



NEWSLETTER



Andrew County FSA Office

105 Hwy 71 W
Savannah, MO 64485

816-324-3196 phone
816-324-5879 fax

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

Feb./Mar. 2012

County Office Staff

Allyson Wells
**County Executive
Director**

Charlotte Holeman
Farm Loan Manager

Sindy Barr
Carrie Noland
Martie Schuman, Temp
Program Technicians

John Wheeler
Field Assistant

James Steeby
Karen Strasser
Tommi Herbster
County Committee

(COC meetings- 3rd
Thursday of each
month @ 9:00 a.m.)

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



NEW COUNTY DIRECTOR APPOINTED

As of January 29, 2012, I officially took over the position as Andrew County's new County Executive Director. I have been with the Farm Service Agency since November 1988. I have worked with most of you at some point in my career. I look forward to continuing the great service our office has provided to the farmers of Andrew County. **PLEASE TAKE TIME TO "READ"** this newsletter, it is your greatest resource on program availability and regulations. If you have any questions feel free to contact me, Sindy or Carrie.

Sincerely, *Allyson Wells*, CED

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to James Steeby, he was elected to represent farmers from LAA-1 on the County Committee. LAA-1 is made up of Clay, Jackson, Lincoln and Nodaway townships. The alternate for this LAA will be Sondra Landess. 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.

NEW AGI FORM FOR 2012

On September 28, 2011, FSA started using form CCC-931 "Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information" for all 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 programs that are subject to AGI compliance. FSA will no longer accept forms CCC-926, CCC-927, or CCC-928 for any program. The new form is a combination of the Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information forms previously used by FSA. Producers who failed to file AGI forms previously will receive a notice from the National Office stating that the producer is ineligible for 2010 and/or 2011 payments. Form CCC-931 is available at your local FSA office or online at <http://intranet.fsa.usda.gov>.

Producers can print and mail the form to their local FSA office. FSA employees will review the form for accuracy before forwarding it to the IRS. If CCC-931 is incomplete, the producer will be notified and corrections will need to be completed prior to FSA forwarding it to the IRS. Producers with FSA-211, "Power of Attorneys" will not be allowed to use the FSA-211 to complete the CCC-931.

Without these forms on file, eligible producers will not receive USDA program payments. For more information please contact your local FSA office.

ARE YOU GETTING EALERTS YET?

Producers who utilize email and cell phone text messages can now receive urgent and timely FSA updates! Interested producers may sign up for eAlerts at your County FSA Office and choose whether you would like to receive information via e-mail, text or both. Contact the office for details.

REDUCE YOUR FSA OFFICE VISIT TIME

Scheduling an appointment prior to visiting us, while not required, allows us to prepare for your arrival and **greatly** reduces your waiting time. 816-324-3196 Extension 2

USDA STREAMLINES COMMON ACREAGE REPORTING DATES

USDA recently established 15 common acreage reporting dates (ARDs) for farmers and ranchers who participate in Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Risk Management Agency (RMA) programs. The common reporting dates will simplify the reporting process for producers and reduce USDA operating costs by sharing similar data with participating agencies.

The FSA crop reporting date for small grains, like wheat, will be June 30th and corn, soybeans, CRP, etc. will be moved up to July 15th in 2012. This will force producers to make their crop reports to both FSA and their crop insurance agent by July 15th to be timely filed on spring seeded crops.

REQUIRED CRP Mid-Contract Management Practices & Required Food Plots

Producers who enrolled acreage in CRP in 2003 or after are required to complete a round of Mid-Contract Management Practices (MCM) following the guidelines of the Conservation Plan of Operations that was developed by NRCS and agreed to by the CRP participant at the time the acreage was enrolled in CRP. Cost-share is available once the practice has been completed and bills are submitted to your local FSA Office.

Many producers also agreed to plant food plots on their acreage according to the guidelines developed in your conservation plans. In the past we have tried to contact producers by letter to inform them that they have MCM practices or food plots to complete. **Due to budgetary constraints we can no longer notify producers of these contract requirements.**

Producers with CRP acreage must still complete their Mid-Contract Management Practices and/or plant their food plots on their CRP acreage according to their conservation plans. **Producers must take the initiative to follow their conservation plan without reminders or notifications from our offices.**

Failure to complete MCM Practices or planting food plots can result in contract terminations or penalties.

Food plots will need to be reported when you make your annual acreage report on your CRP acreage. This will include the location in the field as well as what the food plot is planted to.

EMERGENCY LOAN DESIGNATION

Mr. Edward J. Hamill, State Executive Director, Farm Service Agency announced effective August 12, 2011, 17 counties in Missouri, including Andrew, Buchanan, Nodaway, and Platte will have FSA disaster loans available due to flooding which occurred June 1 to August 1, 2011. Applications for assistance will be accepted at the county office for physical and production losses caused by this disaster. Applications will be accepted through April 12, 2012. Loans for physical losses must be used to replace or repair damage to buildings, fences or to compensate the farmer for losses of basic livestock, stored crops, or supplies on hand, equipment, etc., that was lost due to the disaster. Loans for production losses may also be used to buy feed, seed, fertilizer, livestock or to make payments on real estate or chattel debts. Generally, loans for production losses cannot be approved until crops have completed their production cycle or have been harvested. In order to qualify, a farmer must have suffered a 30% loss in production or an actual physical loss that was essential to the successful operation of the farm loans for actual losses are made at an interest rate of 3.75% for emergency loans to those eligible applicants who are unable to obtain the actual credit needed from another source. All loan programs of the Farm Service Agency are conducted on a non-discriminatory basis. Contact Charlotte Holeman, FLM on Thursday mornings in Andrew County.

