



NEWSLETTER



Texas/Dent County FSA Office

6726 Highway 63 #A
Houston, MO 65483

417-967-2028 phone
417-967-4059 fax

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

February 2012

County Office Staff
Loretta Hinton,
Acting County
Executive Director

Amy Peiter,
Farm Loan Manager

Kelly Arnold,
Farm Loan Officer

Debi Huff
Farm Loan Program
Technician

Loretta Hinton
Lori Martens,
Program Technicians

Committee:
Era Freeman
Oran Naramore
Jerry Kiser
Christin Keller

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

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

CONGRATULATIONS TO ERA FREEMAN! ERA WAS ELECTED FROM DENT COUNTY TO REPRESENT FARMERS LOCATED IN LAA 3.

ORAN NARAMORE FROM DENT COUNTY AND JERRY KISER AND CHRISTIN KELLER FROM TEXAS COUNTY ARE THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

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.

2012 DCP/ACRE SIGN-UP

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment started Jan. 23, 2012. All producers with base acres need to enroll by June 1, 2012.

NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

The noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. If your household adjusted gross income is below \$22,350.00, the fee for purchasing NAP can be waived. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date. Production records for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the acreage reporting date for the crop for the following year. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications. *NAP Losses must be reported within 15 days of the date the loss became apparent.* Many crops have a NAP application closing date of March 15, 2012. Contact your local FSA office for details.

CRP GENERAL SIGNUP 43 BEGINS

MARCH 12 On February 1, 2012, USDA announced that the next general CRP signup will be held from March 12, 2012, through April 6, 2012. Land that is not currently enrolled in CRP may be offered for enrollment during CRP signup 43. In addition, CRP participants with contracts expiring on September 30, 2012, may submit offers. Accepted contracts for CRP signup 43 will begin on October 1, 2012. The number of acres accepted under signup 43 will be determined after signup 43 concludes based on the environmental benefits and the cost of the acres offered. The CRP offer process for signup 43 is expected to be highly competitive. The national environmental benefits index (EBI) cutoff score will be determined after signup concludes.



1099-G Producers who have received payments from FSA should have received a CCC-1099-G. A CCC-1099-G is a report to the Internal Revenue Service about FSA payments made to producers during the previous calendar year. The CCC-1099-G is a service to help participating producers report taxable income. When the CCC-1099-G is received, it should be checked with your records to see that the amounts are correct. Program participants with an eAuthentication user ID and password may access their refund information at FSA-FI and select "Inquiry Type 1099/Refund Reports". If you have a question concerning the 1099-G refund information, you may contact your local FSA office for assistance locating the correct payment data.

Changing Bank Accounts

All FSA payments should be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if your bank is purchased by another financial institution. Payments can be delayed if we are not aware of changes to account and routing numbers.

SPOUSAL SIGNATURES Husbands and wives 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 staff by either spouse. There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. *NOTE: As of September 30, 2011, spouses will not be able to sign on behalf of each other on a CCC-931, Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information.* Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents. For more clarification on spousal signature authority, contact your local FSA office.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM 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 maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a minimum 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. If a participant provides 20% or greater down payment, then the requirement for a severance agreement for loans under \$50,000 will be waived. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department. 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.

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

FSA ADOPTING ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATION

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation. Producers are asked to contact their local office about options for electronic delivery of notices, newsletters and 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 and text messages will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. County committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers.

Acreage Reporting

Filing an accurate acreage report at your local FSA office can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Failed acreage is acreage that was timely planted with the intent to harvest, but because of disaster related conditions, the crop failed before it could be brought to harvest. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date. Annual acreage reports are required for most Farm Service Agency programs. Annual crop report deadlines vary based on region, crop, permanent vs. annual crop type, NAP or non-NAP crop and fall or winter seeding. Consult your local FSA office for deadlines in your area.

Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) Program

The Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) Program, administered by FSA, compensates dairy producers when domestic milk prices fall below a specified level. Signup for the program began December 22, 2008, and extends through the conclusion of the program on September 30, 2012.

Civil Rights/Discrimination Complaint Process

As a participant or applicant for programs or activities operated or sponsored by USDA you have a right to be treated fairly. If you believe you have been discriminated against because of your race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, disability, or marital or familial status, you may file a discrimination complaint. The complaint should be filed with the USDA Office of Civil Rights within 180 days of the date you became aware of the alleged discrimination. To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD), USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

A complaint must be filed within 180 calendar days from the date the complainant knew, or should have known, of the alleged discrimination.

Beginning Farmer and Rancher Loans

FSA has a program to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance 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 a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov

LOANS FOR THE SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED

FSA has loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or 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 because of his or her identity as members of a group. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Average Adjusted Gross Income 2009 - 2012

The 2008 Farm Bill required the implementation of the average adjusted gross income (AGI) limitations for program eligibility for the 2009-2012 program years. The average AGI provisions are applicable to the majority of programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Annual certifications of AGI compliance are required from each individual and legal entity requesting CCC payments either directly or indirectly. Annual certifications are made on form CCC-931 or by a statement from a certified public accountant or an attorney.

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Additionally, The Farm Service Agency would like to announce the retirement of County Executive Director Elvie Younger. Elvie has retired after 25 years of service. We wish him all the best in this next chapter of his life.

Tips for Faster Service In order to receive information and payments quickly, it is important for producers to keep their information up-to-date. Below are a few tips that could save you time in the future.

1. Provide your local FSA office with your current contact information, including mailing address, email, and phone number, as it changes.
2. Turn in all required forms and documentation in order to remain eligible for program benefits.

Report deceased producers, who earn FSA payments directly or indirectly, in order to receive a proper and timely payment to the estate.

Dates to Remember	
March 12	CRP General Signup 43 Begins
March 15	NAP Closing Date for Spring-seeded Crops
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program