



Marion County News

September 2008

Marion County
USDA Service Center

Marion County FSA
6465 Hwy 168 Ste A
Palmyra, MO 63461
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www.fsa.usda.gov/MO

Hours
Monday – Friday
7:45 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Mark Lovelace
John Pflantz
David Kroeger

County Committee
Meets 2nd Tue. monthly

Staff
CED Joe Swisher
Karen Meyers
Teresa Bush
Tina Bridgman

| Dates to Remember | |
|-------------------|--|
| Sept. 16 | Final date for the SURE, EALHF, LFP or TAP program buy-in. |
| Sept. 30 | Deadline to sign-up ends for 2008 DCP Program. |
| Sept. 30 | Deadline to approve CRP Re-Enrollments Exp |
| Dec. 1 | Application deadline for 2009 NAP coverage for Fall Crops. |
| Continues | Farm Storage Facility Loan program. |

2008 Crop Year Buy-in For Disaster Assistance Program

On June 18, 2008, the 2008 Farm Bill was enacted into Public Law 110-246 and amended the Trade Act of 1974 to create five new disaster programs, collectively referred to as Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Assistance programs. Those programs include:

1. Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)
2. Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
3. Livestock Indemnity Program* (LIP)
4. Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program
5. Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

To be eligible for these programs, producers must purchase at least catastrophic risk protection (CAT) level of crop insurance for all insurable crops and/or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for non-insurable crops and be in a county that has had a Secretarial Disaster declaration or if not, have losses of revenue of more than 50%.

For the 2008 crop year, the deadline to apply for crop insurance and NAP passed prior to enactment of the 2008 Farm Bill. As a result, when the requirement to obtain insurance or NAP as a condition of eligibility for SURE, TAP, ELAP and LFP was enacted, many producers would have been excluded from eligibility. Therefore, for the 2008 crop year only, producers who do not have all crops on the farm covered with the risk management protection programs of crop insurance and/or NAP and wish to be eligible for the SURE, TAP, and ELAP in 2008, or wish to have grazing acres eligible for LFP in 2008, can do so by paying the applicable buy-in fee by Sept. 16, 2008.

The fees are \$100 per crop, but not more than \$300 per producer per county, or \$900 total per producer, for all counties, less any previously paid fees for CAT and/or NAP. These fees and limits apply separately to both CAT and NAP covered crops. Therefore, producers may be required to pay buy-in fees under both CAT and NAP to meet whole farm eligibility requirements for the new disaster programs of SURE, ELAP and TAP. **Payment of the fees will NOT provide crop insurance coverage or NAP eligibility.**

All producers who wish to become eligible in 2008 for the Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Assistance programs must visit their administrative county FSA office and fill out form CCC-752 and/or form CCC-753. The county offices will determine the appropriate buy-in fee required. The deadline for the buy-in is Sept. 16, 2008.

Producers should be aware that the SURE disaster program is revenue based protection and will not pay on individual crop losses. The program will be based on actual total revenue compared to the expected revenue for their farming operation (“farm” means the sum of all crop acreage in all counties that is planted or intended to be planted for harvest by the eligible producer) based on average market prices after harvest which won’t be available until next year.

It is our understanding that Marion County has a Secretarial Disaster declaration for 2008. This means that producers would not be required to have the 50% loss of revenue to qualify for the Sure Program for 2008.

IMPORTANT FOR 2009 SURE ELIGIBILITY

Producers who did not have crop insurance on 2008 wheat must purchase it from a crop insurance agent before September 30, 2008 to be eligible for Sure in 2009.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

Due to flooding and heavy rains that occurred during June and July of 2008, the following practices will be available under ECP for Marion County. Sign-up for ECP will be **August 18th—October 17th**

- EC1 — Removing debris from farmland
- EC2 — Grading, shaping, re-leveling or similar measures
- EC4 — Restoring conservation structures and other measures

Land eligibility will be determined based on on-site inspections of damage, taking into account the type and extent of damage. For land to be eligible, the disaster must have created new conservation problems

that, if untreated, would impair or endanger the land and materially affect its productive capacity. Under the program, cost-share monies would be available for the practices mentioned above.

To qualify for cost-share assistance producers must have suffered at least \$1,000 of eligible cost share expenses. Levees or the land between the levee and the river are not eligible for cost-share under ECP. Sand deposits must be at least 6” in depth to qualify. Land on which cost-share assistance is received must maintain its agricultural use for a minimum of 10 years following the year the practice is completed.

CRP HAYING AND GRAZING

Even though the Critical Feed Use (CFU) (also known as the \$75.00 deal) was stopped due to a law suit filed by the National Wildlife Federation, CRP participants can still cut hay and pasture on CRP acreage.

Marion County has 3 different programs going where haying and grazing can be done on CRP acres. All 3 would have the 25% reduction in the payment.

1. The normal managed haying and grazing which has the 3 year rotation (one acre can be hayed or grazed every 3 years).
2. Emergency grazing which basically means you can utilize the same fields as you grazed last year.
3. Emergency haying, which also can be the same acreage as last year, but you are limited to 50% of each field.

Haying and grazing will be allowed through September 30, 2008 for all 3 programs. Before any haying or grazing occurs on CRP acreage you need to stop by our office and sign up. Also you need to add or revise the haying and grazing clause in you plan with NRCS.

2008 DCP Sign-up Continues

Producers have **until September 30, 2008** to sign-up for the 2008 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP). Producers can fill out their 2008 DCP contract at any USDA Farm Service Agency County Office. Sign-up can also be completed online by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/edcp> and clicking on "Access eDCP Service." Producers choose payment options, assign crop shares and sign and submit contracts from any computer with Internet access and also view and print submitted contract options. Producers who have not used their eAuth account for 180 days will have inactive accounts. If this happens, producers will need to contact the ITS helpdesk at the following telephone numbers: 1-800-457-3642, then Option 1, to reactivate their account.

FSA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2008, eligible producers may request to receive an advance payment of 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments as soon as practical after enrollment. Final direct pay-

ments will be issued after Oct. 1, 2008. Counter-cyclical payments vary depending on market prices, and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate).

To be eligible for DCP payments, owners, operators, landlords, tenants, or sharecroppers must:

- share in the risk of producing a crop on base acres on a farm enrolled in DCP, and be entitled to share in the crop available for marketing from the base acres or would have shared had a crop been produced;
- annually report the use of the farm's cropland acres;
- comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements on all of their land;
- comply with planting flexibility requirements;
- use the base acres for agricultural or related activities;
- **protect all base acres from erosion, including providing sufficient cover as determined necessary by the county FSA committee, and control weeds.**