



Caldwell County FSA Office

23 West Main Street
Kingston, MO 64650

816-586-2711 phone
816-586-2067 fax

Hours

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

March 2011

County Office Staff

Debbie Clevenger,
County Executive
Director

Annette Brandt
Farm Loan Manager

Program Technicians
Betty Dunscombe
Carol Gorham
Debbie Leeper
Mary Finch

Field Assistant
Mark Burnett

County Committee
Joe Graham, Chair
Kevin Stonum, Vice
Lee Anderson, Member
Wanda Stubbs, Advisor

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

DCP Signup & Advance Payments

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011. Advance payments of 22% on the 2011 DCP program will be available starting December 1, 2010. The remaining 78% of your DCP payment will be issued after October 1, 2011.

Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. DCP contract signatures for enrollment are due by the signup deadline of June 1, 2011. For more information producers can contact their local FSA office.

Betty Dunscombe to Retire



Betty Dunscombe, a dedicated employee in the FSA county office, will retire on May 3rd after 32 years of service to Caldwell County farmers. Betty has been the Program Technician in charge of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Price Support Loan Programs for many years. She has seen the transition of program work go from manual computations to computer applications. She has also been through the reorganization of the agency as she was initially hired as an ASCS employee in 1978. Betty is married to Ray Dunscombe and has a son, Roger Wilson, Jr. Betty looks forward to rest, relaxation and spending more time with family and friends following her retirement. You are invited to a reception in her honor on Thursday, April 28th from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. at the FSA Office in Kingston. Please join us in this celebration!

CRP General Sign-up Began March 14

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is offering a general sign-up period from **March 14, 2011 through April 15, 2011**. This is the second consecutive year that USDA has offered a general CRP sign-up. CRP acreage expiring 9/30/2011 is eligible to be re-offered, as well as land being enrolled for the first time.

CRP is a voluntary program that helps agricultural producers use environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to control soil erosion, improve water and air quality and develop wildlife habitat.

Landowners enrolled in the CRP program receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland. Land that is not currently enrolled in CRP can be offered during sign-up if all eligibility requirements are met. CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall can make new contract offers during the sign-up period. Contracts awarded during this general signup will become effective October 1, 2011.

For more information, please contact the Caldwell county office at 816-586-2711 or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/crp.

Marketing Assistance Loans

Grain loans are a good way to obtain fall operating money while waiting to market your stored 2010 crops. Loan terms are 9 months and the interest rate is as low as 1.25%. Commodities eligible for farm storage loans must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence at the time of the request, be in a storable condition, and merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan. Farm-stored loan requests can be certified quantities or your county office can provide a measurement service. Warehouse loans are also available.

Other requirements include complying with conservation and wetland protection requirements; reporting all cropland uses on the farm and ensuring that the commodity meets CCC minimum grade and quality standards. Participation in the DCP or ACRE programs is not required to be eligible for loans.

Beneficial interest must be retained while the loan is outstanding. Beneficial interest means keeping the ability to make decisions about the harvested crop; responsibility for loss or damage to the grain; and title to the grain. Once beneficial interest is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan, even if you regain beneficial interest. Producers are reminded to obtain a marketing authorization BEFORE removing or disposing of the loan collateral.

Final Availability Dates for Marketing Assistance Loans & Loan Deficiency Payments

- March 31-Honey, Oats, Wheat
- May 31-Corn, Grain Sorghum, Soybeans

The ACRE Option

The Average Crop Revenue Election (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. 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. An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss.

CCC-927 or CCC-928 Must Be Sent To IRS

Producers who participated in 2009 or 2010 programs subject to adjusted gross income limitations (AGI) had to certify compliance with AGI rules. The average AGI verification process for 2009 and 2010 payment eligibility requires all program participants to provide written consent to IRS for the disclosure of certain information to FSA.

On October 6, 2010, a letter was mailed to producers who have not submitted: CCC-927, Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Individual Form and CCC-928, Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Legal Entity.

Individuals and legal entities, including members of legal entities, that certified to average AGI compliance for 2009 and/or 2010 payment eligibility must submit a completed CCC-927 or CCC-928 to IRS regardless of whether they received program benefits directly or as a member of a joint operation or entity. These forms must be submitted to IRS in order to avoid a demand for refund of program payments and benefits received.

These forms must be submitted to IRS again for the 2011 payment year.

Actively Engaged

USDA has amended the rules that govern the requirements to be 'actively engaged' in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by FSA.

Normally the stockholder, or a member of a legal entity, **must** make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management for the farming operation. The contributions are to be performed on a regular basis, must be identifiable, and separate from the contributions of others.

The exception to this rule for a stockholder or member of a legal entity only occurs when both of the following apply:

- At least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management; and
- The total direct payments received by the legal entity and each of the members can't exceed \$40,000.

Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Announces Process to Resolve Discrimination Claims of Hispanic and Women Farmers

As part of continued efforts to close the chapter on allegations that discrimination occurred at USDA in past decades, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced the establishment of a process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who assert that they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans.

The claims process offers a streamlined alternative to litigation and provides at least \$1.33 billion in compensation, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. This announcement follows the Obama Administration's settlement of longstanding litigation brought by African American farmers and Native American farmers.

In conjunction with this announcement, USDA is launching an outreach effort to potential claimants that will include a call center for farmers and ranchers, a website, public service announcements, and in-person meetings around the country. Individuals interested in participating in the claims process may register to receive a claims package, or may obtain more information, by visiting www.farmerclaims.gov.

Beginning February 25, 2011, individuals can register to receive a claims package by calling the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429. USDA cannot provide legal advice to potential claimants. Persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

Continuous CRP Available

Environmentally-sensitive acreage qualifying for the Continuous CRP are eligible for enrollment.

These targeted programs remain funded, and continue to provide a heightened environmental benefit on select areas, although they are not necessary large in amount of acres.

SURE Signup

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) began Jan. 10, 2011, and ends July 29, 2011. SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. A farm enrolled in SURE may be eligible for benefits when either:

- farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, **except** grazed crops.
- any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production of the farm because of disaster related conditions is less than 50% or less than normal production of the farm.

Farming Operation Changes

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan.

Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

Selected Interest Rates for March 2011

Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.500%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.875%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7-year term	2.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 10-year term	3.500%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 12-year term	3.875%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.250%

Dates to Remember

Mar. 31	Final Availability for 2010 crop wheat, barley, oats, honey loans and LDPs.
April 15	Signup ends for General CRP Enrollment
April 28	Retirement Reception for Betty Dunscombe
May 31	Final Availability for 2010 crop corn, grain sorghum and soybean loans
June 1	Enrollment deadline for 2011 DCP and ACRE programs
June 30	Deadline to report 2011 crop small grains (wheat, oats, and barley)
July 29	Deadline to signup for 2009 SURE
July 31	Deadline to report soybeans, corn, grain sorghum, CRP, hay, and pasture
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program.

Please join us in honoring Betty Dunscombe at her Retirement Reception at the Caldwell County FSA Office on Thursday, April 28th from 1:00—3:30 p.m.

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

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).