

USDA NEWS

SCHUYLER COUNTY

SCHUYLER COUNTY

USDA SERVICE
CENTER—Lancaster

CONTACT INFORMATION

Schuyler County FSA
PO BOX 249
200 Green Street
Lancaster, MO 63548
Phone: (660) 457-3715
Fax: (660) 457-3239
www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

HOURS

Monday –Friday
7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

COUNTY COMMITTEE

Ronnie Hart
Larry Aeschliman
Shirlene Hartsock

County Committee Meeting:

2nd Thursday of each
month at 8:30 A.M.

STAFF

Program Technicians

Carla Tallman
Cindy Daniels

County Executive Director

Brandi Roper

Farm Loan Manager
Curt Corbett

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Shirlene Hartsock! Shirlene was elected to represent farmers from the Chariton, Glenwood, and Liberty Townships on the county committee. Shirlene was elected to her first consecutive term. Shirlene had served as the County Committee Advisor for eight years.

The election results for Local Administrative Area 1 are:

Shirlene Hartsock — Elected to the county committee (COC),
Dean Brown — 1st alternate to COC.

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.

The committee members held their organizational meeting in January to determine who will serve as the county committee chairman and vice-chairman. Ronnie Hart was selected as Chairman, Larry Aeschliman as vice-chairman and Shirlene Hartsock will serve as member.

New Faces at the Schuyler County FSA



Come meet our employees at the Schuyler County Farm Service Agency. From Left to right: Cindy Daniels, Brandi Roper and Carla Tallman.

Brandi Roper accepted the position as the County Executive Director for Schuyler County and started the new position on August 21, 2006.

Brandi grew up in Stoddard County and graduated from Dexter High School in 1993.

Brandi is familiar with many different sizes of farming operations, while growing up in Southeast, Missouri. Brandi received a



Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Business in 1998 and a Master of Science in Agriculture in 1999 from Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky. While attending MSU, she competed in National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association and served as the Treasurer of the Murray State Rodeo Team for 3 years. After graduation from college, Brandi moved to Morganfield, Kentucky, and lived on a farm from 1999-2002 that raised cattle, hogs, equine, corn, soybeans, wheat, and grain sorghum. Brandi worked as an Extension Agent for the University of Kentucky for 2 years while living in Kentucky.

In February 2003, she began working as a Program Technician in Stoddard County, Missouri. In June of 2005, Brandi was selected as County Operations Trainee for the Missouri Farm Service Agency. After completing her training, she was selected to serve as the County Executive Director for Schuyler County in August of 2006. Brandi currently competes in barrel racing in the Missouri Rodeo Cowboys Association and other Barrel Racing Associations. She raises both American Quarter and Paint horses,



Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., we have a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.



Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other as individuals 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.

which some has been put on hold with her recent move to Schuyler County. Brandi is engaged to Joel Tatum of Moberly, Missouri. Joel is the store manager of the Orscheln's Farm and Home in Boonville, MO. Brandi is currently residing in Schuyler County. Brandi commented that she is very inspired about working and serving the producers and landowners of Schuyler County.

Another New Face in the Office

Cindy Daniels accepted the position as Program Technician in September of 2006. Cindy began working with FSA in the Putnam County office in September of 1998 and she began working in Adair County in January 2002. Cindy and her husband, Brad, along with two children live in Putnam County.

Continuing Customer Service

Continuing great customer service is Carla Tallman. Carla has been serving the producers in Schuyler County as a Program Technician for 20 years. She resides in Schuyler County with her husband, Steve, and three children.

Stop by and visit the staff of the Schuyler County Farm Service Agency.

Soil and Water Conservation District



The Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District is selling Plat Books of Schuyler County for \$35 each.

REVIEW OF PAYMENT ELIGIBILITY

Over the next couple of months, Missouri Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices will be conducting an in-depth review of the documents used to support producer eligibility. The review is the Agency's effort to ensure the accuracy of all payments made. The county office employees have been working diligently to review all documents pertaining to producer eligibility. However, this process takes great attention to detail and more time. As a result, some future payments may not get to the producer as quickly as they have in the past. Producers can assist with this process by contacting the office before coming in to sign-up for programs or request program payments so documents can be prepared in advance. Although the eligibility reviews may consume more time of the county office employees, FSA remains committed to outstanding customer service and timely distribution of payments to producers.

