



# Andrew County News

November 2010

**Andrew Co. FSA**  
105 Hwy 71 West  
Savannah, MO 64485

**Phone:**  
**(816) 324-3196**  
**Fax:**  
**(816) 324-5879**

**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**County Committee**  
Roger Scott  
Jim Steeby  
Karen Strasser

The COC meets the third  
Friday of each month  
at 8:30 a.m.

**Staff**  
Sindy Barr, PT  
Carrie Noland, PT  
Allyson Wells, PT  
Martie Schuman, Temp.  
John Wheeler, Field  
Charlotte Holeman, FL  
Bob Caldwell, CED

**District Director**  
Jim Nance

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**Please take time to read this newsletter, for important program information. Please note that as a whole Andrew County is not eligible for the Crop Assistance Program, but producers who have land that lays physically in Nodaway, Gentry, or Dekalb Counties, and is carried in Andrew County may qualify for some soybeans for 2009. Please read the article on the right of this page.**

**.. Bob Caldwell, CED**

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## County Committee Election to be held Nov. 5 to Dec. 6

County Committees are a critical component to the operations of FSA. Committee members provide oversight in the delivery of farm programs at the local level and provide a grass roots perspective for county FSA offices. Beginning November 5, 2010 and continue thru December 6, 2010 ballots can be sent to, or dropped off at the FSA Office in Savannah. The election of eligible agricultural producers to the county committee is important to all program participants. It is crucial that every eligible producer take part in this election, as the committee provides a direct link between the farm community and FSA. USDA and FSA are committed to increasing the participation of all farmers including women, minorities and beginning farmers. Please contact the local FSA office with questions on voter eligibility. Each eligible voter will receive a ballot by mail. Ballots must be completed, signed and returned no later than close of business on December 6, 2010. Voters may also write-in eligible nominees from the applicable Local Administrative Area (LAA). The 2010 election in Andrew County will be for LAA-2 which is comprised of the Platte, Empire and Benton Townships. It is imperative voters ensure the ballot is completed accurately. Ballots will be tallied by current county committee members on Dec. 10, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. Newly elected committee members will begin starting Jan. 1, 2011. A BIG THANKS to Roger Scott who will be going off after 9 years of service on the committee!!

## CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CAP)

On September 15th Secretary Vilsack announced a disaster assistance package that will affect many of America's producers. Using authorities and funding from Section 32 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act, the Crop Assistance Program (CAP) will provide payments to producers with qualifying losses in counties that received Secretarial Disaster Designations for excessive moisture in 2009. The specific crops involved with the CAP program include rice, cotton, sweet potatoes, and soybeans. Andrew County DID NOT receive such a declaration in 2009.

The only Andrew County producers who are eligible are ones who had ground physically located in a designated county such as Nodaway, Gentry or Dekalb. They also had to meet the following criteria:

- have a share of a soybean crop in 2009 and a crop report on file (FSA-578) verifying acres and share
- self-certify to a 5% or greater yield loss based on the higher of a farms APH or the county average in 2009, Nodaway – 46 bu./ac  
Gentry – 44 bu./ac  
Dekalb – 41 bu./ ac.

Producers are required to have verifiable evidence in support of their application and must retain that evidence for up to 3 years. However, because CAP is a self certification process that evidence is not required to be provided at the time of application. CAP benefits are calculated on a farm-by farm basis. The application process will look at each FSA farm number separately as it pertains to the 5% loss. Payments for CAP will be calculated by multiplying the 2009 acres of soybeans for an individual FSA farm by the producers share and that result by \$15.62. In order to keep payments within available funds for the program FSA will prorate payments. Initially producers will receive 75% of their approved CAP payment and once sign-up is complete they may receive up to an additional 25%.

**The CAP application period runs until December 9th.**

## 2011 DCP/ACRE Sign up

With the start of the new fiscal year at FSA behind us producers it is time once again to begin sign-up for the 2011 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. The Sign-up is currently underway and will run through June 1st, 2011. Again in 2011 producer may elect to take an advance direct payment of 22% with the balance to follow in the fall of next year. December 2010 is the earliest the advance payment can be designated for. To get signed up, just stop by your local FSA office.

