



**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.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE

The Farm Service Agency would like to remind producers that have recently experienced severe damage from flooding that FSA programs are available to assist with recovery.

FSA administers several important programs that help producers recover from disaster damage. Among the key programs available to address impacts from disasters are the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), the Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. Fact sheets for all of these programs can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov; click on Newsroom, then Fact Sheets.

We encourage all who have suffered a disaster due to the recent flooding to read the fact sheets and visit their local FSA county office so they get a quick start in the recovery process.

September 2011

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

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM (ECP)

ECP offers assistance to eligible producers whose farmland has been damaged by natural disasters. Funds can be used to repair farmland damaged by flooding. ECP funding is not “automatic” as the damaged farmland must meet certain eligibility requirements.

If ECP funding is approved, it is important to submit your request for ECP assistance before beginning reconstructive work. Completing reconstructive work before submitting an ECP request could result in forfeiture of program eligibility. Producers can use ECP funds to remove debris on agricultural lands, remove sand and silt from drainage ditches and grade and shape land damaged by the flooding.

Program eligibility is determined by conducting on-site inspections that take into account the type and extent of the damage. To qualify, the cost to rehabilitate the farmland must be at least \$2500 per producer. ECP program participants can receive financial assistance for up to 75 percent of the cost to implement approved emergency conservation practices. Buchanan County has been approved for this program.

SURE Signup

The 2008 Farm Bill ushered in a new era of crop disaster programs; one of which was the Supplemental Revenue Assurance Program or SURE. 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 acreages 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. Also, unlike previous crop disaster programs the SURE takes into account price, not just yield, to determine a potential loss. The national average price for the 2011 marketing year will have to be determined before the program can be implemented. The marketing year for 2011 fall harvested crops will not end until August 30, 2012, therefore signup for the 2011 SURE program will not start until late fall or early winter of 2012. Watch this newsletter for details and updates.

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; beneficial interest 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.

Buchanan County Loan Rates

Corn	Soybeans	Grain Sorghum
\$2.00/bu.	\$5.16/bu.	\$3.42/cwt.

For loans disbursed in September, the interest rate is 1.25%.

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.

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 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/mainervlet>

CRP Requirements

During the last two general sign ups our office has found numerous expiring CRP farms that have had tree and gully issues. For CRP acreage to be eligible for re-enrollment when a sign up does become available it must meet all CRP eligibility criteria. **Trees and gullies will not be acceptable.** Per paragraph 151 of Handbook 2-CRP, "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 Buchanan County Committee does not consider CRP acreage with tree and gully issues as being physically capable of being planted in a normal manner and will deem those acres ineligible to be re-offered.

Producers who have contracts that will expire in the next few years are encouraged to begin to evaluate their acreage now for potential issues. If you have trees and/or gullies you should address them as soon as possible. The acreage must be "openly capable of being cropped" at the time of re-offer or it will not be eligible.

FSA eAlerts

Missouri FSA introduces FSA eAlerts—a new way to receive FSA program reminders via e-mail or text. You can sign up for eAlerts at your County Office and choose whether you would like to receive information via e-mail, text or both. If you elect to receive information by text, remember standard text messaging rates apply. Consult with your cellular carrier to discuss your text plan details. You can opt out of receiving FSA eAlerts at any time. You will still receive your FSA newsletter, but **Missouri FSA will discontinue sending postcard reminders for upcoming sign ups and deadlines.** FSA eAlerts are provided as an additional service to Missouri FSA producers. Always refer to your county office newsletter for program information and bookmark www.fsa.usda.gov/mo to check back frequently for program deadlines and information.

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.

BEGINNING FARMER & RANCHERS

FSA assists beginning farmers and ranchers 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 any loan assessment and borrower training program in production and/or financial management required by the Agency
- Does not own farm acreage greater than 30 % of the median size farm in the county.

Emergency Loan Deadline

The final date to apply for an emergency loan for the winter storm of February 1 and 2, 2011 is November 16, 2011. These loans are for physical losses of buildings, livestock, stored crops and equipment among other things. These loans have a 3.75% interest rate.

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.

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.

Dates to Remember	
October 10	Columbus Day- Office closed
November 11	Veteran’s Day- Office closed
November 16	Final date to apply for Emergency loan for winter storm.
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program

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