2012 DCP/ACRE SIGNUP

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), commonly referred to as the annual farm program, enrollment began Jan. 23, 2012 and will end June 1, 2012. Here are some IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

All producers with an interest in DCP base acres must be included on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.

All producers receiving a share greater than zero on the DCP/ACRE contract must sign the contract no later than June 1, 2012.

Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1st in DCP/ACRE must be reported to your local FSA office such as:

***Ownership changes**

***Producer changes** (Individuals and Entities)

***Changes in crop share arrangements**

Note: Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

CRP GENERAL SIGNUP ANNOUNCED

FSA will hold a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general sign-up from **March 12 through April 6, 2012**. Land not currently enrolled in CRP and acreage under contracts expiring on September 30, 2012 may be offered during this sign-up period. To submit CRP offers, producers must visit their local FSA office. FSA will accept offers only during the sign-up period.

In most instances to be eligible a producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to the sign-up period and the land must have been enrolled in CRP or planted to an agricultural commodity four of the six crop years from 2002 to 2007 and be physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. Alfalfa or other multiyear grasses and legumes grown in a rotation not to exceed 12 years may be eligible for CRP.

In return for establishing long-term resource conserving covers, FSA provides rental payments to participants. Rental rates for the signup will remain the same as last year and are based on the relative productivity of the soils with the county and average cash rental rates in the county. County office staff will work with producers to calculate the maximum rental rate for each offer prior to submission of offers. Producers may offer land below the maximum rate to increase the likelihood that FSA will accept the offer. Cost-share assistance will be provided to producers to help establish the approved cover that they agree to during the sign-up process.

All offers received during the sign-up period will be ranked according to the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). FSA collects data (primarily based on location, soils information and selected conservation practice) and determines the EBI for the land offered. Each eligible offer is ranked in comparison to all other offers across the nation. After the sign-up ends, the Secretary will decide where to make the EBI cutoff. Producers may consult with local FSA and NRCS staff on how to maximize EBI points and increase the likelihood that your offer will be accepted.

During the last two general sign-up periods we have found many expiring CRP contract acreages with tree and gully issues. For CRP acreage to be eligible to be re-offered it must meet all CRP eligibility criteria at the time of the signup period. **Acreage that is covered by trees or that is part of a gully is not eligible for re-enrollment.** CRP regulations state that for land to be considered eligible to be offered into CRP it must "be physically capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity." CRP acreages with trees or gullies are not considered to be physically capable of being planted in a normal manner and those acres are ineligible to be re-offered.

Tree and gully issues need to be corrected or those acres must be eliminated from your offer. Now is the time to work on addressing these problems. Think to yourself what corn or soybean fields in the area look like, then determine if your CRP acreage could be planted to a crop and would it look like other crop fields in the area or do you have trees and gullies that would not allow the acreage to be planted or to resemble other crop fields. If your land with trees or gullies is offered, and it is determined later that those acres do not meet the regulations, those acres will be terminated from your offer and liquidated damages will apply on the acres found not eligible.

If your offer will require field boundary changes or you want to compare different offers using different combinations of acreages on your farm we will be able to assist you with different scenarios. *Also, if you have an expiring contract that you don't wish to renew please let us know.*

Another option that some landowners may wish to consider is the CRP Transition Incentives Program or CRP-TIP. CRP-TIP allows for the transition of expiring CRP acreage from a retired or retiring owner to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer to return the land to grazing or crop production. The TIP program provides annual rental payments to the owner for up to 2 additional years after the date of the expiration of the CRP contract if the retired owner agrees to sell or agrees to a long-term lease (at least 5 years) for the land expiring from CRP. The transition cannot be to a family member. If you are interested in this program contact the office for more details.

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, such as hay and pasture or fruit and vegetable crops. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date. Most NAP crops in this area have a March 15th application closing date. Production records for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the acreage reporting 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.



Recorded Rainfall: (recorded at the FSA Office)

| | |
|--------------|--------|
| 2011 | 38.14" |
| 10-year avg. | 35.19" |

SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 crop revenue losses started on **Nov. 14, 2011** and runs through **June 1, 2012**. The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2010.

Be advised, the current sign up is only for 2010 losses. The sign up for the 2011 crop revenue losses will not begin until sometime next fall to early winter.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

Need additional storage capacity for your 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. For more information on FSFL's and the loan requirements contact the office.

BANK ACCOUNT CHANGES

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically deposited into your bank account. In order for payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA 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.

| Dates to Remember | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| February 20 | Washington's Birthday observed Holiday-FSA Offices Closed |
| March 12- April 6 | GENERAL CRP SIGN UP PERIOD- See Page 3 |
| March 15 | NAP Closing Date for Spring-seeded NAP crops |
| Continues | Continuous Conservation Reserve program. |
| Continues | Farm Storage Facility Loan Program. |

| Selected Interest Rates for February 2012 | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 90-Day Treasury Bill | 0.125% |
| Farm Operating Loans — Direct | 1.375% |
| Farm Ownership Loans — Direct | 3.375% |
| Limited Resource Loans | 5.0% |
| Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher | 1.50% |
| Emergency Loans | 3.75% |
| Farm Storage Facility Loans 7-yr. | 1.375% |
| Farm Storage Facility Loan 10-yr. | 2.00% |
| Farm Storage Facility Loan 12-yr. | 2.250% |
| Commodity Loans 1996-Present | 1.125% |

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. 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