



**Buchanan
County
FSA Office**

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

March 2011

County Office Staff

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**County Executive
Director**

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

CRP GENERAL SIGNUP BEGINS MARCH 14

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is offering a general signup period from March 14, 2011, through April 15, 2011. This is the second consecutive year that USDA has offered a general CRP signup. CRP acreage expiring 9/30/2011 is eligible to be re-offered, as well as land being enrolled for the first time. Landowners enrolled in the CRP program receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland. Land that is not currently enrolled in CRP can be offered during sign-up if all eligibility requirements are met. CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall can make new contract offers during the signup period. Contracts awarded during this general signup will become effective October 1, 2011. For more information, please contact the Buchanan County Office at 816-364-3927 or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

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.

The ACRE Option

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program 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. An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue

loss. In exchange for participating in ACRE, 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. Once enrolled, the farm will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.

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. Also to be eligible for SURE an applicant must have had crop insurance or NAP on all his commercially grown crops of economic significance.

NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM CHANGES



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. March 15, 2011, is the application closing date for spring seeded crops.

These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available for the crop. NAP is not available for crops when the Risk Management Agency (RMA) offers coverage for the crop in the county. An example could be that RMA offers coverage for corn in the county and special provisions state that the crop must be irrigated. Since corn is covered in the county, NAP cannot be offered on non-irrigated corn.

Production records for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the final 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 a disaster event or the date the loss becomes apparent.*

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.

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a minimum down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. If a participant provides 20 percent or greater down payment, then the requirement for a severance agreement for loans under \$50,000 will be waived. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount not to exceed \$250,000.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

**AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VILSACK
ANNOUNCES PROCESS TO RESOLVE
DISCRIMINATION CLAIMS OF HISPANIC AND
WOMEN FARMERS**

As part of continued efforts to close the chapter on allegations that discrimination occurred at USDA in past decades, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced the establishment of a process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who assert that they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans. The claims process offers a streamlined alternative to litigation and provides at least \$1.33 billion in compensation, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. This announcement follows the Obama Administration's settlement of longstanding litigation brought by African American farmers and Native American farmers. In conjunction with this announcement, USDA is launching an outreach effort to potential claimants that will include a call center for farmers and ranchers, a website, public service announcements, and in-person meetings around the country. Individuals interested in participating in the claims process may register to receive a claims package, or may obtain more information, by visiting www.farmerclaims.gov. **Beginning February 25, 2011, individuals can register to receive a claims package by calling the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429.** USDA cannot provide legal advice to potential claimants. Persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

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.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

ACREAGE REPORTING

Acreage reporting time will soon be here. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by the June 30th deadline on small grains and a July 31st deadline on all other crops and CRP acreages.

**GRASSLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (GRP)
ENROLLMENT**

Applications for GRP in FY 2011 must be submitted by March 18, 2011. Rental contracts can be for periods of 10, 15, or 20 years. Permanent easements are also available for producers interested in a long term conservation arrangement. For more information about GRP rental rates or easement payments, just contact your local county FSA office.

ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME

USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA. The agreement ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service by June 15 to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at:

<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet>

Dates to Remember	
March 15	Final date to purchase crop insurance and NAP.
April 15	Final day to enroll acreage for the 41 st CRP signup.
June 1	Final date to sign up for the DCP
June 30	Final date to report small grains
July 31	Final date to report spring seeded crops and CRP acreage
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program

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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."