



Clinton County News

April 2010

Clinton County FSA
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Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Mary Ann Barmann
Jerald Grimes
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The COC meets the first
Thursday of each month at
9:00 a.m.

STAFF

Chris Broderick, PT
Peggy Rapp, PT
Norma Stransky, PT

Kent Allen, CED

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2010 DCP/ACRE Signup Deadline is JUNE 1, 2010

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Countercyclical Program (DCP) will continue through **June 1, 2010. By law, late-filed applications will not be accepted.** As of the date of this publication, only 26 percent of the Clinton County Producers have been in to signup. We are usually well in excess of 60 percent enrolled by this time of the year.

USDA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2010, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment.

Countercyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Countercyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price. The effective price is the higher of the national average market price received during the 12-month marketing year for each covered commodity and the national average loan rate for a marketing assistance loan for the covered commodity.

ACRE Option

In addition to the traditional DCP, you also have the optional ACRE program. The 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. The June 1, 2010, signup deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications. 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. For 2010, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2008 and 2009 crop years. An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. Payment is based on 83.3% (85% in 2012) of the farm's planted acres times the difference between the state ACRE guarantee and the state revenue times the ratio of the farm's yield divided by the state expected yield.

The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. *In exchange for participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20%, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30%.* The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. **Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.**

Please call 816-539-2136, ext 2, to schedule your appointment to enroll in DCP/ACRE. The application process and eligibility forms can take significant time to complete. Scheduling your appointment allows us to prepare for your arrival which will save you considerable time!

New Form Must be Submitted to IRS by Every Producer

To remain eligible for certain 2009 and 2010 FSA payments, individuals and legal entities will be required to file a **2009 and / or 2010 Consent To Disclosure of Tax Information form (CCC-927 or CCC-928) with the IRS.** By filing this form, producers authorize IRS to disclose to USDA the accuracy of each producer's certifications regarding the AGI limits listed previously. IRS will report to USDA a "Yes" or "No" answer about each producer's eligibility, **but IRS will not provide actual tax data to USDA.**

If you receive payments from FSA, you can request the forms from your local FSA office or go online at <http://forms.sc.gov.usda.gov>.

All persons directly or indirectly receiving program benefits must submit a consent form to retain their USDA benefits subject to AGI provisions.

It is the producer's responsibility to submit the applicable form to IRS. Failure to do so will result in the loss of all USDA benefits.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from **extreme** adverse weather/natural disaster events. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of established normal mortality rates due to natural disasters, including losses due to floods, blizzards, wildfires, extreme heat, extreme cold, tornados, and lightning. **The natural disaster must be a direct cause of the livestock death.**

It will be the producers' responsibility to notify the county FSA office about their livestock deaths. Payments are based on 75% of the fair market value for each type and weight range of livestock as determined by FSA. Producers are reminded that LIP regulations require that they *must file a notice of loss within 30 calendar days of when the livestock died* in order to be eligible for LIP. **Producers are also responsible for providing documentation of proof of death (pictures and veterinary inspections are suggested).** Beginning inventory (as of the date of the adverse weather event) is also required. **Verifiable evidence of normal mortality throughout the calendar year will be required with an LIP Application.** Deaths due to normal mortality will be used in calculating eligibility percentages when a natural disaster occurs.

Some of the items that may be required to have a complete application include:

- Date of death loss
- Date or date range and type of weather event
- Documented livestock inventory at the time of the event
- How the extreme weather caused the death loss
- Approximate age, weight, and condition of the animals lost
- Outline steps taken to mitigate the weather event
- Management practices – Including information about feed and water sources
- Veterinary certifications including cause of death

Producers who do not have a veterinary certification of death must also provide a 3rd party certification as a part of their application on form FSA-926. This certification should include specific details the 3rd party knows about the death of the livestock such as:

- Date and type of weather event
- Condition of livestock at time of death
- Livestock location and date when last witnessed alive
- How the 3rd party became aware of the animal's death
- Cause of livestock death
- Any other information they feel is relevant to the loss of the livestock

The program is intended to compensate producers for Livestock deaths that are caused by **abnormal** weather-related events **and many losses may have weather as a factor, but not qualify as an eligible adverse weather event.**

Please call 816-539-2136 ext 2, for complete LIP eligibility details.

Conservation Compliance / Weather Variance for Ruts in Fields

All people participating in USDA programs still have an obligation to be in "compliance" with the original provisions of the 1985 Food Security Act. To remain eligible to participate in USDA programs, which includes the Farm Service Agency's programs, you must be following an approved conservation plan/system that reduces soil loss to acceptable levels on erodible cropland.

