



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.

June 2011

As most of you are aware, the budget has been a major issue with the federal government. Budget constraints will require the Farm Service Agency to change some services that have been provided in the past. One change is that we will no longer be able to mail reminders for the various programs. Because of this, it will be very important to watch our newsletters and other media sources very closely to keep yourself informed of upcoming deadlines. One service we are adding to assist with providing information to producers is what Missouri FSA calls FSA eAlerts. FSA eAlerts is a new way to receive FSA program reminders via e-mail or text on your cell phone. To sign up, you just need to contact the office and provide us with your email and / or cell phone number. If providing your cell phone number, we will also need to know who your cell phone provider is.

This newsletter contains important information regarding the upcoming County Committee Election, Conservation Reserve Program, reporting your planted and prevented plant acres and other pertinent program information. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Corey Leshner

County Office Staff

Corey Leshner,
County Executive
Director

William R. Dreyer,
Farm Loan Manager

Roger Uptergrove,
Farm Loan Officer

Nancy Daugherty
Pat Lane
Marilyn Thurnau
Karen Vette,
Program Technicians

Julie Joesting
Roger Martin
Bernard Heits,
County Committee

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

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

County Committee Nominations

County Committees are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They direct the delivery of FSA farm programs at the local level and work within national guidelines to help programs fit the needs of their local communities. Committee members provide general oversight, review and act on appeals from program participants, keep the Missouri State FSA committee informed of issues in their county, and provide a link between the Agency and local producers.

From June 15 through August 1, 2011, FSA offices will be accepting nominations for candidates from the Local Administrative Areas (LAA) holding this year's election. USDA and FSA are committed to increasing the participation of all farmers including women, minorities and beginning farmers. You may nominate yourself or someone else as a candidate. Candidates must:

- Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch.
- Live or farm in the LAA holding the election.
- Participate in a program administered by FSA.

In 2011, the LAA up for election in Atchison County is LAA-1 which is made up of Buchanan, Nishnabotna, and Polk townships. Julie Joesting is the current Committee person from this area and is completing her second 3 year term.

If you are interested in nominating yourself or someone else to run for a County Committee position, you may complete the FSA-669A Nomination Form on the 2nd page of this newsletter or come to your local FSA office for help completing the form. If you have any questions about the nomination or election process, feel free to contact your local office or any County Committee Member.

FSA-669A
(03-31-11)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

1. NAME OF NOMINEE (Type or Print Nominee's Full Name)		TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE	
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE		4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED	
3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION: <i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i>		5. COUNTY	
		6. LAA	7. STATE
<input type="checkbox"/> I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee. <input type="checkbox"/> I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.		8. NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION: <i>If this nomination is by other than self, the following eligible voter or representative of a community based organization hereby nominates the afore-named person to be a candidate in the next County FSA Committee election for the county.</i>	
3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	3B. DATE	8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR	8B. DATE
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.		<i>(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required).</i>	

9. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE

VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES. The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.

ETHNICITY	RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)	GENDER
<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

Complete the form as follows:

- ITEM 1** Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:
 - A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
 - B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
 - C. Willing to serve if elected.
- ITEM 2** Enter the nominee's current address.
- ITEM 3** The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.
- ITEMS 3A & 3B** The nominee must sign and date.
- ITEMS 8A & 8B** The nominator must sign and date. *(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required.)*
- ITEM 9** Completing this item is voluntary.

ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 1, 2011.

NOTE: The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a - as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246). The information will be used to obtain nominees for election to the County FSA Committee. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for County Personnel Records, USDA/FSA-5. Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility for nomination for election to the County FSA Committee.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. **RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE**

CRP Mid-Contract Management (MCM)

Practices - Producers who have enrolled acreage in CRP since the 26th sign-up (2003) are required to complete a round of MCM practices, per the guidelines of their conservation plans. MCM practices are typically completed in years three to six of the CRP contract. Types of MCM include chemical application, strip disking, and burning. Cost share of 50% is available once the practice has been completed and all bills are submitted to the office.

