



**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.

**February 2012**

**County Office Staff**

Craig Everly  
**County Executive  
Director**

Charlotte Holeman  
**Farm Loan Manager**

Jordan Shifflett  
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Becky Kelly,  
**Program Technicians**

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

**2012 DCP/ACRE SIGN-UP**

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment began Jan. 23, 2012 and will end June 1, 2012. Here are some IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- All producers with an interest in **DCP base** acres must be included on the DCP/ACRE contract.
- All producers receiving a share greater than zero on the DCP/ACRE contract must sign the contract no later than June 1, 2012.
- Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1st in DCP/ACRE must be reported to your local FSA office such as:
  - Ownership changes
  - Producer changes (Individuals and Entities)
  - Change in crop shares arrangements

**Note:** Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

**CRP Sign-up**

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will hold a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general sign-up from March 12 through April 6, 2012. CRP is a voluntary program that helps agricultural producers use environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to control soil erosion, improve water and air quality and develop wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 to 15 years. Accepted contracts for CRP sign-up 43 will begin on Oct. 1, 2012.

Land that is not currently enrolled in CRP may be offered for enrollment during CRP sign-up 43. In addition, CRP participants with contracts expiring on Sept. 30, 2012, may submit offers.

**Expiring 2012 CRP Contracts**

For Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage to be eligible to be offered it must meet all CRP eligibility criteria. Land currently enrolled in CRP that has had tree / brush encroachment over the years will not be eligible unless physically capable of being cropped at the time an offer is made to participate in the CRP. If your CRP contract expires in 2012 and you wish to offer the acreage back into the program, you should address these problems **now**. Removing trees and fixing ditches does not guarantee enrollment into the CRP. If you have questions about this provision you may contact this office at 816-364-3927.

## SURE Signup

The sign-up for 2010 losses started on **Nov. 14, 2011** and runs through **June 1, 2012**. The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2010. SURE is available to eligible producers on:



- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, except grazed crops.
- Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm.

## FSA ADOPTING ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATIONS

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation. Producers are asked to contact their local office about options for electronic delivery of notices, newsletters and reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail. FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email and text messages will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

## **NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

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 for the vast majority of crops in Buchanan County. Production records for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the 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 loss.*

### **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 staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy.

### **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.

## **ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME**

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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-931 to the Internal Revenue Service to avoid interruption of program benefits. This form may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at:

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

### **EMERGENCY LOAN DESIGNATION**

Effective August 12, 2011, 17 counties in Missouri, including Andrew, Buchanan, Nodaway, and Platte will have FSA disaster loans available due to flooding which occurred June 1 to August 1, 2011. Applications for assistance will be accepted at the county office of the Farm Service Agency, 502 West South Hills Drive Maryville, MO 64468 for physical and production losses caused by this disaster. Applications will be accepted through April 12, 2012. In order to qualify, a farmer must have suffered a 30% loss in production or an actual physical loss that was essential to the successful operation of the farm.

### Have you signed up for FSA eAlerts yet?

A new way to receive FSA program reminders is via email 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. Please see the e-notification article inside this edition for complete details and other enotification options.

Dates to Remember	
<b>February 20</b>	<b>Presidents Day- Office closed</b>
<b>March 12</b>	<b>CRP sign-up begins</b>
<b>April 12</b>	<b>CRP sign-up ends</b>
<b>June 1</b>	<b>DCP sign-up ends</b>
<b>June1</b>	<b>SURE sign-up ends</b>

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