The 2008 farm bill has changed the way the NRCS evaluates "compliance". In prior years NRCS was able to evaluate a 5 year tillage and crop rotation to determine soil loss. The 2008 Farm Bill allows only the evaluation of the Fall 2009/Spring 2010 tillage practices, the 2010 crop, and the crop residue remaining after planting to determine soil loss for the upcoming 2010 compliance status reviews.

WEATHER RELATED VARIANCE: Due to extremely wet conditions last fall, producers in Missouri will be allowed to till areas with ruts caused by harvest equipment prior to planting on erodible fields. **To be eligible for this variance you will have to visit the NRCS office and request permission to till ruts prior to any field work.**

Please consider this as a friendly reminder to make sure you are following a conservation plan/system for the 2010 crop year. If you are not sure what your conservation plan includes or have questions concerning the information provided above, please contact your local NRCS.

Yearly 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.

Acreage reports are to be certified by the **June 30th deadline on small grains** and a **July 31st deadline on all other crops.**

Acreage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of June 30 for small grains and July 31 for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported

FSA Farm Loans

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

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 \$1,112,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, loans to beginning farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For detailed information on loan eligibility, or the different available loan programs, contact the county office staff for an appointment with farm loan personnel.

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.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- *Be a citizen of the United States or a legal resident alien
- *Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- *Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- *Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- *Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- *Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above.
- *Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Please contact your local FSA Office for complete details.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) sign-up Continues

Sign up for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) on 2008 crops is under way. SURE is a permanent disaster program created by the 2008 Farm Bill that replaces the previous "ad hoc" crop disaster programs of the past. Unlike those disaster programs that paid for losses by unit and crop, **the SURE program is a "total farm" disaster program.** This revenue based program compares crops' expected revenue and program guarantee dollar amounts to the actual crop revenue of the entire farming operation. **Entire farming operation refers to all farms and all interests, in all counties.**

In order to be eligible for payments under SURE, you are required to have carried insurance at the CAT level or better on all insurable crops and NAP coverage on all non-insurable crops (hay for example) with an economic significance of 5% or greater, within the farming operation. In 2009 and subsequent years, RMA's Rainfall Index policy is acceptable coverage for hay acres. For the SURE program, grazing acres do not require coverage.

The SURE program is available to eligible producers if two 'triggers' are met. First, the county must have received a Secretarial Disaster Declaration due to natural disaster, or be contiguous to a county with the declaration. Clinton County had a Secretarial Disaster Declaration in 2008. Second, **at least one crop of economic significance in a producer's operation must have a 10% crop production loss.** For qualifying producers, if the total farm revenue is less than the SURE program guarantee, the SURE payment is made at 60% of the difference. The SURE guarantee is very similar to a producer's crop insurance guarantee. Depending on the coverage levels, the higher the coverage the higher the guarantee level will be. There is an online calculator that can help producers estimate probable payments. You may access the calculator at www.fsa.usda.gov/mo.

If you believe that you might be eligible for SURE, please call 816-539-2136, ext 2. We will access your RMA (crop insurance) informational downloads and discuss the applicable eligibility requirements with you prior to your office visit.

Since the SURE program is available through 2011, as a producer, you can prepare your operation for SURE eligibility by insuring all economically significant crops in all counties each year.

Civil Rights/Discrimination Process

As a participant or applicant for programs or activities operated or sponsored by USDA you have a right to be treated fairly. If you believe you have been discriminated against because of your race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, disability, or marital or familial status, you may file a discrimination complaint. The complaint should be filed with the USDA Office of Civil Rights within 180 days of the date you became aware of the alleged discrimination. To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD), USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

2010 DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline Approaching!

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is underway and will continue through **June 1, 2010**.

Advance direct payments of 22% may be requested. Please call the Clinton County FSA office at 816-539-2136, ext. 2 to make your appointment for program enrollment. For complete details please see the enclosed article.

All DCP/ACRE signatures must be received by June 1, 2010. There will be no late file provisions this year!

ACREAGE REPORTING

***Please remember this year the DCP/ACRE sign-up deadline expires prior to the YEARLY ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINE!**

Acreage reports are to be certified by the **June 30th deadline on small grains** and a **July 31st deadline on all other crops**. For complete details on filing your 2010 acreage report, please see the article on page two of this newsletter.

Dates to Remember	
May 31	Memorial Day Holiday USDA Offices are Closed.
June 1	Final date to sign up for DCP and ACRE
June 30	Final date to report small grains
July 31	Final date to report all other crops
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans

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

Selected Interest Rates for April 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.875%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Marketing Assistance Loans	1.375%
7-year Farm Storage Facility Loan	3.125%
10-yr. Farm Storage Facility Loan	3.625%
12-yr. Farm Storage Facility Loan	4.00%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.375%

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