Be advised, in the past this office has contacted producers by letter to inform them they have MCM practices to complete during the year. Due to budgetary constraints we will no longer follow that policy. Producers should take care to ensure they don't miss any required MCM on their contract as penalties are severe. They can range from \$40 to \$64 per acre.

Wildlife food plots are also required on many contracts. In the past we have often sent reminders and maps concerning food plots. This will not be done this year. After your food plot is planted, please stop by your local office to sign that you have completed this requirement.

If you have questions about your contract and its required mid-contract management practices, please contact your local office.

2012 (& beyond) Expiring CRP Contracts

FSA has had two general sign-up periods recently, the first in August 2010, and the second this past mid-March to mid-April 2011. These were the first general CRP sign-up periods FSA had offered since 2006. Both of these sign-up periods allowed producers who had contracts that were going to expire that year to re-offer their expiring acres. New acreage was also allowed to be offered. While it is not official, I assume that there will be another general sign-up period next year that will allow contracts expiring on September 30, 2012 to be reoffered. Again, this is only an assumption on my part. **A general sign-up period for next year has not been announced.**

Continuous CRP Practices Available In addition to the CRP general sign-ups, like the one that just ended last month, producers can also take advantage of the Continuous CRP Program. Environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for enrollment through the Continuous CRP program may be offered anytime during the year. These environmentally-targeted programs remain funded, and continue to provide heightened environmental benefits for selected practices such as filter strips and riparian buffers. Contact your local FSA office for details.

CRP Acreage with trees and gullies is not eligible for re-enrollment. CRP regulations state that for land to be considered as eligible to be offered into CRP it must "be physically capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity". The Atchison County Committee does not consider CRP acreage with tree and gully issues as being physically capable of being planted in a normal manner and as such will deem those acres ineligible to be re-offered.

I encourage producers that have CRP acreage under contracts that will expire in 2012 and beyond to evaluate their acreage for potential issues and make decisions as to whether or not you wish to offer the land for reenrollment if a sign-up period is held. If you have trees and/or gullies on CRP acreage that you wish to re-offer for CRP, this summer is the time to start working on addressing these problems. Think to yourself what a corn or soybean field looks like. Then determine if your CRP acreage is planted to a crop, would it look like 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. The acreage must be capable of being farmed at the time of re-offer or it will not be eligible. If you have any questions about your CRP acreage feel free to contact me and we can discuss your options.

Rental rates from the last two general sign-ups have averaged around \$150 per acre in Atchison County. Don't miss out on these increased rental rates because your CRP acreage no longer meets eligibility requirements. Contact the office for more in depth details.

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 credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available. Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan. 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 \$1,119,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.



Crop Reporting Deadlines

The deadline for reporting 2011 crops is **June 30th** for small grains (wheat, oats) and **July 31st** for all other crops (corn, soybeans, grain sorghum, CRP, hay & pasture). Crop reports are required for most FSA programs including CRP, DCP/ACRE, and commodity loans. If not filed timely, a late-filing fee of at least \$46 per farm is required. As with other programs, due to budgetary items, reminders will not be mailed as they have been in the past.

Prevented Planting – For 2011, because of weather conditions in some areas of Missouri, the deadline to file prevented planting has been extended to July 31 for spring seeded crops.

Failed Acres - Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Producers must establish to the satisfaction of the County Committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions. Failed acreage can be reported after it has been planted to another crop if insurance verification is received by the FSA office before the crop reporting deadline.

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.

Dates to Remember

June 30	Final Day to Report 2011 Small Grains (Wheat, Oats, Etc.)
July 4	Independence Day – Offices Closed
July 29	Final Day to Apply for 2009 SURE
July 31	Final Day to Report All Spring Seeded Crops (Corn, Soybeans) and CRP
Aug. 1	Final Day to Accept Nominations for County Committee Election

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

Selected Interest Rates for June 2011

Farm Operating Loans – Direct	2.75%
Farm Ownership Loans – Direct	5.0%
Farm Ownership Loans – Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.5%

Do you know someone or do you want to be on the Atchison County FSA Committee? See the article on page 1 and nomination form on page 2 of this newsletter. Forms must be returned by August 1, 2011.

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 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).