



September 2008

Atchison County Newsletter

Atchison County USDA Service Center

Atchison County FSA
302 E. Hwy 136
Rock Port, MO 64482
(660) 744-5328 (Phone)
(660) 744-5536 (Fax)

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

County Committee
Duane Klute, Chairperson
Craig Heits, Vice Chair
Julie Joesting, Member

Staff
County Executive Director
Corey Leshner

Farm Loan Manager
Bob Dreyer

Farm Loan Officer
Roger Uptergrove

Program Technicians
Nancy Daugherty
Pam Husing
Patricia Lane
Marilyn Thurnau
Karen Vette

Field Assistant
Chuck Linthicum
Robert Smith

Temp: Afton Demott

Need Grain Storage?



Ask about Farm Storage Facility Loans –
September Interest Rate is 3.625%

It is hard to believe that fall is almost here and harvest will soon begin. This has been an interesting crop year once again with the spring flooding, late planted crops and dry month of August. I'm sure yields will vary significantly across the county.

The last couple of newsletters that have been sent out have been sent to all counties in Northwest Missouri. The primary message in these newsletters has been about the topic of the Supplemental Disaster Assistance legislation passed by the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 and the requirement to have all crops insured at least at the catastrophic level (CAT) if you wish to be eligible for the permanent disaster programs. Because the sales closing date to purchase insurance was prior to the passage of the 2008 Act, producers were allowed to pay a "buy in" fee by September 16, 2008 to become eligible for the 2008 crop year.

The requirement to purchase insurance or a Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy is an annual requirement if you choose to make yourself eligible for the Supplemental Disaster Programs. It is important to become aware of the sales closing dates for each crop you produce so that a deadline is not missed and you subsequently become ineligible for the disaster programs if implemented. For example, the sales closing date for wheat is September 30, 2008. A chart is located on the back page of this newsletter which shows various sales closing dates for certain crops.

In addition, the fees in 2009 will be \$250 per crop with a maximum of \$750 per producer per county or \$1,875 per producer per all counties. The maximums are separate for both CAT and NAP.

For 2008: Atchison County has received a Secretarial Disaster Designation which means producers have met the qualifying loss for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) if the applicable fees have been paid and the producer suffers a total farm loss in revenue.

Other items in this newsletter include:

- Sign up deadline for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program
- Sign up deadline for the Emergency Conservation Program. Late filed applications will be accepted if justified.
- County Committee Election is nearing.
- Re-Enrolling Expiring CRP Contracts
- Farm Loan Programs

I have received many questions concerning programs for 2009. For example, there have been multiple articles in the farm magazines concerning the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program which will be available for 2009 and future years. To date, the final rules for this program have not been finalized. As soon as these rules become available, information will be sent out in the form of newsletters, news releases and producer meetings.

If you have any questions concerning FSA programs or your eligibility for a program, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Corey Leshner

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 payments 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;
- 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.**

County Committee Elections

Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters by Nov. 3 in preparation for the election to be held December 5. Voted ballots must be returned to the county office **by Dec. 1** or postmarked by midnight Dec. 1, 2008. This year, one person will be elected to represent LAA 1, which includes Buchanan, Nishnabotna, and Polk townships. The person elected will take office January 1, 2009.

County committee elections give farmers and producers an important opportunity to ensure that their FSA county committees represent them. Farmers and producers who serve on county committees help make decisions necessary to administer federal farm programs offered in their communities.

County committees make decisions on agricultural issues such as commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, disaster payments and employing County Executive Directors.

Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote. No one can 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.

If you participate or cooperate in programs administered by FSA and live in the local administrative area conducting an election, you may be nominated for candidacy for a committee. We encourage everyone to participate in this process. You can obtain a complete list of eligibility requirements by visiting the county office or online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/cocelig06.htm>.

PLEASE TAKE TIME TO



Selected Interest Rates for September 2008

90-Day Treasury Bill	1.750%
Farm Operating Loans – Direct	3.875%
Farm Ownership Loans – Direct	5.125%
Farm Ownership Loans – Beginning Farmer Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.625%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	3.250%

Re-Enrolling Expiring CRP Contracts

CRP contracts expiring on September 30, 2008 may be eligible to be re-enrolled with new 10- to 15-year continuous contracts, provided the current contract scheduled to expire in September is in full compliance. If re-enrolled, the new continuous signup contract would begin October 1, 2008. All re-enrolled continuous signup CRP contracts will require new conservation plans to be developed. Other provisions may also apply.

