



Atchison County USDA Service Center

Atchison County FSA
302 E. Hwy 136
Rock Port, MO 64482
(660) 744-5328 (Phone)
(660) 744-5536 (Fax)

Hours

Monday—Friday
8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Craig Heits, Chairperson
Julie Joesting, Vice-Chair
Roger Martin, Member

Meets 2nd Wednesday of every month at 8:00 a.m.

Staff

County Executive Director
Corey Leshner

Farm Loan Manager
Bob Dreyer

Farm Loan Officer
Roger Uptergrove

Program Technicians
Nancy Daugherty
Pam Husing
Patricia Lane
Marilyn Thurnau
Karen Vette

Field Assistant
Robert Smith

SURE

Signup Has Begun

See Page 2 For Details

Wow, what a winter we are having! Between the blizzards, the cold and the mountains of snow I personally am ready for spring. In this newsletter, I am writing to inform producers of current signups and reminders for the upcoming year. The winter months are often a good time to visit the office and take care of some business, because before we know it, planters will once again be in the fields. Please be safe the rest of this winter, and don't hesitate to contact the office if you have any questions.

Corey Leshner

Kansas City Mails 1099-G

Producers who received a payment in 2009 from FSA should be receiving a CCC-1099G 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 Kansas City but county offices have access to the report to be able to assist producers if they have questions.

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

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from disaster. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of established normal mortality rates due to adverse weather, including losses due to floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold. It will be the producers' responsibility to notify the county FSA office about their livestock deaths. Payments are based on 75% of the fair market value for each type and weight range of livestock as determined by the Missouri State FSA Committee. Producers are reminded that LIP regulations require that they **must file a notice of loss within 30 calendar days of when the livestock died**, and an application for payment no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss of livestock occurs in order to be eligible for LIP. The snowy, cold weather conditions experienced in NWMO since Christmas can be a qualifying adverse event. If you've experienced death losses due to the recent weather conditions, stop by the office to see if LIP is an option for you.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

There is a 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 had tree / brush encroachment over the years will not be eligible unless physically capable of being cropped at the time an offer is made to participate in the program.

Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC)

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

Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) Begins

Sign up for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) on 2008 crops began January 4th. SURE is a permanent disaster program created by the 2008 Farm Bill that replaces the previous “ad hoc” crop disaster programs of the past. Unlike those disaster programs that paid for losses by unit and crop, the SURE program is a “total farm” disaster program. This revenue based program compares crops’ expected revenue and program guarantee dollar amounts to the actual crop revenue of the entire farming operation. **Entire farming operation refers to all farms and all interests, in all counties.**

In order to be eligible for payments under SURE, you are required to carry insurance at the CAT level or better on all insurable crops and/or NAP coverage on all non-insurable crops (hay) with an economic significance of 5% or greater, within the farming operation. In 2009 and subsequent years, RMA’s Rainfall Index policy is acceptable coverage for hay acres. For the SURE program, grazing acres do not require coverage.

The SURE program is available to eligible producers if two ‘triggers’ are met. First, the county must have received a Secretarial Disaster Declaration due to natural disaster, or be contiguous to a county with the declaration. Atchison County had a Secretarial Disaster Declaration in 2008. Second, at least one crop of economic significance in a producer’s operation must have a 10% crop production loss. For qualifying producers, if the total farm revenue is less than the SURE program guarantee, the SURE payment is made at 60% of the difference. The SURE guarantee is very similar to a producer’s crop insurance guarantee. Depending on the coverage levels, the higher the coverage the higher the guarantee level will be. Payments can be calculated and paid up to 90% of the crops normal production on the farm. There is an online calculator that can help producers estimate probable payments. You may access the calculator at www.fsa.usda.gov/mo.

To initiate an application on your 2008 crops, eligible producers should visit their local county FSA office. FSA personnel will be able to access RMA informational downloads with applicable data. That data will then be loaded into a workbook for eligibility determinations to be made. If a producer has production evidence that is not obtainable through the RMA download, i.e. hay/forage, fruits and/or vegetables, etc., the producer must bring that production evidence with them. Regardless of insurance type or coverage level, there is economic stimulus funding that has created additional options under the SURE program. Every producer and every farming situation will be different, so it is in the best interest of each producer to inquire about the SURE program.

Since the SURE program is available through 2011, as a producer, you can prepare your operation for SURE eligibility by insuring all economically significant crops in all counties each year.

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 include 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.

County Committee Election

Congratulations to Roger Martin who was elected to the County Committee for a three year term. Roger represents producers from Lincoln, Tarkio, Colfax, and Dale townships. Final election results are as follows:

Total Ballots Received:	221
Total Spoiled / Invalid Ballots:	44
Total Counted Ballots:	177
Votes Received:	
Roger Martin	48* (Elected)
Bill Slaughter	48 (1st Alternate)
Mike Green	44 (2nd Alternate)
Dan Graves	19
Jeff Hall	18

* There was a tie after the votes had been tabulated. The tie was settled by lot with Roger Martin being elected.

DCP and ACRE Sign Up Has Begun—June 1 Deadline



DCP

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) will continue through June 1, 2010. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2010 DCP contract. USDA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2010, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment. USDA will issue advance direct payments beginning Dec. 1, 2009. Counter-Cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-Cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price. The effective price is the higher of the national average market price received during the 12-month marketing year for each covered commodity and the national average loan rate for a marketing assistance loan for the covered commodity.

ACRE

The Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. For 2010, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2008 and 2009 crop years. An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The payment is based on 83.3 percent (85 percent in 2012) of the farm's planted acres times the difference between the state ACRE guarantee and the state revenue times the ratio of the farm's yield divided by the state expected yield. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. In exchange for participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent. The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year. **The June 1, 2010, deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept late filed applications.**

FSA Farm Loans

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, loans to beginning farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For detailed information on loan eligibility or the different available loan programs, contact the county office staff for an appointment with farm loan personnel.

Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000. Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Selected Interest Rates for January 2010	
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.875%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.75%
Limited Resource Loans	5.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer, Rancher, or Socially Dis- advantaged	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 7-yr.	2.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 10-yr.	3.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 12-yr.	3.750%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.375%



***If you are considering a new grain bin,
ask about a Farm Storage Facility Loan!***

Dates to Remember	
February 15	USDA Service Center Closed - President's Day
March 15	Crop insurance sales closing date for spring seeded crops.
March 15	NAP Sales Closing Date for For- age & Spring-seeded Crops
March 31	Final date to obtain a loan or LDP on 2008 oats and wheat
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Re- serve program

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.

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