



# NEWSLETTER



## January 2012 District 3

USDA Service Center  
Website address  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/mo](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo)

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District Director

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Mexico, MO 65265  
573-581-1406

Clark County FSA  
Kahoka, MO 63445  
660-727-3364

Knox County FSA  
Edina, MO 63537  
660-397-2559

Lewis County FSA  
Monticello, MO 63457  
573-767-5274

Lincoln County FSA  
Troy, MO 63379  
636-528-4113

Macon County FSA  
Macon, MO 63552  
660-385-2616

Marion County FSA  
Palmyra, MO 63461  
573-769-2235

Monroe County FSA  
Paris, MO 65275  
660-327-4137

Pike County FSA  
Bowling Green, MO  
63334  
573-324-3313

Ralls County FSA  
New London, MO 63459  
573-985-3928

Shelby County FSA  
Shelbyville, MO 63469  
573-633-2440

### FSA ADOPTING GOVDELIVERY

Happy New Year as we welcome in 2012! Another year has rolled past and changes are sure to follow. One change for our agency is the way in which we will get important information to you. As a cost saving measure, newsletters and other mailings are going to be drastically reduced, as we move toward using electronic methods to notify you of deadlines, signups and other important information. One way we will accomplish this is through FSA eAlerts and the GovDelivery system. Moving to electronic notifications will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. Producers can now subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe> or simply contact your local USDA Service Center.

### 2012 DCP/ACRE SIGN-UP

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment will begin Jan. 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) or change in crop shares arrangements **Note:** Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012. There are also no advance payments available this final year of the current farm bill. The entire 2012 payment will be paid in mid – October of 2012.

### SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 crop losses began **Nov. 14, 2011** and will end **June 1, 2012**. The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that were 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. The county office will use information from insurance companies to determine eligibility for payment if the producer meets the loss threshold, which is 10% for a crop.

### NAP Closing Dates

The NAP application closing date for 2012 grazing and forage/hay on native and improved grass is March 15, 2012. Remember, to retain eligibility for the SURE program, all crops of economic significance must be covered by crop insurance or through NAP.

### **FARM SERVICE AGENCY FARM LOAN PROGRAM**

#### Socially Disadvantaged Applicant

Each year, the Farm Service Agency earmarks a portion of its farm loan funding for socially disadvantaged applicants, people who have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender inequality without regard to their individual qualities.

Socially disadvantaged applicants may be women, African Americans, American Indians, Hispanics, Asian and Pacific Islanders and Alaskan Natives. While funding is earmarked for loans to socially disadvantaged applicants, loan approval is neither automatic nor guaranteed. Socially disadvantaged applicants must meet the same eligibility criteria as other applicants. Applicants must be U.S. citizens; have a satisfactory history of meeting credit obligations; have sufficient education, training or experience managing or operating a farm; possess legal capacity to incur debt; and, be unable to obtain credit elsewhere.



### **Down Payment Farm Ownership Loan Program**

FSA has a special down payment FO loan program to assist beginning farmers and ranchers to purchase a farm or ranch. This program is also available to socially disadvantaged (SDA) applicants. Additionally, this program provides a means for retiring farmers and ranchers to transfer their land to a future generation. To qualify: An applicant must make a cash down payment of at least 5 percent of the purchase price. FSA may provide a maximum loan amount not exceeding 45 percent of the least of a) The purchase price of the farm or ranch acquired; b) The appraised value of the farm or ranch acquired; or c) \$500,000 (Note: This results in a maximum loan of \$225,000). The term of the loan is 20 years. The interest rate is 4 percent below the direct FO rate but not lower than 1.5 percent. The remaining balance may be obtained from a commercial lender or private party. FSA can provide up to a 95 percent guarantee if financing is obtained from a commercial lender. Participating lenders do not have to pay a guarantee fee.

