

Nodaway County News



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NODAWAY COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY



New Farm Storage Facility Loan Regs

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department. Currently, the November FSFL interest rates are: 3.0% for 7-yr term, 3.375% for 10-yr term, and 3.625% for 12-yr term.

Applicants must show repayment ability for the outstanding debt via current financial statements as determined by the Farm Loan team. Also, additional security will be required for any loan or combination of loans that exceed \$50,000.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

Typically the FSFL program has been devoted to grain storage facilities. However the new regulations allow for hay storage as well as fruit and vegetable storage facilities, which can include cold storage.

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

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County Committee Election for LAA-1

Just a reminder: Be watching your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot.

In 2009, Local Admin Area 1 is up for election. This area is made up by the townships of Grant, Hughes, Jef-

erson, Monroe, Washington and White Cloud. Ballots were mailed to all eligible voters of those townships on November 6, 2009.

If, for some reason, you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the No-



daway County office.

Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on Monday, December 7, 2009.

Nodaway County USDA Service Center

Nodaway County FSA

502 W. South Hills Drive
Suite 104
Maryville, MO 64468
660-582-7423 (phone)
660-582-8366 (fax)

Hours

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

County Committee

Larry Tobin, Chairperson
Richard Fletchall, Vice Chairperson
Joyce Ecker, Member

COC Meets the 4th Wednesday
each month at 1:00 p.m.

Staff

Tim Dreier, CED
Charlotte Holeman, FLM
Tom Shelton, FLO
Brian Wheeler, FLOT
Marianne Adkins, PT
Teresa Blackford, PT
Marilyn Buhman, PT
Judy Fast, PT
Tammy Luke, PT
Re'nee Schrader, PT
Andrew Lance, FA
Eric Redden, FA

Payment Statements Different than in the Past

As DCP and CRP disbursement statements hit mailboxes, producers are noticing that change is again underway. With a new payment process and mounting software issues, County office employees have been scrambling to get payments out to producers. The majority of payments have been issued, however, there are still some payments being held up by nationwide software issues. Your patience is appreciated during this transition and we hope to have these issues resolved soon.

Producers are advised to review all disbursement statements closely to determine the amount deposited to your bank accounts. For DCP, anyone who

received an advance payment earlier this year will now show an equal amount offset to Commodity Credit Corporation. This was basically a one-time process for 2009 to correct software problems during advance payments. To explain though, the offset was calculated by adding all advance payments issued from all counties and then deducting this from the first farm or county to issue a payment. On your statement, the "Program Payment Detail" lists the entire DCP farm payment due for the crop year. Below this is the offset amount and then the final figure should be the net amount deposited to your bank account.

The same issue can be found on

producer statements who had either managed or emergency haying and grazing payments taken from their annual CRP payments. In some cases this receivable was satisfied by the producers DCP payments and the DCP receivable was satisfied by the CRP payments, depending on the timing of each.

Again, we thank you for your patience while we work through the kinks of a new system, and we apologize for any inconvenience or confusion the new process may have caused. Please feel free to call FSA with any questions.



FSA Farm Loan Programs

Looking for a Farm Loan?

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help

producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit.

It is a common misconception that a producer must be a beginning farmer to be eligible for loans from the Farm Service Agency. However, producers of any age

may be eligible if they are unable to obtain financing from private or commercial lending institutions.

While many producers may be eligible for FSA farm loans, there are loan products intended solely for beginning farmers and ranchers and socially disadvantaged producers.

FSA saw dramatic growth in the utilization of our programs in 2009. Consequently, Congress and the President have approved increased 2010 loan funding by approximately 20% over 2009 levels. We have historically used all the funds allocated and have been forced to put approved applicants on a waiting list. With the increased funding there is currently no waiting list for

loan funds, and we are able to fund loans as they are approved. However, given the rate of applications being received, we may likely use all the funds available again this year even with the increased allocation.

I encourage any producer who feels they may be eligible to receive a loan from FSA to contact this office to discuss your plans in greater detail with a loan officer.

You can find more information on FSA's Farm Loan Programs by visiting this office, or online at www.fsa.usda.gov and selecting the link to Farm Loan Programs.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from disaster. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of established normal mortality rates due to adverse weather, including losses due to floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold.

It will be the producers' responsibility to notify the county FSA office about their livestock deaths. For 2009 the payment

rate on an adult dairy cow is \$1,464.38, and the payment rate on an adult beef cow is \$694.98. LIP regulations require that producers must file a notice of loss within 30 calendar days of when the livestock died, and an application for payment no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss of livestock occurs.

LIP regulations also mandate that producers must provide verifiable evidence of both the livestock death loss and inven-

tory numbers or herd size as part of the application.

There are no late-filed provisions for the LIP program. That means, that if for any reason you wait to file your application after the deadline is past, then the county office won't be able to approve it.

