



**Buchanan  
County  
FSA Office**

3915 Oakland Ave.  
St. Joseph, MO 64506

816-364-3927 phone  
816-232-0370 fax

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

**January 2011**

**County Office Staff**  
Craig Everly,  
County Executive  
Director

Charlotte Holeman,  
Farm Loan Manager

Jordan Hubach  
Debbie Johnson  
Becky Kelly,  
Program Technicians

Visit our Website at:  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/mo](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo)

## ***SURE Signup***

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) runs from now until July 29, 2011. The 2009 SURE provides benefits for 2009 crop year farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. A farm must have suffered a 10% or greater production loss on at least one crop of economic significance to be eligible. A farm is defined as a producer's share of all crops on all units he farms in all counties he farms. Each individual farm or unit does not stand on its own as to meet the 10% loss requirement. Also to be eligible for SURE an applicant must have had crop insurance or NAP on all his commercially grown crops of economic significance. You can give this office a call for more details.

## ***DCP Signup & Advance Payments***

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011. Advance payments of 22% on the 2011 DCP program are available. The remaining 78% of your DCP payment will be issued after October 1, 2011.

Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. DCP contract signatures for enrollment are due by the signup deadline of June 1, 2011. Producers can contact this office to make an appointment to enroll.

## ***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 which is March 15, 2011 for most spring planted crops.

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.*

## ***County Committee Election Results***

Congratulations to Gayle Delaney! Gayle was re-elected to represent farmers from Local Administrative Area 3 on the county committee. The election results for Local Administrative Area are:

Gayle Delaney — Elected to the County Committee (COC),

Jason Perry — 1<sup>st</sup> alternate to COC,

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. The committee members will hold their organizational meeting in January to determine who will serve as the county committee chairman and vice-chairman.

## ***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.



## ***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.

## ***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.

## ***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.

## ***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.

## ***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 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.

## ***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. 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.

### ***Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged***

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches. While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of a group. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

### ***Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers***

FSA assists beginning farmers 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 a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 % of the county's average size.

## ***Northwest Corn / Soybean Grower Meeting – January 24, 2011***

The winter grower meeting for Northwest Missouri corn and soybean producers will be held at the Ramada Inn in St. Joseph on Monday, January 24, 2011. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. An interesting collection of speakers will address timely production issues. Lunch will be provided along with valuable door prizes.

### ***Landowner Designation***

If you are a landowner and you plan to sell a portion of your land, this provision may apply to you. The Designation by Landowner method is the division of bases in the manner agreed to by both the buyer and seller.

The land must be owned for 3-years to qualify for this option. This option allows both the seller and buyer the opportunity to choose how the base acres associated to the farm are divided and both the seller and buyer of the land sign to the agreement (Form FSA-155), unless a memorandum of understanding is provided. This memorandum must also be signed by both parties outlining how base acres are to be distributed. Anytime land is sold, producers should report the sale to the county office timely. Failure to report sales could result in program payment refunds or penalties on participating program farms.

### ***Buchanan Co Soil & Water Conservation District State Cost Share Funds***

Sheet & Rill /Gully Erosion funds have been obligated for FY 2011. The District has had a greater need than the state cost share program can cover this fiscal year. State cost share money comes into the county office around the 1st of July. You must have an approved conservation plan on file in the office that addresses the erosion problem in order to get on our state cost share layout list. If you meet the conservation plan criteria we put your name on our layout list. This list is maintained on a "first come-first serve" basis, which means, once your crops are off the field and the field is ready for layout your name goes on the list. We do not carry names over from one year to the next. Every July 1 is a new year for our layout list.

### ***Jordan Hubach joins FSA Team***

The Buchanan County Farm Service Agency is pleased to announce the addition of Jordan Hubach to the service center. Jordan grew up on a beef cow/calf operation and grain farm near Rea, Missouri. After graduating from North Andrew High School, Jordan matriculated at the University of Missouri where she just received her Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture this past December 2010. Jordan will be in charge of the Conservation Reserve, Highly Erodible Cropland/Wetland and Payment Eligibility programs. Welcome aboard, Jordan!

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
February 21	George Washington's Birthday observed – FSA offices closed
March 15	Final date to purchase crop insurance and NAP
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program

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