### **LDPs FOR UNSHORN LAMB PELTS**

Eligible producers have until Jan. 31, 2012, to apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for unshorn pelts produced during the 2011 crop year. Eligible producers must have beneficial interest in the pelts, owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. Producers must also comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or in which they have an interest. To qualify for payment, pelts must have been produced by an eligible producer from live unshorn lambs of domestic origin in the United States.

### **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. 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. 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. The

commodities eligible for farm storage facility loans include the usual feed grains, as well as hay, renewable biomass, fruits, vegetables and honey. For more information about FSFL, please visit your FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

### **Annual Notice to Producers**

FSA is required annually to notify producers of many program requirements, policies, and reminders. The following are some of those notifications:

**Spousal Signatures:** Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) programs in which either has an interest. In most cases, this option is automatically available unless a request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse. Exceptions include: claim settlements and lien filings.

**Power of Attorney:** We have a power of attorney form for those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc, that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the FSA office. This can be done by completing an FSA-211, Power of Attorney. The form is only for FSA program paperwork and is available at your local USDA Service Center or online at:

<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov> Forms obtained and completed outside the USDA Service Center must be notarized. To find out more, call the office.

**Foreign Landowners:** The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act 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 within 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.

**Faxed Signatures:** Certain faxed signatures shall be accepted for all applicable program forms or other documents approved for faxed signatures, if all other requirements are met.

**Reasonable Accommodations** will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the FSA County Office staff and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are necessary.

**Direct Deposit Mandatory:** As of Jan 1, 1999, all payments issued by the county FSA office will be by direct deposit (electronic funds transfer) to a pre-designated checking or savings account with your financial institution. Forms for direct deposit are available at the FSA office. It is important that we are notified anytime there is a change in your account

number or financial institution. If we are not notified timely, future payments may be delayed.

**Controlled Substance:** Any person who is convicted under federal law of planting, producing, cultivation, harvesting, growing, or storing a controlled substance will be ineligible to participate and receive payments under USDA programs.

Marijuana, opium poppies, and other drug producing plants are controlled substances.

**Reporting Farm Changes:** It is also the producer's responsibility to notify FSA of ANY changes in their farming operation or entity status throughout the year. Changes that may affect a determination include, but are not limited to, a change in contract shares which may reflect change of land lease from cash rent to share rent or from share rent to cash rent; addition or deletion of a farm; change in the structure of the farming operation, such as individual to a corporation or trust; change in contributions or inputs such as personal labor, or change in farming interests.

**Highly Erodible Land and Wetland 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 are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Contact should be made to the USDA Service Center prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance, which is recorded on form AD-1026.

**Landowner Designation**

If you are a landowner and you plan to sell a portion of your land, this provision may apply to you. The Designation by Landowner method is the division of bases in the manner agreed to by both the buyer and seller. Do this before you close on the sale or purchase. The land must be owned for 3 years to qualify for this option. This option allows both the seller and buyer the opportunity to choose how the base acres associated to the farm are divided and both the seller and buyer of the land sign to the agreement (Form FSA-155), unless a memorandum of understanding is provided. This memorandum must also be signed by both parties outlining how base acres are to be distributed. Anytime land is sold, producers should report the sale to the county office timely. Failure to report sales could result in program payment refunds or penalties on participating program farms.

**New AGI Form for 2012**

On September 28, 2011, FSA started using CCC-931 "Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information" for all 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 programs subject to AGI compliance. FSA will no longer accept 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. 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 be completed prior to FSA forwarding it to the IRS. Producers with FSA-211, "Power of Attorney" will not be allowed to use the FSA-211 to complete CCC-931. Producers who failed to file these forms before Sept. 2011 will receive a notice from the National Office stating that the producer is ineligible for 2010 and/or 2011 payments. Without these forms on file, eligible producers will not receive USDA program payments. For more information please contact your local office.

