



Buchanan County News

April 2010

**Buchanan County
USDA Service Center**

Buchanan County FSA
3915 Oakland Ave.
St. Joseph, MO
816-364-3927 (phone)
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www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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2010 DCP/ACRE Signup Deadline is JUNE 1, 2010

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) will continue through **June 1, 2010. By law, late-filed applications will not be accepted.** As of the date of this publication, only 55 percent of the Buchanan County Producers have been in to signup. We are usually well in excess of 70 percent enrolled by this time of the year.

USDA computes DCP Program 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 2010, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment.

Countercyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Countercyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price. The effective price is the higher of the national average market price received during the 12-month marketing year for each covered commodity and the national average loan rate for a marketing assistance loan for the covered commodity.

ACRE Option

In addition to the traditional DCP, you also have the optional ACRE program. The ACRE Program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. The June 1, 2010, signup deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. For 2010, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2008 and 2009 crop years. An ACRE payment is issued

when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. Payment is based on 83.3% (85% in 2012) of the farm's planted acres times the difference between the state ACRE guarantee and the state revenue times the ratio of the farm's yield divided by the state expected yield.

The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. *In exchange for participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20%, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30%.* The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. **Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year. Call 816-364-3927 to make an appointment to sign up today.**

New Form Must be Submitted to IRS by Every Producer

To remain eligible for certain 2009 and 2010 FSA payments, individuals and legal entities will be required to file a **2009 and / or 2010 Consent To Disclosure of Tax Information form (CCC-927 or CCC-928) with the IRS.**

By filing this form, producers authorize IRS to disclose to USDA the accuracy of each producer's certifications regarding the AGI limits listed previously. IRS will report to USDA a **"Yes" or "No"** answer about each producer's eligibility, **but IRS will not provide actual tax data to USDA.**

If you receive payments from FSA, you can request the forms from your local FSA office or go online at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>. All persons directly or indirectly receiving program benefits must submit a consent form to retain their USDA benefits subject to AGI provisions.

Yearly Acreage Reporting

Acreage reporting time will soon be here. 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. Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Pre-vented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date. Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. Acreage reports are to be certified by the **June 30th deadline on small grains (wheat oats)** and a **July 31st deadline on all other crops including CRP.**

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from ***extreme*** adverse weather/natural disaster events. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of established normal mortality rates due to natural disasters, including losses due to floods, blizzards, wildfires, extreme heat, extreme cold, tornados, and lightning. **The natural disaster must be a direct cause of the livestock death.**

It will be the producers' responsibility to notify the county FSA office about their livestock deaths. Payments are based on 75% of the fair market value for each type and weight range of livestock as determined by FSA. Producers are reminded that LIP regulations require that they ***must file a notice of loss within 30 calendar days of when the livestock died*** in order to be eligible for LIP. Producers are also responsible for providing documentation of proof of death (pictures and veterinary inspections are suggested). Beginning inventory (as of the date of the adverse weather event) is also required. **Verifiable evidence of normal mortality throughout the calendar year will be required with an LIP Application.** Deaths due to normal mortality will be used in calculating eligibility percentages when a natural disaster occurs.

The program is intended to compensate producers for livestock deaths that are caused by abnormal weather-related events and many losses may have weather as a factor, but not qualify as an eligible adverse weather event.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) sign-up Continues

Sign up for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) on 2008 crops is under way. SURE is a permanent disaster program created by the 2008 Farm Bill that replaces the previous "ad-hoc" crop disaster programs of the past. Unlike those disaster programs that paid for losses by unit and crop, **the SURE program is a "total farm" disaster program.** This revenue based program compares crops expected revenue and program guarantee dollar amounts to the actual crop revenue of the entire farming operation. **Entire farming operation refers to all farms and all interests, in all counties.** In order to be eligible for payments under SURE, you are required to have carried insurance at the CAT level or better on all insurable crops and NAP coverage on all non-insurable crops (hay for example) with an economic significance of 5% or greater, within the farming operation. In 2009 and subsequent years, RMAs Rainfall Index policy is acceptable coverage for hay acres. For the SURE program, grazing acres do not require coverage

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 may have to refund all of the payments you've received to date.

Please consider discussing possible program consequences with the county office staff before selling any land.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information. Spouses may sign for each other automatically without executing a power of attorney document.

EMERGENCY LOAN DESIGNATION

Mr. Edward J. Hamill, State Executive Director, Farm Service Agency announced effective October 20, 2009, 75 county(ies) in Missouri, including Andrew, Buchanan, Nodaway, Holt, Gentry, and Worth will have FSA disaster loans available due to excessive rain, strong winds and flooding which occurred February 1, 2009, thru July 31, 2009. Applications for assistance will be accepted at the county office of the Farm Service Agency, 502 West South Hills Drive, Suite 104, Maryville, MO 64468 for physical and production losses caused by this disaster. Applications will be accepted through June 21, 2010.

Loans for physical losses must be used to replace or repair damage to buildings, fences or to compensate the farmer for losses of basic livestock, stored crops, or supplies on hand, equipment, etc., that was lost due to the disaster. Loans for production losses may also be used to buy feed, seed, fertilizer, livestock or to make payments on real estate or chattel debts. Generally, loans for production losses cannot be approved until crops have completed their production cycle or have been harvested.

In order to qualify, a farmer must have suffered a 30% loss in production or an actual physical loss that was essential to the successful operation of the farm.

Loans for actual losses are made at an interest rate of 3.75% for emergency loans to those eligible applicants who are unable to obtain the actual credit needed from another source. All loan programs of the Farm Service Agency are conducted on a nondiscriminatory basis.

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 programs.



Tobacco Quota Buyout

Any transfers of Tobacco Transition Program contracts to family members needs to be reported to this office as soon as possible when the successor is known. The process to change the entity and /or shares on a contract takes some time.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center.

2010 DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline Approaching!

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is underway and will continue through **June 1, 2010**.

Advance direct payments of 22% may be requested. Please call the Buchanan County FSA office at 816-364-3927, ext. 2 to make your appointment for program enrollment. For complete details please see the en-closed article.

**All DCP/ACRE signatures must be received by June 1, 2010.
There will be no late file provisions this year!**

Dates to Remember	
May 31	Office closed Memorial Day
June 1	Final day to sign up for DCP and ACRE
June 30	Final day to report small grains
July 31	Final day to report all other crops and CRP
Continuing	Facility Loans
Continuing	Continuous CRP

Visit our website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

Acreage Reporting

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Please remember this year the DCP/ACRE signup deadline expires prior to the YEARLY ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINE!

Acreage reports are to be certified by the **June 30th deadline on small grains** and a **July 31st deadline on all other crops**. For complete details on filing your 2010 acreage report, please see the article on page two of this newsletter