



Missouri FSA News

Summer 2012

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Dates to Remember:

- ◆ **June 15** - Nomination period opens for 2012 COC election in select LAAs.
- ◆ **July 15** - Final day to report all crop acreage (except small grains), CRP & other land uses.
- ◆ **August 1** - Final day to request a reconstitution-combining or dividing farms or tracts based on the farming operation.
- ◆ **August 1** - Nomination forms for 2012 COC election must be submitted.
- ◆ **Nov. 15** - Final day to report all perennial & biennial forage crops.
- ◆ NAP crops must be reported by final reporting date or 15 days before harvest.
- ◆ Farm Storage Facility Loan program is ongoing.

All upcoming deadlines are conveniently located online at:
www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

Printed Newsletters Likely to be a Thing of the Past. Are you Ready?

FSA, like many organizations, has had to make some tough decisions due to budget, therefore the number of Farm Service Agency (FSA) newsletters mailed to producers will be decreased. **This is likely your final hard copy newsletter for this fiscal year.** If budget constraints continue, FSA may not be able to send hard copy newsletters in future years. We are also unable to provide printed postcard reminders due to the expense. FSA is moving to electronic newsletters and reminders as a way to conserve resources. This new option is called FSA eAlerts. FSA eAlerts could be the only option for you to receive news and updates directly from FSA if budget prevents the mailing of hard-copy newsletters in the future.

News will now be sent via email or text and available immediately at your fingertips, whether on your cell phone or at your home or farm office. This electronic format enables FSA to keep you better informed and reduce taxpayer expenses associated with the preparation, printing and distribution of hard-copy newsletters and postcards. County Committee ballots, payment transaction statements and correspondence pertinent to your individual operation will continue to be mailed.

Don't have email or text? FSA will continue to promote our programs, services and deadlines through the local media. Information is also readily available through Missouri FSA's webpage: www.fsa.usda.gov/mo. Copies of electronic newsletters will also be available from your local office. Providing your cell phone number, even if you don't wish to receive texts, helps to ensure your local FSA office can reach you when necessary.

Here are some important things to remember:

- FSA will not sell or distribute your email or cell number to other clients or organizations.
- To ensure you receive all messages, and FSA messages are not treated as SPAM by your email provider, be sure to add your county office's email address (see inside) and the GovDelivery email address, usdafsa@service.govdelivery.com, to your email 'safe sender' list, or to your email contacts.
- You can opt out of receiving FSA's electronic services at any time.
- It is our promise to you that this service will be utilized only to inform you of pertinent information regarding USDA's programs and services and not to overload you with unnecessary emails and texts.

Signing up is easy! Information on enrolling in eAlerts & GovDelivery can be found inside.

“Many farmers are already using text messaging & email to check the markets & find other valuable information. FSA eAlerts is just one more way to keep up with news & dates that are valuable to my farm.”

-Sharon Oetting
Lafayette County Producer
Missouri FSA State Committee Member

Signing Up for eAlerts is Easy!

You can now get FSA program information and reminders through eAlerts and GovDelivery through email or text options. Enrolling is easy!

- Visit your local FSA office & mention eAlerts. You can choose to receive information via text, email or both. You can also email your county office (see contact information below) and request to be added to eAlerts.
- If you participate in multiple counties, indicate from which counties you wish to receive eAlerts.
- To receive text messages, we will need your cell phone number and the name of your cell phone carrier. Standard text messaging rates apply. Check with your carrier about your current text messaging plan.
- If signing up at the local office, you may be asked to complete a Customer Data Worksheet (AD-2047) in which you will provide your email and cell phone number. This form also allows you to elect to only receive electronic correspondence from FSA. What does this mean? By electing to only receive electronic correspondence, you choose to no longer receive bulk mailings from your local office. So, if budget were to allow us to print newsletters in the future, you would be choosing to only receive your newsletter electronically and not through standard mail.

Have You Bookmarked Missouri FSA's Homepage?