**Expiring CRP Contracts**

You may be aware that FSA has recently had two general CRP sign ups. These were the first general CRP sign ups FSA has offered since 2006. Both of these signups allowed producers who had contracts that were going to expire that year on September 30th, to re-offer acres. It is assumed that this same process will continue this year, allowing producers of expiring contracts to re-offer them via a general sign up. Again, this is only an assumption, **a sign up or an official plan has not been announced.**

During the last two general sign ups, our offices have found numerous expiring CRP farms that had 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. **Trees and gullies will not be eligible.** Per paragraph 151 of Handbook 2-CRP, for land to be considered as eligible to be offered into CRP it must —be physically capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. County Committees do not consider CRP acreage with tree and gully issues as being physically capable of being planted in a normal manner and as such will deem those acres ineligible to be re-offered.

Producers who have contracts that will expire in the next few years are encouraged to begin to evaluate your acreage now for potential issues. If you have trees and/or gullies, you should address them as soon as possible. The acreage must be "openly cropable" at the time of reoffer or it will not be eligible.

**UNAUTHORIZED DISPOSITION OF GRAIN**

If grain under loan is disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. Financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producers name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call before you remove any grain under loan.

**USDA CHANGES COMMON ACREAGE REPORTING DATES**

To streamline the crop reporting process between RMA (Risk Management Agency) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA), several deadlines for reporting crops have been changed. Fall barley, wheat and other fall seeded grains planted in fall of 2011, report by **6/30/2012**.

Corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, CRP, all other acreages not listed, report by **7/15/2012**.

Fall barley, wheat and other fall seeded small grains planted in fall of 2012, report by **12/15/2012**.

Dates to Remember	
January 16	Martin Luther King Jr Birthday (observed) - FSA offices closed
January 23	2012 DCP/ ACRE Enrollment begins
January 31	Deadline for 2011 LDP on wool, mohair and unshorn lamb pelts
February 20	Office closed for President's Day
March 15	Final date to purchase NAP insurance coverage on hay, pasture & other NAP crops
March 15	Final date to purchase FCIC Crop Ins on Corn/ Beans
March 31	Final date to obtain a loan or LDP on wheat & oats
May 28	FSA Offices Closed Memorial Day
May 31	Final date to obtain a loan or LDP on corn & beans
June 1	2012 DCP/ Acre sign up ends
July 15	Final date to report CRP, corn, soybeans, grain sorghum, hay & pasture

**County Committee Election Results**

County Committee election ballots were counted in December 2011. The results from District 3 are:

County	LAA/ Boundaries	Representative
<b>Audrain</b>	1: Twps: Wilson, Salt River, S. Fork, Loutre	Betty L Hollenberg
<b>Clark</b>	1: Folker, Grant, Jefferson, & Sweet Home Townships	Barbra Parrish
<b>Knox</b>	3: Colony, Myrtle, Jeddo, & Fabius Townships	Don Miller
<b>Lewis</b>	3: Reddish, LaBelle, & Salem Townships	Doug Lay
<b>Lincoln</b>	2: Monroe, Burr Oak, & Snowhill Townships	Phil Harke
<b>Macon</b>	2: Drake, Easley, Richland, LaPlata, Johnston, White, Walnut Creek, Independence, Lyda & Jackson Townships	Paul Perry
<b>Marion</b>	3: Liberty, S River & Miller-Mason Townships	John Pflantz
<b>Monroe</b>	2:W boundaries: Rt A/Rt C. E boundaries: Rt V/Rt Z	Lynn Fodge
<b>Pike</b>	1:Ashley, Cuivre, Prairieville, Calumet Twp	Thomas Larry Beauchamp
<b>Ralls</b>	2:Saverton, Spencer Twp	Jackie Hamilton
<b>Shelby</b>	3:Salt River, Lentner, Jefferson, S 1/2 of Clay Township	Lee Wood

A big thanks to each of you for serving. FSA appreciates everyone who took the time to vote. The County Committee system works only because of your participation.