



Nodaway County FSA Office

502 W. South Hills Dr.
Maryville, MO 64468

660-582-7423 phone
660-582-8366 fax

Hours

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

January 2012

County Office Staff

Tim Dreier
County Executive
Director

Charlotte Holeman
Farm Loan Manager

Tom Shelton
Farm Loan Officer

Marianne Adkins
Teresa Blackford
Judy Fast
Tammy Luke
Renee Schrader
Program Technicians

Andrew Lance
Field Assistant

Richard Fletchall
Randy Hull
Larry Tobin
County Committee
(meets 4th Wed each
month @ 1:00pm)



FSA ADOPTING GovDELIVERY

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation. Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail. FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. County Committee election ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers. Producers can now subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe> or stop by the office.

2012 DCP/ACRE SIGN UP

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment will begin January 23, 2012, and will end June 1, 2012. Here are some IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ ACRE payment for the farm.
- Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1st in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office such as:
 - Ownership changes
 - Producer changes (Individuals and Entities)
 - Change in crop shares arrangements

Note: Changes cannot be made after September 30, 2012.

Please note, an important change in 2012 vs. prior year DCP sign ups is that there will not be an advance payment this year. The entire earned DCP payment for 2012 will be made in October 2012.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to Randy Hull. He was elected to represent farmers from LAA-2 on the County Committee. LAA-2 is made up of Atchison, Green, Hopkins, Lincoln, Nodaway, and Union townships.

Randy replaces Joyce Ecker who reached her term limit in 2011. Joyce had served on the County Committee for the last 16 years.

Thank you Joyce for your service and dedication to FSA and the producers of Nodaway County.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 crop revenue losses started on **Nov. 14, 2011** and runs through **June 1, 2012**. The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2010. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, except grazed crops.

Nodaway County received a Secretarial disaster designation in 2010.

Be advised, the current sign up is only for 2010 losses. The sign up for the 2011 crop revenue losses will not begin until sometime next fall to early winter.



Recorded Rainfall: (recorded at the FSA Office)

2011	31.81"
30-year avg.	36.05"

CRP MID-CONTRACT MANAGEMENT (MCM)

Producers who have enrolled acreage in CRP since the 26th sign up (2003), are required to complete a round of MCM, per the guidelines of their conservation plan. MCM is typically completed in years three to six of the CRP contract. Types of MCM include chemical application, strip disking, and burning. Cost share of 50% (based on county average rates) is available once the practice has been completed and all bills are turned in to the office.

Be advised, in the past this office has contacted producers by letter to inform them they have MCM to complete during the year. Due to budgetary constraints we will no longer follow that policy. Producers should take care to ensure they don't miss any required MCM on their contract as penalties are quite steep, ranging from \$40 to \$64 per acre.

If you have questions about your contract and its required mid-contract management please contact the office.

EXPIRING CRP CONTRACTS—2012 (& BEYOND)

You may be aware that FSA has had two general sign ups recently. These were the first general CRP sign ups FSA had offered since 2006. Both allowed producers who had contracts that were going to expire that year on September 30th, to re-offer their acres. While this has not been verified, it is expected that there will be another general sign up this spring that will allow contracts expiring on September 30, 2012, to be re-offered. Again, this is only an assumption, **a sign up has not been announced as yet.**

During the previous general sign ups our office found numerous expiring CRP contracts with tree and gully issues. For your CRP acreage to be eligible to be offered if/when a sign up does become available it must meet all CRP eligibility criteria. Contracts with **tree and gully issues will not be eligible**, unless you are enrolled in a tree practice. CRP guidelines state that for land to be considered eligible for offer it must "be physically capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity." The Nodaway County Committee does not consider CRP acreage with tree and gully issues as meeting this requirement and as such will deem those acres ineligible to be re-offered. Producers who have contracts that will expire in 2012 and beyond are encouraged to evaluate your acreage for potential issues and address them now. The acreage must be "openly croplable" at the time of re-offer or it will not be eligible. With new contract rates averaging around \$120/acre it is imperative that producers who want back in the program address any issues now. Waiting until sign up will be too late.

NEW AGI FORM FOR 2012

On September 28, 2011, FSA started using form CCC-931 "Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information" for all 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 programs that are subject to AGI compliance. FSA will no longer accept forms CCC- 926, CCC-927, or CCC-928 for any program. The new form is a combination of the Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information forms previously used by FSA. Producers who failed to file AGI forms previously will receive a notice from the National Office stating that the producer is ineligible for 2010 and/or 2011 payments.

Form CCC-931 is available at your local FSA office or online at <http://intranet.fsa.usda.gov>. Producers can print and mail the form to their local FSA office. FSA employees will review the form for accuracy before forwarding it to the IRS. If CCC-931 is incomplete, the producer will be notified and corrections will need to be completed prior to FSA forwarding it to the IRS. Producers with FSA-211, "Power of Attorneys" will not be allowed to use the FSA-211 to complete the CCC-931.

