



November 2006

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)
www.fsa.usda.gov

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

County Committee
Marshall Stonum
Joe Graham
Terry Wright
Colleen Niehaus

County Committee meets
the last Thursday of each
month

Staff
Betty Dunscombe
Debbie Leeper
Carol Gorham
Jeanne Schmidt

Field Specialist
Mark Burnett

Director
Debbie Clevenger

Voting for County Committee Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election were mailed to eligible voters on November 3rd. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 4, 2006. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 4. Two local producers have been nominated by their peers to run for a position on the FSA Committee. The following is a short biography on the candidates and they are listed in alphabetical order:

Dennis Farmer resides in rural Cowgill and has been raising grain crops for the last 34 years. He is a fifth generation Caldwell County farmer. He is involved with a grain hauling business and has previously raised cattle. Dennis served on the Cowgill School Board for 9 years and has served on the Lincoln Township Board. He is currently Vice-President of the Consumers Oil and Supply Board and is on the Farmers Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee. He is also the Vice-President of the Cowgill Cemetery Board. Dennis has been married to Brenda for 34 years and has 3 children and 2 grandchildren.

Kevin Stonum resides in rural Lathrop and has been farming for 22 years in southwestern Caldwell County. His farming operation includes corn, soybeans, wheat, hay, and beef cattle. Kevin is a 1984 graduate of the University of Missouri at Columbia with a B.S. in Animal Science. He is a member of Prairie Ridge Christian Union Church and a member of the Prairie Ridge Cemetery Board. He also serves as a member of the Lathrop School District Community Liaison Committee and he is on the Board of Directors for Caldwell County Mutual Insurance. Kevin is married to Diane and they have 3 sons.

Both of these candidates have agreed to serve, if elected, and will represent LAA #1 which includes the townships of Kidder, Mirabile, Rockford, and Grant. Therefore, ballots were only mailed to eligible voters in LAA #1. If you are an eligible voter in this LAA and have not received a ballot, you should contact the FSA county office staff immediately.

Voter Requirements Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, are eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following:

an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, *or*

a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper; *or*

2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; *and*

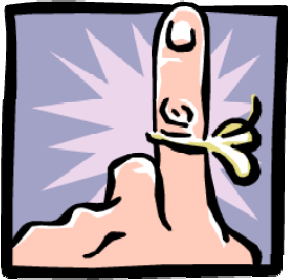
3. Eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

Discrimination Prohibited No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

Ballots will be counted at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 7th at the county office and everyone is welcome to attend.

ECP Signup Underway

Caldwell County has been approved to implement the drought Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). This program is to provide emergency water for livestock when the water source they previously had dried up. A signup period will be held until Friday, November 24th and the acreage must be physically located within the county. No program funds are currently available for allocation; however, the signup period has been authorized in the hopes that funds will become available from the national office.



Program Reminders

There are several things this program will NOT do and it is NOT a program that all livestock producers will be interested in. It will NOT provide a brand new source when there was none in the pasture in the first place. The ECP is only designed to take a farm back to pre-disaster conditions. This program will NOT build ponds or clean out old ponds, and maintenance of current practices is not eligible for ECP. If a producer still has adequate water for livestock, he is not eligible. The program is NOT to build additional watering sources to provide a better distribution for grazing. The ECP does NOT pay for hauling water and the program will not extend rural water lines that are not maintained by the producer. Livestock water facilities primarily for barns, residences, recreation, wildlife, or corrals are not eligible.

The ECP will provide cost share for wells, deepening wells, and spring developments for livestock water if the water source in the pasture has dried up due to the drought. Wells are only eligible where there is no other source of emergency water available that could be developed at less expense. ECP will not pay meter or hook up charges, but will cost share for the pipe, trenching, tank, etc. from the meter to the pasture, if rural water is available. Eligible projects must cost the producer at least \$1000 (when looking at the eligible components), or cost share is not available. The cost share rate is 50 percent of the actual cost for all permanent practices and 75 percent for all temporary practices. If you are interested in the ECP you must visit the Caldwell County FSA Office by November 24th. An application must be completed in the office and a farm visit must be performed prior to beginning any practice.

2007 DCP Sign-up Continues

The 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP) began October 1, 2006, and continues until June 1, 2007. Following the June 1, 2007, deadline, USDA will accept late applications through Sept. 30, 2007, with a \$100 late fee. While DCP participants must sign DCP contracts annually, producers can choose not to participate in the program in any given year.

USDA computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2007, eligible producers may request to receive direct advance payments based on **22 percent** of the direct payment rate for each commodity associated with the farm. USDA will issue DCP advance direct payments beginning Dec. 1, 2006. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate) for a commodity is below its target price.

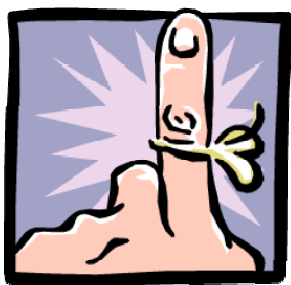
New eligibility paperwork is required to be completed on ALL producers this year prior to payments being issued. Therefore, more time will need to be allowed for the signup and payment process.

Farm Reconstitutions

In program terminology, farms are *constituted* to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

Estate Method — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;



Program Reminders

Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

DCP Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

Default Method — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

Unauthorized Disposition of Loaned Grain

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producers name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call the office before any loan grain is fed or sold.

CREP (Similar to CRP)

Producers and landowners in the Hamilton and Breckenridge public drinking water supply watersheds were eligible for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) several years ago when the City Councils became partners with the FSA, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the NRCS. This program is now expanded to include the Marrowbone Drainage Watershed. The CREP is a voluntary land retirement program that

helps agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat, and safeguard ground and surface water. The Missouri Department of Conservation has been added as a partner in this program. CREP is an offshoot of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). But unlike CRP, a producer in one of the eligible watersheds can enroll a farm without waiting for a general signup through the CREP. CREP contracts require a 15-year commitment to keep lands out of agricultural production. CREP provides payments to participants who offer eligible land. A federal annual rental rate, including an FSA maintenance incentive payment, is offered, plus cost-share of up to 50% of the eligible costs to install the practice. However on top of that, additional incentives are offered through the State...all practices are eligible for an additional 25% cost share and an additional \$100 per acre sign up bonus is available through MDC.

If you have land in the Hamilton or Breckenridge Drinking Water Supply Watersheds OR the Marrowbone Watershed AND you are interested in this program, please contact the FSA Office.

Changing Financial Institutions

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been determined that the chance of having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit. Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

Selling Land

If you're planning to sell farmland, there may be some program consequences you should be aware of. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't want to continue the CRP contract, you might have to refund all of the payments you've received to date.

Reviewing program implications with your local Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.

County Office Employees
(Left to Right):

Betty Dunscombe
Debbie Clevenger
Carol Gorham
Debbie Leeper
Jeanne Schmidt



Dates to Remember

Nov. 10	Veterans Day Holiday
Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Nov. 24	ECP Signup Ends
Dec. 4	Last day to return county committee election ballots
Dec. 25	Christmas Day Holiday
Jan. 1	New Year's Holiday
Continues	Continuous CRP and CREP
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans

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