

MORTON COUNTY FSA NEWSLETTER

Morton County FSA Office

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The Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month

County Committee Members

Byron Smith, Chairperson

John Milburn, Vice Chairperson

Robert Easterwood, Member

Donita Hayes, Advisor

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

Office Staff: Jennifer Sensley, CED

Dorothy Horton, PT

Nancy Lutz, PT

Jill Landrum, PT

Lynnette Shrauner, TPT

November 2010

2011 DCP AND ACRE SIGNUP

The enrollment period for the 2011 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) ends on June 1, 2011.

The ACRE program provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price. ACRE payments are made when both state and farm-level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments, receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates. The decision to elect ACRE binds the farm to the program through the 2012 crop year.

Planted crops considered eligible for ACRE payments include: wheat, barley, oats, grain sorghum, corn, upland cotton, peanuts, pulse crops (dry peas, lentils, chickpeas or garbanzo beans), rice, soybeans, and other oilseeds (canola, crambe, flaxseed, mustard seed, rapeseed, safflower, sesame seed).

FOREIGN LANDOWNER REQUIREMENT

Foreign investors with an interest in agricultural lands in the United States are required to report their holdings and any transactions to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

Any foreign person who acquires or transfers any interest, other than a security interest, in agricultural land in the United States is required by law to report the transaction no later than 90 days after the date of the transaction. Foreign investors must file Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) reports with the Farm Service Agency County Office that maintains reports for the county where the land is located. Failure to file a report, filing a late report or filing an inaccurate report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land. For AFIDA purposes, agricultural land is defined as any land used for farming, ranching or timber production, if the tracts total 10 acres or more.

NAP APPLICATION FOR COVERAGE DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 1, 2010

The final date to purchase Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for all Grasses including Alfalfa, Apricots, Asparagus, Blueberries, Caneberries (Blackberries and Raspberries), Cherries, Clover, Grapes, Lespedeza, Honey, Mixed Forage, Nectarines, Oats, Peaches, Plums, Strawberries, and Vetch is **December 1, 2010**. The application and service fee is \$250 per crop, up to \$750 per county, and not to exceed a total of \$1875 per producer for individuals with farming interests in multiple counties. The application and service fee must be filed by **December 1, 2010**. Limited resource producers may request a waiver for service fees.

REMINDER: In order to be eligible for the permanent disaster programs you **MUST** purchase NAP coverage.

VOTING FOR COUNTY COMMITTEE BEGINS

Ballots for this year's county committee election will be mailed to eligible voters on November 5, 2010. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 6, 2010. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 6, 2010. The candidates in this year's election are: **Brent McDonald** and **John Milburn**.

Eligible voters in a local administrative area 1 who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

Voter Requirements Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, is eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following:

an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, or

a partner in a general partnership or member of a

joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper; or

2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; and

3. Eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

Discrimination Prohibited No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.



Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

BEGINNING AND LIMITED RESOURCE FARMERS

FSA assists 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.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov

CCC-927 OR CCC-928 MUST BE SENT TO IRS

Producers who participated in 2009 or 2010 programs subject to adjusted gross income limitations (AGI) had to certify compliance with AGI rules. The average AGI verification process for 2009 and 2010 payment eligibility requires all program participants to provide written consent to IRS for the disclosure of certain information to FSA.

On October 6, 2010, a letter was mailed to producers who have not submitted:

CCC-927: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Individual Form"

CCC-928: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Legal Entity"

Individuals and legal entities, including members of legal entities, that certified to average AGI compliance for 2009 and/or 2010 payment eligibility must submit a completed CCC-927 or CCC-928 to IRS regardless of whether they received program benefits directly or as a member of a joint operation or entity. These forms must be submitted to IRS in order to avoid a demand for refund of program payments and benefits received.



APPOINTMENTS ENCOURAGED

In order for producers to minimize their trips to the office appointments are encouraged, not required. With all the numerous sign-ups going on at this time and the documentation that needs to be provided for each program producers will reduce the amount of trips to the office by making appointments and will allow us to better prepare for your visit.

CONSERVATION LOAN PROGRAM

The Farm Service Agency makes and guarantees conservation loans on farms and ranches to help conserve our natural resources. The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the credit necessary to implement conservation measures on their land.

CL funds can be used to implement conservation practices approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), such as the installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; implementation of manure management; and the adaptation of other emerging or existing conservation practices, techniques or technologies.

Direct CLs can be obtained through FSA offices with loan limits up to \$300,000. Guaranteed CLs up to \$1,112,000 are available from lenders working with FSA.

ACREAGE REPORTING

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by the May 31 deadline on small grains and an August 1 deadline on all other crops.

Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of May 31 for small grains and August 1 for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

Non-discrimination Statement

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (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, 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.”