



**Andrew
County
FSA Office**

105 Hwy. 71 West
Savannah, Mo 64485
816-324-3196
816-324-5879 fax
Office Hours:
7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Roger Scott
Jim Steeby
Karen Strasser
3rd Fri. – 8:30 a.m.

Office Staff

Sindy Barr, PT
Carrie Noland, PT
Allyson Wells, PT

**County Executive
Director**

Bob Caldwell

Farm Loan

Charlotte Holeman,
FLM
Tom Shelton, FLO
Thursday mornings

Fieldman

John Wheeler

District Director

Jim Nance



Farm Service Agency
United States Department of Agriculture

Andrew County
FSA NEWSLETTER
January 2010

DCP/ACRE Sign up Continues

FSA offices continue to sign producers up for the 2010 DCP (Direct & Counter-Cyclical) and ACRE (Average Crop Revenue Election) annual programs. The sign-up period will end June 1. Contracts are approved after all producers have signed the contract. For 2010, eligible producers may request to receive an advance payment based on 22% of their direct payment.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

Sign up for **2008** losses under SURE has started on January 4th. If a producer has production evidence that is not obtainable through the RMA (crop insurance) download, such as hay/forage, fruits and vegetables or crops which were uninsured, but the buy-in fee was paid, the producer must supply that production evidence. Regardless of insurance type or coverage level, the economic stimulus funding has created additional options under the SURE program. Every producer and each situation will be different, so it is in your best interest to inquire about the SURE program. We strongly encourage producers to contact the office so we may inform you of the information needed before making the trip. At this time this is no deadline for this program.

Bob's Corner

As you can see, sign up has started for the 2010 DCP/ACRE Program and the 2008 SURE program. Please read all articles in this newsletter closely, as there is some very important information. There is the possibility of a CRP general signup in 2010. Producers are reminded that land must be physically capable of being cropped in order to be eligible for the program. Land currently enrolled in CRP that has **tree/brush** encroachment over the years will be ineligible unless physically capable of being cropped at the time an offer is made to participate in the program.

Another very important reminder is that compliance with HEL and WC provisions are required to receive program payments. Farmers with HEL determined soils must be in compliance with tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan. Contact should be made with your USDA Service Center, prior to any land clearing or drainage projects, to complete form AD-1026. Contacting your USDA Service Center before taking any action can save you time and money, as HEL and WC violations can be very costly.

Please note the article on the 1099 for payments received in 2009 from FSA.

We look forward to serving you in 2010. **Bob Caldwell, CED**

Production Evidence

Producers are faced with a challenge this year to keep production separate for various FSA Programs (ACRE, NAP) and crop insurance units. Verifiable records includes production that is sold, measured by FSA or Crop Insurance. Settlements should include buyer's name, date, producer's name, and quantity of commodity.

Challenges arise when different farms and unit production is commingled. Producers can provide supporting records such as custom weight tickets, bin marking or contemporaneous records to separate production. These records will only be accepted if the County Committee approves the record's reasonableness. If either above method is unavailable or unacceptable, the production may be prorated by total planted acres of the crop or a plug yield will be used.

1099's

Producers who received a payment in 2009 from FSA should be receiving a CCC-1099 in the mail the last week of January. The CCC-1099 is FSA's report to the IRS concerning payments issued during the 2009 tax year. The 1099 is mailed from KCMO but County Offices have access to the report to be able to assist producers if they have any questions.

Computer software problems have caused numerous issues regarding 2009 payments. Producers should thoroughly review their 1099G for accuracy.

Beginning Farmers

If you are considering purchasing farm real estate in the future, the Farm Service Agency may be able to assist you with your financing needs. Applicants will be required to provide a 5% down payment, with 45% of the loan amount provided by the Farm Service Agency and the remaining 50% provided by a commercial lender. The maximum eligible Farms Service Agency loan is \$225,000. The FSA loan term will be 20 years, the current fixed interest rate is 1.5%. Eligible beginning farmers:

- Have operated a farm or ranch for 3-10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm

- Do not own a farm in excess of 30% of the county average size farm

COC Elections

Congratulations to Karen Strasser who was re-elected to the County Committee for three more years. Karen represents producers from Monroe, Jefferson and Rochester Townships. We are now required to print election information which includes:

Ballots received: 91 total

8 not eligible (not signed right)

82 Karen Strasser (elected)

1 Dallas Tritten (write-in) alternate

Selling Land?

If you're planning to sell farmland, there may be some program consequences you should be aware of. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in CRP, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't want to continue the CRP contract, you may have to refund all of the payments you've received to date.

Please discuss possible program options with the county office staff before selling any land.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The LIP provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from disaster, in excess of the normal mortality rate. When a death occurs, it must be documented by a veterinarian, or a person who is not related to you, nor works for you. All deaths must be reported within 30 days and the final date to file for payment for the previous year, is January 30th. All deaths must be reported and documented, including the ones that are within normal mortality rates. Call us for more information.

CCC Loan Collateral

Producers are reminded that grain under loan cannot be removed or disposed of without prior authorization or repayment. Releases may be made by phone or in person when you are ready to move the grain. A loan violation is subject to

administrative penalties, liquidated damages and denial of future farm-stored loans and LDP's.

So it is important to CALL before you HAUL!

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 exclusions is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

Power of Attorney: We have a power of attorney form available 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 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 office 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 percent 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.

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 are available at the FSA office to sign up for direct deposit if you haven't yet. For those already signed up, 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, cultivating, 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.

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.

Website for Digital Imagery: Landowners who have access to the internet may find the following site of interest. Producers can access 2004 digital imagery for their land by using the map room link at <http://www.cares.missouri.edu/index.asp> There will be no line work on the fields, but it is a good source of current photography. Producers can also access topographical maps, floodplain maps and measure distance and acreages.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
 AGRICULTURE
 FARM SERVICE AGENCY
 ANDREW COUNTY FSA OFFICE
 105 Hwy. 71 West
 Savannah, Mo 64485**

January interest rate for Facility Loans is 2.875%
 and the rate for Commodity Loans is 1.375%



*If you are considering a new grain bin,
 or hay storage building, check us out!*

Dates to Remember

Jan 18	Office closed for Martin Luther King Holiday
Feb 1	Deadline on 2009 LDP's for wool, mohair & unshorn lamb pelts
Feb 15	Office closed for President's Day
Mar 15	Final date to purchase NAP Ins coverage on hay, pasture & other NAP crops
Mar 15	Final date to purchase FCIC Crop Ins on Corn & Beans
Mar 31	Final date to obtain a Loan or LDP on wheat & oats
June 1	DCP/ACRE sign up ends
June 1	Final date to obtain a loan or LDP on 2009 Corn & Beans
Continues	Continuous CRP sign up
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans

Visit our Web site: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo>

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