For more LIP details contact the office.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) on it's way

FSA expects to implement the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) in the near future. This program is part of the 2008 Farm Bill that replaces ad hoc disaster programs that have been used in the past during years of low yields and bad weather. This means that a new program does not have to be legislated in the event of a disaster, but is already in effect if certain criteria are met.

Criteria #1) A Secretarial declaration of disaster for a given year. Nodaway County has been designated for 2008 and 2009. Without the designation, producers need a 50% loss in crop production.

Criteria #2) The producer must meet a Risk Management Purchase Requirement (RMPR). This means that all insurable crops must have crop insurance and all non-insurable crops must have NAP (non-insurable assistance program) coverage. Some producers purchased a "buy-in" policy for 2008 because it was too late to purchase NAP for forage. If hay is a crop of economic significance on the farm, it is required to have a NAP policy to be eligible for SURE. The final date to purchase a NAP policy is March 15 of each year, the same date as the final date to purchase crop insurance. Hay can be considered a "de minimis" crop on some farms if the value will not exceed 5% of the value of all crops, or the fee for the policy exceeds 10% of the value of the coverage (\$3636 in 2008 and \$9090 in 2009). If this is the case, the hay can be excluded from the purchase requirement.

Criteria #3) If the above criteria are met, the producer must have at least one crop of economic significance (5% of the value of all crops in all counties) show a 10% loss in crop production.

If all eligibility requirements and the above criteria are met, SURE pays 60% of the difference between the expected revenue and the actual revenue on the farm for the year. Production evidence will be provided by insurance companies with the exception of hay. Producers will be notified when signup begins. Applications will be made in the county where the farm is administered.

The next critical date is March 15, 2010 to obtain insurance on all crops for 2010. (Note: some vegetable and fruit crops have earlier sales closing dates. It is best to contact your insurance company or this office to verify all sales closing dates).

In summary, SURE is a revenue based disaster program that will not pay on individual crop losses but on the operation as a whole. The sign up this winter will be for the 2008 crops. To be eligible producers must have one crop with at least a 10% production loss, all acres reported, and they must carry insurance or NAP on all economically significant crops in the operation.

More details can be found at your local FSA office.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25% of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

CRP Mid-Contract Management

There have been some changes in the Conservation Reserve Program applicable to the management practices that producers have to perform on contracts effective after 10/01/2003.

Some of the changes are:

- Mid-contract management practices will now only have to be performed once for some contracts.
- Newly established seedings can have a management cycle completed in years 3-6. If the contract is 20 acres or less, 100% of the acreage can be treated in one of contract year 3-6.
- Established seedings enrolled or re-enrolled can have the practices performed in years 1-4. If the contract is 20 acres or less, 100% of the acreage can be treated in one of contract year 1-4.
- Mowing is now allowed in conjunction with strip disking or chemical application at a rate of \$16.00 per acre and cost share of \$8.00 per acre. The average cost of burning has been adjusted to \$32.00 per acre and disking and chemical application are now each \$20.00 per acre.

A letter and form for signature were sent to most of the CRP participants who have a contract eligible for these new MCM guidelines. If you'd like to switch to these new guidelines or get more information on them please contact the office.

Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL)

Producers do not have to participate in the DCP or ACRE program to be eligible for commodity loans. Loans are for 9 months in duration and are non-recourse, meaning the collateral can be forfeited in times of extremely low prices. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in on farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

The loan rates for the 2009 crops in Nodaway County are: Corn—\$1.85; Soybeans—\$4.94.

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 directly or by phone.

Nodaway County Farm Service Agency

Nodaway County FSA
502 W. South Hills Dr.
Suite 104
Maryville, MO 64468



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2010 DCP & ACRE Enrollment Begins



Enrollment for the 2010 DCP and ACRE programs has begun and will continue until June 1, 2010. ACRE is a new program that replaces the counter-cyclical payments under DCP. ACRE payments are made when decreased revenue triggers are met at both the state and farm level. Direct payments are reduced by 20% when the farm is enrolled in ACRE. Once a farm is enrolled in ACRE, it will be in ACRE through 2012. Producers must still elect to participate annually in either program. ACRE payments are made approximately 12 months after crop harvest, or October 2011 for the 2010 corn and soybean crop. Direct payments are made in October of the current crop year and advance payments are available after December 1, 2009 for the 2010 year at a rate of 22%. DCP payment rates will remain the same until 2012 when the payment acreage changes to 85% of the base. ACRE payments could range from zero to substantial under the right market, price, and yield conditions. Stop by the office and we can explain how ACRE might work for you.

Highly Erodible 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 must be in compliance with tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified in the conservation plan. Producers should contact the USDA Service Center prior to any land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance, which is recorded on form AD-1026. Contacting your USDA Service Center prior to taking any action can save you time and money later, as HEL and WC violations can be very costly.

Spousal Signature

A husband and wife may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the County Office from either spouse. Exceptions include: claim settlements and lien filings.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium poppies and other drug producing plants.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.