

USDA NEWS

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Voting for County Committee Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election were mailed to eligible voters on November 3, 2008. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 1, 2008. If mailed, ballots must be post-marked by midnight December 1.

The candidate(s) in this year's elections are:

Grundy County

Ethan Griffin is nominated in LAA #1, Grundy County, to serve as a committee member.

Mercer County

Dona Schooler is nominated in LAA #3, Mercer County, to serve as a committee member.

Putnam County

Ann Burkhiser, is nominated in LAA #2, Putnam County, to serve as a committee member.

Schuyler County

Ronnie Hart and Charles McCartney are nominated in LAA #3, Schuyler County, to serve as a committee member.

Scotland County

James Dale Baker is nominated in LAA #3, Scotland County, to serve as a committee member.

Sullivan County

Bruce Emberton, is nominated in LAA #1, Sullivan County, to serve as a committee member.

Eligible voters in the respective local administrative area who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

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.



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**Selected Interest Rates for
November 2008**

90-Day Treasury Bill	1.375%
Farm Operating Loans - Direct	3.375%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct	4.875%
Farm Ownership Loans Beginning Farmer Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.250%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	2.500%

NAP Coverage Closing Date is Dec. 1

Since the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 was announced so late defining the 2009 risk management NAP Coverage requirement for the Supplemental Disaster Programs, the National Farm Service Agency (FSA) office has extended the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage purchase date for 2009 only. As a result, the State Committee established NAP application closing dates that fall before December 1, 2008 have been extended to December 1, 2008, for the 2009 application crop year.

Please note that extending the 2009 NAP application deadlines to December 1, 2008, does not modify the definition of coverage period. NAP coverage will not begin until the later of the following dates:

- 30 calendar days after the date CCC-471 is filed; and
- The date the crop is planted not to exceed the final planting date.

NAP was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing

coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

The application deadline date for the 2009 NAP coverage for winter wheat, rye, barley, speltz, apples, asparagus, blueberries, caneberries, cherries, chestnuts, forage for all hay and pasture, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, strawberries, honey, maple sap, aquaculture (finfish), Christmas trees, floriculture, ginseng, mushrooms, ornamental nursery, turfgrass sod and watercress in **Missouri, is December 1, 2008**. For 2009-2012, the NAP Service Fees have increased from: \$100 to \$250 per crop; \$300 to \$750 per county; \$900 to \$1,875 per producer for all counties.

Producers who already have coverage on 2008 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2009, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

For more information on NAP coverage, please contact your local FSA office.

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;

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.

If DCP direct payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded.

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 grain under loan is fed or sold.

SURE Online Calculator

The 2008 Farm Bill includes a new disaster program known as the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. For your convenience, FSA has placed a SURE calculator on its Web site at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/fbapp?area=home&subject=landing&topic=landing>.

The calculator and instructions can be easily downloaded. Once the download is made, you will be able to calculate your estimated SURE Guarantee, estimated Expected Revenue, estimated Farm Revenue and estimated SURE payment.

The calculator is a tool to help with calculations for SURE, it is not the approved software to compute and provide actual payment information.

By using the calculator, producers and others may begin familiarizing themselves with SURE calculations which allows them to run various scenarios based on basic levels of insurance coverage versus buy up levels of insurance coverage. It is important to note that this calculator only addresses yield based crops and does not address value loss crops or those plans of insurance that are revenue based. It does not include calculations for situations such as prevented planting, first crop-second crop, or other scenarios.

Note, FSA reminds users that the calculator and instructions are for informational purposes only. This calculator in no way provides exact FSA payments under SURE.

Marketing Assistance Loans

Marketing Assistance loans are available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if you regain beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires you comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, report how you use cropland acreage on the farm and ensure that the commodity meets CCC minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program to be eligible for commodity loans. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may result in administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans. The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.



Removing CCC Loan Collateral

Producers are reminded, if you have grain under Commodity Credit Corporation loan it cannot be removed or disposed of without prior county office staff authorization or repayment. The county office staff may issue release authorizations based on a telephone or in person request when you are ready to move the grain. A loan violation is subject to monetary and administrative penalties, such as repaying the loan at principal plus interest, liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans and loan deficiency payments.

All commodity loans are subject to spot check. Locking in a market loan repayment rate is not a marketing authorization. If you are planning to move CCC loan grain, call the county office staff, before you HAUL!



REMINDERS: Farm Record

Any ownership, operator, or address changes should be reported timely to the FSA office to keep records current. Adding or dropping a farming interest will also require you to update your conservation plan and payment limitation requirements.

If you transfer your land into a trust, you must bring in your trust paperwork and report the change to our office.



EXTENDING THE 2008 DCP SIGN-UP DEADLINE FOR FARMS WITH 10.0 OR LESS BASE ACRES

On October 13, 2008 H.R. 6849 was enacted and provides for an extension of the 2008 DCP enrollment deadline for farms with 10.0 base acres or less covered commodities not previously enrolled. Producers on farms with 10.0 base acres or less **have until November 26, 2008** to initiate and complete enrollment of a farm for 2008 DCP. H.R. 6849 **does not extend** the DCP sign-up deadline for farms **with greater than 10.0 base acres**. With the extension of the 2008 DCP enrollment deadline for farms with 10.0 base acres or less to Nov. 26, 2008, late filed crop acreage report requirement and fees will be waived on farms with 10.0 base acres or less if filed **by COB, December 1, 2008**. This **does not waive** late filed crop acreage report requirements or fees for farms **with greater than 10.0 base acres**. Visit your local FSA office, if you are interested in signing-up.

FSA Information on the Internet

Want to check out daily LDP prices, news releases, and other FSA information? Log on to these user friendly websites: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

The Missouri State FSA home page is:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo/>

Dates to Remember

Nov. 27	Thanksgiving Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed
Dec. 1	Application deadline for 2009 NAP coverage for fall crops.
Dec. 1	Last day to return voted ballots in county committee election.
Dec. 25	Christmas Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Jan. 1	New Year's Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Jan. 1	Elected Committee Members and alternates take office.
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program.