



# NEWSLETTER



## Livingston County FSA Office

1100 Morton Parkway  
Chillicothe, MO 64601

660-646-6220 phone  
660-646-4894 fax

**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
The office will be  
closed on all Federal  
holidays.

### County Committee

David Williams  
Mary Smith  
Ben Beetsma

County Committee  
meets the third  
Thursday each month  
at 8:30 a.m.

### March 2011

### County Office Staff

Program Technicians  
Dianna Sewell  
Anissa Johnson  
Jeannette Straker

County Executive  
Director  
David Meneely

Farm Loan Manager  
John McKinny

## 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.

## 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](http://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.

## ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME

USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA. The agreement ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are

\$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs. Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service by June 15 to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at:

<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet>.

## **Missouri Farm Service Agency Celebrates National Agriculture Day – March 15, 2011**

*(Chillicothe, Mo.)* – March 8, 2011 — In recognition of National Ag Day on March 15, 2011, David Meneely, Executive Director for the USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Livingston County, thanks farmers, ranchers and others involved in agriculture for their hard work and commitment to the industry.

“Agriculture is an important part of our daily lives and is often taken for granted, but in these uncertain times, it should be remembered that American Agriculture is not only important for obvious reasons - food, clothing and shelter, but, the industry also plays an important part in homeland security,” said Meneely.

Meneely refers to American Agriculture as, “Homegrown Security.” He adds that the U.S. agriculture sector is almost entirely under private ownership and counts for nearly one-fifth of the Nation’s economic activity.

“So, on National Ag Day, when we stop to thank farmers and ranchers who work day in and day out to provide a safe, abundant and affordable food, fiber and fuel supply, we should also take a moment to thank these same individuals for serving as first responders and as the front line of defense in the effort to protect our food and water sources,” said Meneely.

According to Meneely, FSA’s mission is to provide farmers and ranchers with the federal farm commodity and credit support they need to insure they remain viable in an increasingly unpredictable and volatile global market.

Through more than 43 federal farm programs, FSA provides producers with an economic “safety net.” These programs, authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, stabilize farm income, assist agriculture producers to conserve natural resources, provide credit for farm ownership and operation and help producers recover from the effects of natural disasters. FSA also maintains the USDA’s feed, seed and fertilizer data which uses geospatial information to maintain a detailed database on related storage facilities – another important component in homeland security.

FSA understands and appreciates the amount of work that farmers and ranchers do on a daily basis to produce the nation’s supply of food, fiber and fuel. Meneely encourages consumers to learn more about agriculture in their area and the people who produce the commodities we enjoy.

“We never want to find ourselves dependent on a foreign food supply. And as long as farmers and ranchers remain competitive in a global market and remain steadfast in protecting what’s theirs, that won’t happen,” said Meneely “Take time on National Ag Day to show your appreciation for American Agriculture... our Homegrown Security.”

For more information about National Ag Day, visit [www.agday.org](http://www.agday.org) and to learn more about the Farm Service Agency, visit online at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## **2010 Crop Production**

Crop farmers evaluate their year by two measuring sticks, production and prices. Net income is achieved with any combination of the two that exceeds operating costs. In the best years both reach a high point. Livingston County farmers encountered production problems in 2010 from excess rainfall but enjoyed higher grain prices resulting in a good year for many. Nationally, agriculture is a bright spot in an otherwise lackluster

general economic recovery. Net U.S. farm income is expected to be up 31% in 2010 for the third highest on record, behind both 2008 and the all time record in 2004.

Annual rainfall in Livingston County exceeded normal by more than twelve inches for the third year in a row. Crop production problems are particularly the result of excess rainfall during planting season. April, May and June all saw rain totals more than 80% above normal. Crop acreage prevented from planting or lost to excess moisture totaled about 8% of cropland in the county and that was three times more than in 2009. Crop insurance indemnity payments of \$5 million to county producers were double the 2009 figure. The county produced 10% fewer soybeans, our number one crop in both acres and dollar value, and 33% less corn due to weather difficulties.

Average county yields for all crops in 2010 fell below the levels from 2009. According to recently released estimates by the Missouri Agricultural Statistics Service. Livingston County average yields in 2010 were 40.0 bu./ac. for soybeans; 105.4 bu./ac. for corn; 41.4 bu./ac. for wheat; and 78 bu./ac. for grain sorghum. While 40% of our cropland that lies in the flood plain suffered the greatest yield reductions, some upland soils produced record yields due to the abundant rainfall. After an exceptionally rainy September with 9.37 inches received, more than twice the normal level, harvest season benefited from drier conditions when October, November, and December rainfall all fell below normal.

Prospects for 2011 are favorable at this point. County producers are ahead of schedule with field work that was accomplished after the harvest last fall. Winter wheat plantings are higher than recent years and the crop is coming out of winter dormancy in good shape. Crop prices have retreated from record high levels, but remain above levels from this time last year. Crop production expenses, especially those connected to rising petroleum prices, are climbing rapidly but profitable operations are still possible with normal production levels. Nationally, the forecast calls for another nearly 20% gain in net farm income at the end of 2011. As spring planting approaches,

the mood of crop producers is encouragingly optimistic with recognition that each year presents its own challenges from weather, production costs, and market prices.

## **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. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline on small grains and a July 31st deadline on all other crops and CRP acreages.

## **Youth Loans Available**

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

## **Special Accommodations**

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

## **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 information.

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	
March 14	CRP General Signup begins.
March 31	Final date to obtain a loan or LDP on wheat & oats
April 15	CRP General Signup ends.
May 31	Final date to obtain a loan or LDP on corn & beans
June 1	DCP sign up ends
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program.

Visit our website at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/mo](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo)



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