## Program Participants to Complete and Submit CCC-927 / 928 Forms

The 2008 Farm Bill included new average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limitations for program participants. These AGI limitations are:

- \$500,000 or less non farm average AGI in order to receive commodity, price support or disaster program benefits,
- \$750,000 or less farm average AGI in order to receive direct payments under the DCP and ACRE programs and
- \$1 million or less nonfarm average AGI to receive conservation program benefits. Each year, program participants are required to submit a CCC-926 to certify to AGI limitation compliance. Please visit the local county FSA office to complete this form. To allow for improved accuracy in applying AGI regulations, FSA partnered with the IRS to verify participant certifications. All program participants were required to provide written consent to IRS for the disclosure of certain information to FSA. This consent to IRS is made on the CCC-927 for individuals or CCC-928 for entities. All individuals and legal entities, including members of legal entities, must submit a completed CCC-927 or 928. The form must be submitted with the same Tax ID number as used when taxes were filed. Please ensure the name and address of the individual or legal entity on the form corresponds with the Tax ID number of the individual or legal entity. All program participants who have not submitted the CCC-927 or CCC-928 to IRS for **2009 and 2010**, have been identified. Letters were sent on October 6, 2010 to participants who did not file the 927 or 928.

*The notification was sent to **ALL** producers who either did not send the form in or sent a form that needs corrections. It is imperative that all producers who received notification to file a form do so as soon as possible. Delays or failure to submit the required form may prevent you from earning FSA benefits, or have to refund payments already received in 2009 or 2010.*

If you have questions regarding the 927 or 928 forms or need a copy to submit please stop by the FSA office. Please ensure these forms are mailed to the IRS.

## Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity.

Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest. Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements, beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting, and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible, they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC.

The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan. Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans. Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans.

The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification. Remember, **Call Before You Haul.**

Andrew County

LOAN RATES: **Corn - \$1.90 Soybeans - \$5.00**

Interest Rate for November: **1.25%**

## Civil Rights/Discrimination Process

As a participant or applicant for programs or activities operated or sponsored by USDA you have a right to be treated fairly. If you believe you have been discriminated against because of your race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, disability, or marital or familial status, you may file a discrimination complaint. The complaint should be filed with the USDA Office of Civil Rights within 180 days of the date you became aware of the alleged discrimination. To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD), USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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## 2009 SURE Program

Producers should be aware, that there will be a SURE program for the 2009 crop administered over the next several months. The start date has not yet been announced but it is anticipated to be in early December. Reminder—only producers who have every economically significant crop covered by CAT or better insurance or a NAP policy are eligible for the SURE program.



## CRP Reminders

Producers with CRP offers accepted during General Sign-up 39 should:

- get their Compliance Plan established and signed with NRCS by December 31<sup>st</sup>
- be getting their soil tests completed (if necessary)
- get their seed purchased and fields prepped for seeding

Producers with existing CRP contracts should:

- Be following their Mid-Contract Management (MCM) guidelines
- Paying close attention to the timeframe in which work is completed so that they remain in compliance with the requirements of their contract.

## Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)

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 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 rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department. The November interest rates for the FSFL program are 1.875% for a 7-year term, 2.500% for a 10-year term, and 2.750% for a 12-year term.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount. 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. Eligible commodities for the FSFL program include: corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds, pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas, hay, renewable biomass, fruits (including nuts) and vegetables.

## 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 loan assessment, borrower training, and financial management program sponsored by FSA.
- Does not own a farm in excess of the county's median farm size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit

[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

### ***Continuous CRP***

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is a private lands environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll environmentally sensitive acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources. The Continuous CRP program is a voluntary enrollment program. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment. To be eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA 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 your local FSA office.



### **Dates to Remember**

- November 5th—COC election ballots mailed to producers in LAA-2 (Benton, Platte and Empire townships)**
- November 11th—Veterans Day, office closed**
- November 25th—Thanksgiving, office closed**
- December 6th—Due date for COC election ballots to be returned for LAA-2**
- December 9th—Deadline to sign-up for Crop Assistance Program (CAP)**
- Ongoing—Farm Storage Facility Loans**
- Ongoing—Continuous CRP program sign-up**

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