- ⇒ Stay current on upcoming Farm Program deadlines.
- ⇒ Keep up with Missouri FSA news.
- ⇒ Read your local FSA newsletters online.
- ⇒ Find useful links in the "I Want To" section.
- ⇒ Download and complete certain program forms online.
- ⇒ Enroll in certain programs online (Certain security access required. Contact your local office for details).

Add www.fsa.usda.gov/mo to your favorites and check back often for updates!

The screenshot shows the Missouri FSA website homepage. At the top, there is a header with the USDA FSA logo, the text "United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency", and a "MISSOURI" logo with a state outline. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: Home, FSA Home, About FSA, Newsroom, Online Services, Forms, Help, Contact Us, and En Español. The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column has a "Search FSA" box with a "Go" button and a "Browse by Subject" menu with options like "County Committee Minutes", "County Offices", "County PCP Data", "Daily LDP Rates", "Programs", "Newsletters", "State Committee Minutes", "State Events", and "State News Releases". The middle column is titled "News and Deadlines" and contains a list of news items with dates and topics, such as "June 15-COC nomination period begins" and "June 30- Final date to report fall and spring-seeded small grains". The right column is titled "I Want To..." and contains a list of links for "Contact Missouri State Office", "Enroll in DCP", "Get Online Access", "File an eLDP request", "View My Financial Information", "Learn more about County Committee Elections", "Sign up to receive eNewsletters", "Work for FSA", "View Missouri's Presidential and Secretarial Disaster Declarations", "View County Committee Election Information", and "View 2012 Producer Reminders". At the bottom right, there is a "Hot Links" section with a link to "FSA Handbooks".

Coming Soon: FSA Electronic Check Processing

FSA/CCC is moving toward OTCnet, an electronic method for processing customer check payments. When a check is submitted for payment either in person or through the mail, the check will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from your account, usually within 24 hours of receipt. Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center, or visit <http://fms.treas.gov/otcnet/legal.html>.

How will my check be handled?

The check will be scanned into the system & voided. You will not receive the check back, but rather, FSA will hold checks for up to 14 calendar days to ensure the item was successfully processed & then shred the check.

How quickly will funds be transferred from my account?

The funds transfer from your account could occur within 24 hours. Sufficient funds in your account are needed. If you do **not** have sufficient funds, we may initiate the transaction again.

How will this transaction appear on my account statement?

The transfer of funds will be reflected on your account statement, although it may be recorded in a different place than your checks normally appear.

What are my rights if there is a problem with the transaction?

Contact your financial institution immediately if you believe that the transaction reported on your account statement was not properly authorized or is otherwise incorrect.

Direct and Guaranteed Loans

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000. This makes the maximum combination of direct and guaranteed loan indebtedness \$1,514,000.

The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan.

By Phone:

FSA can be found in many phonebooks in the Government listings.

County Office numbers are also listed on the Missouri FSA webpage.

By Email:

Each County Office has an email address. To find your county email address:

- Contact your county office.
- E-mail the names of the counties whose email addresses you wish to receive to:
MO-fsa-webmaster@one.usda.gov.
- Visit www.fsa.usda.gov/mo.

In Person:

County office addresses can be found online at www.fsa.usda.gov/mo.

Contact FSA



USDA-Farm Service Agency
Missouri State Office
Parkade Center Suite 225
601 Business Loop 70 W.
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Official Business

County Committee Nominations

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

The COC nomination period runs from June 15, 2012, through Aug. 1, 2012. For more information contact your local FSA office.

Nomination forms can be found at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/eForms/FSA669-A.PDF>.

A list of LAAs hosting elections in 2012 can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov/mo.



Crop Acreage Reporting Dates for FSA and Crop Insurance

Beginning July 2012, there will be changes in the Crop Acreage Reporting dates. The revision in reporting dates was the result of a combined effort of FSA and the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to make acreage reporting easier. Standardized acreage reporting deadlines for both FSA and crop insurance purposes are:

July 15 Corn, soybeans, grain sorghum, CRP, all other acreages not listed (for 2012, reports are due by 7/16/2012).

Nov. 15 All perennial & biennial forage crops.

Dec. 15 Fall barley, wheat & other fall seeded small grains planted in fall 2012 (for 2012, reports are due by 12/17/2012).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. 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).