may receive ACRE payments on may not exceed the farm's total base acres. In exchange for participating in ACRE, producers forfeit 20% of the farm's direct DCP payment, all counter-cyclical payments and marketing assistance loan rates will be reduced 30%. Two informational meetings will be held to provide additional information on the new ACRE Program. Please see the reverse of this newsletter for dates and times.



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We're on the web!
www.fsa.usda.gov

Farm Bill Informational Meetings will be held at the FSA Office

10:00 am Tuesday, January 13
OR
2:00 pm Thursday, January 15

FSA personnel will be on hand to help you learn more about the major changes contained in the 2008 Farm Bill and how those changes affect your operation
~PLAN TO ATTEND ONE OF THESE MEETINGS~

MoDot Carrier Services Outreach

Missouri Department of Transportation Motor Carrier Services will be offering an outreach opportunity for farmers hauling farm commodities. Outreach topics will cover DOT Regulations (Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations), Farm exemptions, and their applicability to farmers. The outreach meeting will be held at the

**Southwest Missouri Research Center,
14548 Hwy. H, Mt. Vernon MO,
on February 20, 2008, at 8:30 a.m.**

The Outreach will be free of charge; however, seating is limited. To make a reservation, call 1-866-831-6277 Option 6. Please indicate the date and location of the outreach you wish to attend.

Dates to Remember	
Jan. 13	Farm Bill Informational Meeting 10:00 am
Jan. 15	Farm Bill Informational Meeting 2:00 pm
Jan. 19	Office closed for birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.
Jan. 21	MILC deadline to choose early start month
Feb. 16	Office closed for Washington's Birthday
Feb. 20	MoDot Carrier Services Outreach, SW Center