Payment Limitation/Eligibility

USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. Documents and forms to determine eligibility and limitation once completed are reviewed on an annual basis. It is the producer's responsibility to report changes in the farming operation which may affect payment eligibility and payment limitation.

The following payments apply to DCP for each contract year under the new Farm bill comes through both direct and counter-cyclical payments. For all covered commodities, except peanuts: \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments. For peanuts: \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program has a \$450,000 payment limitation. The Conservation Reserve Programs annual limit is \$50,000 per person. Entities such as corporations, limited partnerships, trusts and estates are required to provide names, addresses, and ID numbers of their members.

CRP REMINDERS

- * **CRP:** If you were offered an Extension on CRP and declined– you still have to maintain CRP through the end of the original contract period.
- * Livestock is excluded from all CRP and Continuous CRP such as buffers, filter strips, and waterway practices for the life of the contract unless authorized by the Secretary of Agriculture.
- * The Rental Rate per acre on CRP includes a maintenance rate to perform certain maintenance obligations. (Examples: mowing, removing noxious weeds and tree saplings.) This amount is automatically added to your soil rental rate.
- * Continuous CRP–Review your fields enrolled in buffers, filter strips and waterways for compliance in order to prevent out-of-compliance penalties.
- * CRP Conservation Plans– please review your Conservation Plan annually for required management and maintenance requirements. If required management activities are not performed according to the Conservation plan, you will be facing a payment reduction. Then you shall still be required to perform the management activities on the affected acres during the following program year without cost share assistance.

What is Continuous CRP?

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program allows participants to voluntarily enroll acreage in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

Eligible landowners enter into 10- to 15-year contracts in return for receiving annual rental and perhaps maintenance, incentive and cost share payments.

To be eligible, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. If eligibility requirements are met, the Farm Service Agency will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year. For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments, please contact the county office staff or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=crp>

Conservation Compliance

All participants in USDA programs are required to have a conservation system in place on all the highly erodible land (HEL) that they operate. Several areas where problems can arise with complying with a conservation system are; renting new cropland, purchasing new land, breaking out additional cropland, planting different crops such as soybeans, and changing or removing existing conservation practices.

It is very important that you contact the FSA office before doing any of the above. Also, it is very important that you contact our office before modifying - tiling, draining, dredging, filling, or leveling - any wetland or drainage ditch. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in loss of all Federal payments and eligibility.

County Committee Meetings

The three-member Schuyler County Farm Service Agency committee meets once a month. The committee has established 8:30 a.m. on the second Thursday of each month as its regular meeting time and the Schuyler County FSA office as its meeting place.

We will post a notice on the county office bulletin board if the committee must reschedule the time or place of its next meeting.

County committee members are:

Chairman Ronnie Hart, representing LAA #3 for Townships Prairie and Salt River. Vice-Chairman Larry Aeschliman, representing LAA #2 for Townships Fabius and Independence. Member Shirlene Hartsock, representing LAA #1 for Townships Chariton, Glenwood and Liberty.



Reminders . . .

FEB 19: Office Closed-Washington Birthday.

March 15: NAP sales closing date.

March 15: Deadline for prescribed burning warm season grasses/CRP.

March 31: Deadline to obtain a wheat or oat loan.

March 15-April 30: Dates for prescribed burning or chemical burning Cool season grasses on CRP.



Farm Record Changes

Any ownership, operator, or address changes should be reported timely to the FSA office to keep records current. Adding or dropping a farming interest will also require you to update your conservation plan and payment limitation requirements.

If you transfer your land into a trust, you must bring in your trust paperwork and report the change to our office.

Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the Farm Service Agency county office staff, and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are necessary.

Bank Account Changes

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically these days, using Direct Deposit. In most cases the switch has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. Most of the problems with direct deposit happen when producers close or change accounts but forget to notify the county office.



To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you've made any changes in accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact us so we can update our files.

Failure to notify the county office of a banking change will delay the issuing of your payments.

Want to conduct your FSA business online?

Go to the following website and request a level 2 ID.

<http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/#L2>



FSA Information on the Internet

Want to check out daily LDP prices, news releases, and other FSA information? Log on to these user friendly websites:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

The Missouri State FSA home page is <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo/>

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.