



NEWSLETTER



Atchison County FSA Office

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.

November 2010

County Office Staff
Corey Leshner,
County Executive
Director

William R. Dreyer,
Farm Loan Manager

Roger Uptergrove,
Farm Loan Officer

Nancy Daugherty
Pamela Husing
Pat Lane
Marilyn Thurnau
Karen Vette,
Program Technicians

Craig Heits
Julie Joesting
Roger Martin,
County Committee

County Committee
Meets 2nd Wednesday
of Every Month at 8:00
a.m.

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

What a fall we have had this year! Most of the crops are in and a lot of the field work is being completed. Here at the FSA office, we too have had a busy fall with making final Direct & Counter-Cyclical Payments (DCP) and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) annual payments. We are now ready to start preparing for the 2011 crop year. You can begin to sign up now for the DCP program. We also are implementing a Crop Assistance Program (CAP), but note, Atchison County producers as a whole are not eligible for this program. Only those producers who had land physically located in Nodaway County planted to soybeans during 2009 may qualify. I encourage you to read the following CAP article for complete details and note the short signup period – the deadline to apply is **December 9th**.

In addition to these programs, we currently have many other programs on going, which are described in detail in this newsletter. If you have any questions concerning the programs administered in the FSA office, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Corey Leshner

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 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 include rice, cotton, sweet potatoes, and soybeans. Atchison County did not receive such a declaration in 2009.

The only Atchison County producers who are eligible are ones who had ground physically located in a designated county such as Nodaway County, MO.

Other requirements include:

- must have filed a 2009 crop report (FSA-578)
- must self certify to a 5% or greater loss in yield. Determined by comparing the higher of the farm's APH or county average in 2009, which in Nodaway County was 46 bu/ac for soybeans.

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, the production evidence is not required 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 producer share and that result by \$15.62. In order to keep payments within available funds for the program, FSA will prorate payments by limiting the initial payment to 75% of the total earned. Once signup is complete, producers may receive up to an additional 25%.

The deadline to apply is December 9, 2010.

Voting for County Committee Begins



Ballots for this year's county committee election were mailed to eligible voters on November 5, 2010. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 6, 2010. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 6.

The candidates in this year's election are:

Bernard Heits
Todd Herron
Jeremy Peeler

Eligible voters in local administrative area 2 who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

Voter Requirements Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, are eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following: an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, *or* a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper; *or*
2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; *and*
3. Eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

Discrimination Prohibited No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

Changing Banks

If you have changed banks and not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account. If we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in a producer's account such as type of account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

CCC-927 or CCC-928 Must Be Sent To IRS

Producers who participated in 2009 or 2010 programs subject to adjusted gross income limitations (AGI) had to certify compliance with AGI rules. The average AGI verification process for 2009 and 2010 payment eligibility requires all program participants to provide written consent to the IRS for the disclosure of certain information to FSA.

On October 6, 2010, a letter was mailed to producers who have not submitted:

- CCC-927: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Individual Form"
- CCC-928: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Legal Entity form"

Individuals and legal entities, including members of legal entities, that certified to average AGI compliance for 2009 and/or 2010 payment eligibility must submit a completed CCC-927 or CCC-928 to IRS regardless of whether they received program benefits directly or as a member of a joint operation or entity. These forms must be submitted to IRS in order to avoid a demand for refund of program payments and benefits received.

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

FSA Conservation Loan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes and guarantees conservation loans on farms to help conserve our natural resources. The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the credit necessary to implement conservation measures on their land.

The direct CL's loan limit is up to \$300,000 and guaranteed CL's up to \$1,119,000 (amount adjusted for inflation). Loans may be available by applying with lenders working with FSA to obtain a guarantee.

Applicants will work with the Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) Staff to develop a conservation plan. Conservation practices must be approved by NRCS before FSA can provide financing. Examples of conservation practices include; installation of conservation structures, establishment of forest cover, installation of water conservation measures, establishment or improvement of permanent pastures, transitioning to organic production, manure management, including manure digestion systems, etc.



For more information on the Conservation Loan program, contact your local FSA office to set up an appointment with a Loan Approval Official.

Visit the Missouri FSA website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/mo and select the “*County Offices*” link to locate the nearest FSA office.

Applications for FSA Farm Loan Assistance

Farmers and ranchers who intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Failure to apply early may result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan representative for more details and assistance in applying.

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, 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.**

Selected Interest Rates for November 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.000%
Farm Ownership and Conservation Loans — Direct	4.125%
Limited Resource Loans	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans — Beginning Farmer Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 7 year	1.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 10 year	2.500%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 12 year	2.750%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.250%

Dates to Remember	
Nov. 5	County committee ballots mailed to voters.
Nov. 11	Veterans Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Nov. 25	Thanksgiving Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Dec. 6	Last day to return voted ballots in county committee election.
Dec. 9	Crop Assistance Program (CAP) signup ENDS.
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program.

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 NAP policy are eligible for the SURE program.

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

"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."