



# Clinton County News

September 2010

**Clinton County FSA**  
1800 W HWY 116  
Plattsburg, MO 64477

**Phone:**  
**(816) 539-2136**  
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**(816) 539-3560**

**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**County Committee**  
Mary Ann Barmann  
Jerald Grimes  
George Silvius

The COC meets the first Thursday of every month at 9:00 a.m.

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

Kent Allen, CED

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## Deadline for 2008 SURE Sign-up is September 30th

Producers have until September 30, 2010 to apply for Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) benefits on **2008 crop year disaster losses**. There are no provisions for late-filed applications for the SURE program.

Producers who carried crop insurance on all insurable crops and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on crops without insurance available should review their 2008 records to see if they might be eligible for SURE payments.

Clinton County received a Secretarial disaster declaration from the Secretary of Agriculture in 2008 which allows producers to be eligible for SURE if they have a 10% production loss for any individual crop and had all crops of economic importance insured. If a crop's expected revenue is less than 5% of a producer's expected revenue, it did not have to be insured for the producer to be eligible. SURE benefits may also be available to producers who meet the definition of beginning farmers or socially or economically disadvantaged producers whose crops were not insured.

The SURE program provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers based on their entire farming operations. **The farming operation must have suffered a revenue loss compared to expected overall revenue for the disaster year.** The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer in all counties and states. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE guarantee and a producer's total revenue. The producer's guarantee fluctuates depending on the amount and level of crop insurance and NAP coverage a producer carries.

**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.**

## FSA Announces New Conservation Loan Program

The Farm Service Agency is now making direct and guaranteed conservation loans to help conserve our natural resources. The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the credit necessary to implement conservation measures on their land.

FSA's traditional loan programs eligibility loan requirements for family farm size, test for credit, and graduation requirements do not apply to the CL program. These exceptions will allow FSA to provide access to conservation financing to more farmers.

The direct CLs loan limit is up to \$300,000. The guaranteed CLs, up to \$1,112,000, may be available by applying with lenders working with FSA to obtain a guarantee. The interest rate on these loans is the same as FSA's direct farm ownership loans which at the present time is 4.375%

Applicants will work with Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) staff to develop a conservation plan. Conservation practices must be approved by NRCS before FSA can provide financing. Examples of conservation practices include installation of conservation structures such as terraces; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; transitioning to organic production; manure management, including manure digestion systems; or the purchase of qualifying machinery necessary to maintain conservation compliance on your farms.

Contact your local FSA office for more information on this loan program

## Any Banking Changes?

Since program payments are issued by direct deposit, please remember to timely notify your FSA office of any changes in your banking account. If you forget to inform us of any changes to your account or routing numbers your payments may be significantly delayed.

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## 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.

### 2010 crop year Clinton County loan rates:

Corn \$1.93/bu, Soybeans \$5.01/bu, Grain Sorghum \$3.31/cwt, Hard Wheat \$2.96/bu, and Soft Wheat \$1.82/bu.

## CRP Reminders

If you have released CRP acreage for managed haying remember that haying must be completed by September 30<sup>th</sup>. If released for grazing the livestock must be removed by September 30 as well. Hay bales need to be removed by October 30<sup>th</sup> and cannot be stacked or stored on CRP acreage. Only one cutting of hay is allowed. You must report the actual acres hayed or grazed to your FSA office no later than October 1, however if you wait until October 1 your CRP annual payment may be delayed. **So report the acres as soon as possible to avoid payment delays.**

## 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, wildfires, extreme heat, extreme cold, tornadoes, 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.

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 ext2, for complete LIP eligibility details.**

## Highly Erodible Land & Wetland Conservation Compliance

Conservation compliance is still required for participation in farm programs. As you visit your county office this Fall, make sure to review your Conservation Plan of Operation (CPO) with NRCS. Extra tillage trips to remove ruts and level fields may require revisions to the CPO in order not to be in violation of conservation compliance. Contact your local FSA or NRCS before fieldwork begins to protect program eligibility.

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

## NAP and FCIC Sales Closing Dates

The deadline to purchase 2011 Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) or federal crop insurance from the Risk Management Agency (RMA) for the following crops are:  
Small grain (Wheat, Rye) for grain or grazing  
acres: 9/30/10

Small grain (Wheat, Rye) acres that will be harvested  
as forage: 9/30/10

Small grain inter-seeded into perennial  
grasses: 9/30/10

The final date to purchase NAP coverage on  
perennial crops such as native improved grasses or  
alfalfa, as well as crop insurance on all spring seeded row  
crops is March 15, 2011.

**REMINDER: Risk Management Purchase Requirement (RMPR) for Disaster Program Benefits:** NAP or Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage crop insurance policy coverage is a requirement in order to qualify for benefits received under the Livestock Forage Program (LFP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) and Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) program.

Eligibility for LFP, ELAP and SURE may also be maintained by purchasing Pasture Rangeland Forage Index (PRF) pilot insurance program. PRF is administered by Risk Management Agency and policies are sold by crop insurance agents. Policies for 2011 coverage may only be purchased from September 1 through September 30, 2010. More information can be found at <http://www.rma.gov> or visit your crop insurance agent. If you do not have an agent, you can find one online using the RMA agent locator at <http://www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agent.html>.

*Producers who meet the requirement of a socially disadvantaged, limited resource, or beginning farmer or rancher do not have to meet RMPR to be eligible for LFP, ELAP or SURE and are not required to pay the fee.*

### Successor-In-Interest

Many FSA programs will allow payments to be made to heirs or successors when a program participant dies. Additionally, contracts in programs such as CRP must be revised to reflect the successor(s) to a deceased participant's interest. In the event of an FSA program participant's death, it is important that FSA be notified. Entities and joint operations that participate in FSA programs also need to notify FSA if a shareholder or member passes away. FSA benefits are reported to IRS and maintaining current, accurate records about participants is vital to ensuring that those payments are reported correctly.

## 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.

## 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. There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents. For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact your local FSA office.

## Tobacco Quota Buyout

Any transfers of Tobacco Transition Program contracts to family members needs to be reported to this office as soon as possible when the successor is known. Please contact your local FSA office for further information.

## 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.

### Crop Insurance Monitoring

FSA and the Risk Management Agency (RMA) are directed to coordinate a monitoring program to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. To reach this end FSA assists RMA and insurance providers in monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA monitors selected producer's crops and will provide producer information to RMS to assist in claim audits, inspections, and quality control reviews. FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse about the Federal Crop Insurance Program to RMA. Producers may report suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse to their local County FSA Office, RMA, or the Office of the Inspector General (OIG).

### 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.

Dates to Remember	
September 30	NAP Application closing date for fall-seeded small grains
September 30	Signup ends for 2008 SURE program
October 11	Office Closed in Observance of Columbus Day.
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program.

### On the Inside of this Issue

2008 Crop Year SURE Sign-up Deadline

**NEW** Conservation Loan Program

Marketing Assistance Loans Updates

NAP and Crop Insurance Sales Closing Deadlines

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). 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.