For further information regarding re-enrollment of an expiring CRP contract or for information regarding conservation and wetland compliance provisions for land leaving CRP and returning to crop production, please contact your local FSA office.

Please note that after the expiration of a CRP contract that had been devoted to trees, the acreage will no longer be considered cropland and may become ineligible for CRP or other farm programs. However, this provision does not apply for acreage immediately re-enrolled into a new contract without any intervening period of time.

If you are interested in re-enrolling your expiring CRP acreage, county office staff can help you determine which continuous CRP practices can work on your expiring acres. Please contact your administrative county FSA office as soon as possible to ensure your contract is approved by September 30th.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

Due to the heavy rains and flooding that occurred during **May & June of 2008**, the following practices will be available under the ECP:

- EC1 – Removing Debris from Farmland
- EC2 – Grading, Shaping, Re-leveling or Similar Measures
- EC3 – Restoring Permanent Fences
- EC4 – Restoring Conservation Structures and Other Measures



Land eligibility will be determined based on on-site inspections of damage, taking into account e. 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. Producers are not eligible to receive compensation to rehabilitate any land on which they are already required to maintain the practice, which includes land under any other Federal or State cost-share program (example – terraces built using cost-share from Soil and Water Districts within the last 10 years). Levees or the land between the levee and the river are not eligible for cost-share under the ECP program. 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.

Sign-up for ECP ends September 12th, however, late filed applications will be accepted if justified by the producer and can be taken no later than December 1, 2008. Producers should apply for assistance at their local FSA office before beginning the repairs or removing debris from their acreages. Also, producers should take pictures of the damage and document the repairs they make if work is done before the damage has been inspected by an FSA official.

Farm Loan Programs

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 modified the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Farm Loan programs. For Direct Farm Operating and Farm Ownership loans, the maximum loan amount has been increased to \$300,000.

The FSA Farm Ownership Down Payment Loan program allows eligible Beginning farmers and Socially Disadvantaged family farmers to purchase farms with a 5% down payment, while financing up to 45% of the purchase price with a low interest direct loan from FSA. The remainder of the purchase price would be financed by another lender, who could qualify for a loan guarantee from FSA.

A Beginning Farmer is an individual or entity who (1) has not operated a farm for more than 10 years; (2) meets the loan eligibility requirements of the program to which he/she is applying; (3) substantially participates in the operation; and, (4) for FO purposes, does not own a farm greater than 30 percent of the median size farm in the county. (Note: all applicants for direct FO loans must have participated in the business operation of a farm for at least 3 years.) If the applicant is an entity, all members must be related by blood or marriage, and all members in a corporation must be eligible beginning farmers.

Socially Disadvantaged Applicants (SDA) are one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of their identity as a member of the group without regard to their individual qualities. SDA groups include; Women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

The Farm Ownership Down Payment Loan program was modified in several ways:

- Expanded to include Socially Disadvantaged Applicants;
- Interest rate reduced to the Direct Farm Ownership rate less 4% or 1.5% whichever is greater;
- Maximum loan amount changed from \$100,000 to an amount not exceeding 45% of the least of:
(a) the purchase price of the farm; (b) the appraised value of the farm; or (c) \$500,000. **Note:** This would result in a maximum FSA loan amount of \$225,000 and no limitation on the purchase price of the farm.
- Loan term is extended from 15 years to 20 years; and
- Required down payment is reduced from 10% to 5%.



Farm Service Agency
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Dates To Remember

September 30	Final Date to enroll in Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program
September 30	Final Date for all CRP grazing and haying activity except for early contracts approved for Critical Feed Use
September 30	Sales closing date to purchase wheat crop insurance for 2009
October 13	USDA Service Center closed: Columbus Day

**2009 Sales Closing Dates by Crop in Atchison County for
 Crop Insurance or Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance (NAP)**

NAP Crops- Purchased through FSA

Insurable Crops-Purchased through RMA

Alfalfa 3/15/09
 Barley 3/15/09
 Hay 3/15/09
 Oats 3/15/09
 Potatoes 12/31/08
 Pumpkins 3/15/09
 Sweet Corn 3/15/09
 Tomatoes 3/15/09
 Watermelons 3/15/09

Corn 3/15/09
 Grain Sorghum 3/15/09
 Popcorn 3/15/09
 Soybeans 3/15/09
 Wheat 9/30/08

If you will be planting a crop that is not listed above and revenue will be generated from that crop, you are required to purchase either crop insurance or NAP to be eligible for the Supplemental Disaster Programs. Please check with the applicable office to determine the sales closing date

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