



**Andrew County
FSA Office**

105 Hwy. 71 West
Savannah, MO 64485

816-324-3196 ph.
816-324-5879 fax

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

February 2011

County Office Staff
Bob Caldwell
County Ex. Director

Charlotte Holeman
Farm Loan Manager

Sindy Barr
Allyson Wells
Carrie Noland
Martie Schuman, Tp.
Program Technicians

County Committee
Jim Steeby
Karen Strasser
Tommi Herbster

Meets 3rd Friday of
each month - 8:30 am
(Feb. meeting will be
Feb. 25, 2011)

John Wheeler, Field

District Director
Jim Nance

Visit our Website at:
www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

Well, despite the groundhog theory, winter is still hanging on. Hopefully warmer temperatures are on the way. Please take time to read the articles in this newsletter to keep up on important program information and deadlines. There will be a sign up next month to enroll new CRP land or to offer acres that will be expiring September 30, 2011. With record grain prices, it may be tempting to take acres out and farm them again. CRP rental prices have also increased and now all soil types have rates of over \$100 per acre. We will try to provide you with the best information we can, and then it will be up to you to decide what to do. Also be sure to read the article about staying in compliance with your conservation plan. Have a good spring.....*Bob Caldwell, CED*

DCP/ ACRE Signup & Advance Payments

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or ACRE has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011. Advance payments of 22 % on the 2011 DCP program will be available starting December 1, 2010. The rest will be issued after October 1, 2011.

CRP Sign up March 14 to April 15

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is offering a general sign up period from March 14, 2011 through April 15, 2011. This is the second consecutive year that USDA has offered a general CRP signup.

Landowners enrolled in the CRP program receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland. Land that is not currently enrolled in CRP can be offered during sign-up if all eligibility requirements are met. CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall can make new contract offers during the signup period. Contracts awarded during this general signup will become effective October 1, 2011.

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

Due to excessive rain in 2010, some of you may have experienced abnormal erosion problems (ditches) and rutting of fields during harvest. Please check with the NRCS staff here at the service center BEFORE doing much tillage, if your plan calls for no-tilling.



Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.



FSA Signature Policy

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

There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

USDA Announces Dates of Sorghum Check off Referendum

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has finalized procedures for the upcoming referendum on the continuation of the Sorghum Check off Program and is announcing the dates will be February 1st through February 28th. Any eligible person engaged in the production or importation of sorghum from July 1, 2008, to December 31, 2010, is eligible to participate. Individuals are required to provide documentation such as a sales receipt or remittance form that shows they engaged in the production or importation of sorghum. Contact your county office for more details.

IRS Form 1099-G

Producers annually receive CCC-1099-Gs detailing payments producers have received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on CCC-1099-Gs is a service intended to help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producers'

responsibilities to report income to IRS. FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy.

Farming Operation Changes

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has 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.

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

Appeal Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options

you can pursue if you disagree. Generally, program participants have three choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) 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.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) 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.

Adjusted Gross Income Forms

Producers are reminded that they are annually required to certify to their Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) on form CCC-926 each year. Also, new AGI forms (CCC-927 for individuals and CCC-928 for entity's) must be submitted to IRS by every producer earning benefits in 2011. It is the producer's responsibility to submit the applicable form to IRS.

Failure to do so will result in a non-compliance determination for AGI and the loss of all USDA benefits.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is a federally-funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date.

The deadline to sign up for all hay and pasture crops is March 15th. Production records for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the application closing date for the crop for the following year. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to agency specifications. *NAP losses must be reported within 15 days of loss.*

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Need additional storage capacity for your row crops or hay? You may want to check into a Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) with your local FSA office. The FSFL program allows producers to obtain low-interest fixed rate financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. At present, an eligible producer could obtain up to a \$50K FSFL loan for 7 years at 2.75% fixed interest. For more info on FSFL's contact the office.

Protecting Your Privacy

If you are changing operators on your farm, you need to call our office with that information, so that when he or she comes into the office we can give them access to your records.

This also is important if you want realtors, insurance agents, or anyone else to have information about your operation. We want to provide the best service possible to everyone, but we are required by law to have your permission to give out records or even maps. If you give us a written authorization, you need to include who you want to have access and for how long of a time period.

Farm Loan Programs

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.

Report Prevented Planting and Failed Acreage

It is important to report prevented planting and failed acres within 15 days after the final planting date for corn and beans. Failure to do so will may result in eligibility issues for SURE and ACRE programs. Final reporting dates for corn and soybeans are 5/31 and 6/20, respectively.

SURE Signup (Crop Disaster)

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) begins Jan. 10, 2011. SURE provides benefits for 2008 - 2011 crop year farm revenue losses due to natural disasters for producers that meet the following requirements:

- At least one crop of economic significance suffers a 10% loss in revenue.
- All crops of economic significance were insured in 2009 at least at the CAT level.
- All crops, in all counties and states that a producer has an interest in are considered a farm for the SURE program.

We can download your information from RMA, just let us know if you think you may qualify.

Dates to Remember	
Feb. 21	President's Day – USDA Service Center Closed
March 14	General CRP Sign up begins
March 15	Crop Insurance Purchase Deadline
June 1	DCP / ACRE Deadline

Selected Interest Rates for February 2011	
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.25%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.75%
Limited Resource Loans	5.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7-yr.	2.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 10-yr.	3.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 12-yr.	3.625%
Commodity Loans 1006 Present	1.25%

“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.”