



NEWSLETTER



Wright County FSA Office

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phone
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Hours

Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

July 2011

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

FSA eALERTS---MISSOURI FSA INTRODUCES FSA eALERTS---A NEW WAY TO RECEIVE FSA PROGRAM REMINDERS VIA E-MAIL OR TEXT. YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR eALERTS AT YOUR COUNTY OFFICE AND CHOOSE WHETHER YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE INFORMATION VIA E-MAIL, TEXT OR BOTH. IF YOU ELECT TO RECEIVE INFORMATION BY TEXT, REMEMBER STANDARD TEXT MESSAGING RATES APPLY. CONSULT WITH YOUR CELLULAR CARRIER TO DISCUSS YOUR TEXT PLAN DETAILS. YOU CAN OPT OUT OF RECEIVING FSA eALERTS AT ANY TIME.

YOU WILL STILL RECEIVE YOUR FSA NEWSLETTER, BUT MISSOURI FSA WILL DISCONTINUE SENDING POSTCARD REMINDERS FOR UPCOMING SIGN UPS AND DEADLINES. FSA eALERTS ARE PROVIDED AS AN ADDITIONAL SERVICE TO MISSOURI FSA PRODUCERS. ALWAYS REFER TO YOUR COUNTY OFFICE NEWSLETTER FOR PROGRAM INFORMATION AND BOOKMARK WWW.FSA.USDA.GOV/MO TO CHECK BACK FREQUENTLY FOR PROGRAM DEADLINES AND INFORMATION.

LIVESTOCK DEATHS?? We are currently under an excessive heat warning with heat indexes at 100 degrees or above. Excessive heat along with high relative humidity can cause serious problems with most livestock, and management will play an important role in keeping death losses low. Producers need to be aware that the Livestock Indemnity Program or LIP is an ongoing program to compensate producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather. There are no disaster designations and no insurance requirements to be eligible for LIP--payments will be based on a producer's eligible loss due to adverse weather conditions which include lightning, ice storms, flooding, wildfire, blizzard, tornado, extreme heat or cold that is documented by the FSA county committee. Producers need to file a notice of loss within 30 days of when the loss is apparent.

ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINE APPROACHING Producers are reminded that we need your final crop report for corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, CRP, hay & pasture, fruits and vegetables, and any other land uses by **August 1, 2011**. Crop reports, including prevented planted and failed acreage, are required for most FSA programs including SURE, CRP, DCP/ACRE, and commodity loans. Any reports after this day can be taken *with the late-file fee of \$46 per farm*. Remember, it is important that acreage and shares are consistent with USDA Farm Programs, crop insurance and crop sales receipts.

COUNTY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS CLOSE AUGUST 1, 2011 Nominations for candidates to run for the Farm Service Agency county committee election representing producers in Local Administrative Area 3 will be accepted through August 1. Producers who are residents in LAA3 which is that area of Wright County that lies east of Hwy 5 and south of HWY 38(basically the south east third of Wright County), and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates. The nomination form, FSA-669A, is available at the county office or may be downloaded online at www.fsa.usda.gov. To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indication agreement to serve if elected.

Compliance Compliance and spot checks will once again be utilized during the 2011 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers is used to achieve a statistical sampling of participation producers. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in the Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc.



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 if 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. **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.

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%, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 % 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. Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans; corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, oats, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain or other-than-whole grain, hay, renewable biomass, fruits, nuts, and vegetables-cold storage facilities.

Non-Insured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) USDA's Farm Service Agency's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters. The application and service fees must be filed by the application closing date as established by the producer's FSA state committee. September 1, 2011 is the sales closing date for strawberries and for fall seeded small grains such as annual rye grass, barley, canola, rye, triticale and wheat. November 20, 2011 is the sales closing date for apples, apricots, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, prunes and blueberries. December 1, 2011 is the sales closing date for honey. **NAP losses must be reported within 15 days of a disaster event or the date the loss becomes apparent!**

Sodbuster Regulations The term "sodbusting" is used to identify the plowing up of erosion-prone grasslands for use as cropland. Sodbuster violations are unauthorized tillage practices on highly erodible lands that converted native vegetation such as rangeland or woodland to crop production after December 23, 1985. Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in FSA programs. Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026 form, indicating the area to be brought into production.

Emergency Loan Program The U.S. Department of Agriculture designated 23 Missouri counties as primary agricultural natural disaster areas making certain farmers and other agricultural producers in the counties eligible for low-interest emergency loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), in addition to other disaster programs. Wright County was designated a natural disaster area on June 9, 2011, which qualifies farm operators eligible for low interest emergency (EM) loans from FSA , provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the EM loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity. USDA also has made other programs available to assist farmers, including the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), which was approved as part of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008; the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP); Federal Crop Insurance; and the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.

SURE Signup Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) ends July 29, 2011. SURE provides benefits for 2008-2011 crop year farm revenue losses due to natural disasters.

A farm enrolled in SURE may be eligible for benefits when either;

1. 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.
2. Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production of the farm because of disaster related conditions is less than 50% or less than normal production of the farm.

Emergency Assistance for 2010 Losses More than \$8 million in disaster assistance will be issued to livestock, honeybee and farm-raised fish producers that suffered losses in 2010 because of disease, adverse weather or other conditions. The aid will come from the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). ELAP sign-up for 2011 losses is also under way. Producer with 2011 losses must file an ELAP application no later than October 1, 2011. They also must file a notice of loss within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent to the producer or October 31, 2011, whichever date is earlier. ELAP benefits related to 2011 losses are expected to be issued in early 2012.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) Funding Possible for Wright County

ECP offers assistance to eligible producers who have lost fencing, conservation structures and livestock due to wildfire or natural disasters, such as flooding. ECP funding is not "automatic", and you will need to have more than \$2500 in damage on your own. Producers aware of a need for this type of assistance should contact their local FSA office. If ECP funding is approved, it is important to submit your request for EXP assistance before beginning reconstructive work. Completing reconstructive work before submitting an EXP request could result in forfeiture of program eligibility. Producers can use EXP funds to remove debris on agricultural lands, restore fences, grade and shape land and repair existing conservation structures damaged by the disaster. Program eligibility is determined by the county committee by conduction on-site inspections that take into account the type and extent of the damage. Conservation problems that existed before the disaster are not eligible for ECP assistance. EXP program participants can receive financial assistance for up to 75% of the cost to implement approved emergency conservation practices.

How you can become a weather Reporter The Us Drought monitor triggers the Livestock Feed Program, and the county Committee and the staff makes every effort to relay weather conditions of the County to the U.S. Drought Monitor reporters. As rains during the summer are usually not widespread the more individuals that will report rainfall may give the Drought monitor a more accurate determination on just how dry it is. Individuals may join the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network at <http://www.cocorahs.org/>. You can also post drought impacts and comments with the U.S. Drought Monitor at <http://droughtreporter.unl.edu/map.jsp/>.

Please Note! If you want FSA to give out aerial photos of your farm to others (appraisers, real estate agents, family, fertilizer spreaders etc.) they now need a signed statement from you authorizing FSA to release aerial photos with acreages. These statements must have an expiration date.

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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). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."