Without these forms on file, eligible producers will not receive USDA program payments. For more information please contact your local FSA office.

NON INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE (NAP) COVERAGE AND FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 15

NAP coverage is available for crops such as forage and hay crops. Coverage is also available for grazing acres which is required to be eligible for the Livestock Forage Program. March 15th is the last day for producers to apply for Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance. The application and service fee must be filed by March 15th, the deadline date for 2012 grazing acre coverage. The service fee is \$250 per crop per county. Limited Resource Producers (LR), Beginning Farmers (BF) and Socially Disadvantaged Producers (SD) may request a waiver of service fees.

March 15th is also the deadline to purchase federal crop insurance for your 2012 spring seeded row crops. Crop insurance coverage at the Catastrophic Risk level or better is required for producers to remain eligible for disaster assistance via the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE). Producers who do not have a federal crop insurance policy will not be eligible for any disaster assistance.

Please contact the office for more details on NAP coverage or federal crop insurance.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

Need additional storage capacity for your row crops or hay? You may want to check into a Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) with your local FSA office. The FSFL program allows producers to obtain low-interest fixed rate financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. At present, an eligible producer could obtain up to a \$100K FSFL loan for 7-years at 1.375% fixed interest, up to \$250K for 10-years at 2.000% fixed, and up to \$500K for 12-years at 2.250% fixed. For more info on FSFL's and the requirements to obtain a loan contact the office.

USDA STREAMLINES COMMON ACREAGE REPORTING DATES

USDA recently established 15 common acreage reporting dates (ARDs) for farmers and ranchers who participate in Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Risk Management Agency (RMA) programs. The common reporting dates will simplify the reporting process for producers and reduce USDA operating costs by sharing similar data with participating agencies. Before the streamlining, FSA had 17 ARDs for 273 crops and RMA had 54 ARDs for 122 crops. FSA and RMA will implement the July 15, 2012, ARDs for certain commodities during the 2012 crop/program year. The remaining common ARDs will be implemented during the 2013 crop/program year.

How will this streamlining effort affect the producers of Nodaway County? **The FSA crop reporting date for small grains, like wheat, will be June 30th and corn, soybeans, CRP, etc. will be moved up to July 15th in 2012.** This will force producers to make their crop reports to both FSA and their crop insurance agent by July 15th to be timely filed on spring seeded crops. Stay tuned for specific details on all crops.

FSA SPOUSAL SIGNATURE POLICY

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities
- Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents

BUSINESS FILE SYSTEM

The Farm Service Agency has created a new system by which they will collect farm operating plan information and record county committee determinations on producers. This new system, called the Business File, will be a computer generated version of the form CCC-902, Farm Operating Plan, producers had been completing in the past. While producers will still be required to file their operating plans they will no longer have to start from scratch each year that FSA requires one done. Through an interview process the Business File System will be populated with the information typically given to complete the 902 form. That information will then be used to make eligibility determinations for producers to receive FSA benefits. Once loaded, it will only be required to be updated as producers make changes to their operations, like adding or subtracting land, etc. FSA offices have been busy pre-filling the Business File with the 902 documentation they have on hand for each producer. However, producers should be prepared to spend a portion of their time while in the office on reviewing and updating their Business File information.



LOANS FOR THE SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED

FSA has loan programs to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or to purchase or improve farms or ranches. While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided targeted funding for members of socially disadvantaged groups. A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

BEGINNING AND LIMITED RESOURCE FARMER & RANCHER

FSA assists beginning farmers and ranchers with financing 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 any loan assessment and borrower training program in production and/or financial management required by the Agency
- Does not own farm acreage greater than 30 % of the median size farm in the county.

ARE YOU GETTING EALERTS YET?

Producers who utilize email and cell phone text messages can now receive urgent and timely FSA updates! Interested producers may sign up for eAlerts at your County FSA Office and choose whether you would like to receive information via e-mail, text or both. Contact the office for details.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO REDUCE YOUR FSA OFFICE VISIT TIME?

If so, please call 660-582-7423, ext 2 to schedule an appointment prior to visiting us! Scheduling appointments, while not required, does allow us to prepare for your arrival and **greatly** reduce your waiting time.

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 during sign up. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

BANK ACCOUNT CHANGES

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

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

Dates to Remember

January 16	Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday observed – FSA offices closed.
January 23	2012 DCP/ACRE sign up begins
February 20	President's Day observed – FSA offices closed.
March 15	2012 NAP and Federal Crop Insurance enrollment deadline
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program sign up
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program enrollment
Continues	2010 SURE sign up

Selected Interest Rates for January 2012

90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	1.500%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.375%
Limited Resource Loans	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7-yr.	1.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 10-yr.	2.000%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 12-yr.	2.250%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

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).