



Dallas County News

March 2010

Dallas County
USDA Service Center

Dallas County FSA
1225 S Ash
Buffalo, MO 65622
417-345-7721 (phone)
417-345-7129 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

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

County Committee
Keith Whipple
Byron Duff
Mike Lewis
Betty McCarthy, Advisor

County Committee
meets second Tuesday of
each month at 10:00 a.m.

Staff
Karen Stillings, CED
Susan Hendrich, PT

2010 Rainfall
recorded at County
Office to date

January - 2.58"
February - 1.63"
March - none to
date

2009 Rainfall
48.80"

2008 Rainfall
53.94"

2007 Rainfall
44.71"



Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance (NAP) Program Enrollment

This NAP requirement applies to some livestock program benefits

Producers are reminded that **March 15th** is the application closing date to sign up for Noninsured Crop Disaster Program (NAP) coverage and also to purchase crop insurance coverage on most spring planted crops. All crops on the farm, including hay shall be covered in order to be eligible for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program, (SURE). The SURE program provides additional revenue protection to producers who suffer crop losses due to eligible disaster conditions.

Crops intended for grazing, including fescue and mixed grass types also need to have NAP in order to maintain eligibility for the Livestock Disaster type programs.

NAP is a federally-funded program that provides coverage to producers for non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters. Crops eligible for NAP coverage are those for which crop insurance is not available, including fruits and vegetables, aquaculture, pecans, turf grass and forage crops just to name a few. In Polk County crop insurance is available on corn and wheat.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

Currently applications for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) are being taken for the 2008 crop year for producers who met the insurance requirements. SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster that were incurred starting in crop year 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops of economic significance in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP), except for grazed acreage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

The following are the conditions that trigger SURE payments:

- at least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition,
- the crop of economic significance must be a crop that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5% or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm,
- the farm experiencing the loss must be in a county declared a disaster county by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties. Those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are also eligible to receive SURE payments for production losses or crop quality losses.

Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

A SURE calculator is available at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/sure_calculator_2008.xls. The calculator is not official, but is intended for educational use. A fact sheet and Q & A are also available online at www.fsa.usda.gov.

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Jack Gulick who was newly elected to represent farmers from Local Administrative Area 2. This includes Mooney, Northeast Marion, Southeast Marion, North and South Benton townships on the county committee. Gulick was elected to his first consecutive term. He runs a cow/calf and custom grazing operation in the southeastern portion of the county. Jack takes the place of David Agee who served 9 years on the Polk County Committee. We welcome Jack and thank David for his years of service.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)

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 who have received program payments in either 2009 or 2010 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>

FSA Payment Record (1099-G)

During the last week of January, producers who have received payments from FSA should have also received a CCC-1099-G from the Kansas City office. A CCC-1099-G is a report to the Internal Revenue Service about FSA payments made to you during the previous calendar year. The CCC-1099-G is a service to help participating producers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the program participant's responsibility to report income to the IRS.

If you received a CCC-1099-G, we recommend that you check the amounts shown with those in your records to see that the amounts are correct. Refunds will no longer be reported on the 1099-G, but will be available online from the FSA Financial Inquiries (FSA-FI) web-based database located under "Online Services" on the FSA web site <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

If you have a question concerning the 1099-G refund information, you may contact your local FSA office for assistance locating the correct payment data. If you choose to visit the office, please bring CCC-1099-G with you.

Sodbuster/Swampbuster Weather-Related Temporary Variances

Farm Service Agency programs require compliance with sodbuster and swampbuster provisions. These provisions call for producers to follow an approved conservation system on all highly erodible land planted to an annual crop as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This includes producers participating in FSA farm programs and FSA Farm Loan Programs.

During last fall's harvest season we received excessive amounts of rainfall. Many landowners and operators were forced to complete their harvest under extremely wet conditions that resulted in ruts. Landowners/operators will soon be forced to decide how to maintain their approved conservation system during planting time.

It is imperative that participating producers request a weather variance at the county office prior to beginning fieldwork. This request for variance must be made in advance of 2010 field preparation.

Determinations should be made on any new land you plan to plant to annual crops. Swampbuster provisions state that converting a wetland to make possible the planting of a crop will result in the loss of all USDA benefits. To avoid this possibility it is strongly recommended that producers check with NRCS before creating a new drainage system, improving existing systems, or clearing wooded wetlands.

DCP Signup Continues

Signup for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program continues until June 1, 2010. FSA will not accept late-filed applications.

FSA 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, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

What is Continuous CRP?

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program allows participants to voluntarily enroll acreage in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

Eligible landowners enter into 10- to 15-year contracts in return for receiving annual rental and perhaps maintenance, incentive and cost share payments.

To be eligible, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. If eligibility requirements are met, the Farm Service Agency will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year.

For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments, please contact the county office staff or visit: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=crp>

Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)

The Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) provides financial assistance to producers or entities that deliver eligible biomass material to approved biomass conversion facilities (BCF) for use as heat, power, bio-based products or bio-fuels. Initial assistance will be for the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) costs associated with the delivery of eligible materials. Producers who sell these materials can apply for FSA matching payments under the CHST. An application must be submitted before the eligible material is sold and delivered to a BCF. After the product is delivered, a producer must provide FSA with documentation of product quantity, quality and payment rate. County offices will validate payment requests with information in the county office.

LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from disaster. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to floods, blizzards, tornado, lightning, extreme heat and extreme cold, etc. Note: Extreme heat and cold weather conditions shall meet requirements as established by State FSA Committee.

Payment rates are broken down by size and weight range of livestock. Proof of death or third party verification is required. Normal mortality rates as established by each state must be met before payment can be made on adverse weather related deaths. Producers shall also provide proof of normal mortality deaths. All deaths shall be reported within 30 days of loss.

For additional details on this program, please contact county office.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

Hay storage facilities now available

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 new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a 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. 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.

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
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

Upcoming Grazing School Information

A grazing school is planned for April of 2010 at the Halfway Lions Club building. Meetings are usually held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and one Saturday. For certification, participants must attend all sessions. For additional information, please contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District office.

Farm Loan Programs

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 details, just contact the county office staff for an appointment with the farm loan staff.

For additional program information please contact the county office at (417) 326-4823 or Visit our website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

Selected Interest Rates for March 2010

90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.125%
Limited Resource Loans	5.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer, Rancher or Socially Disadvantaged	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7-yr.	3.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 10-yr.	3.625%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 12-yr.	4.00%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.375%

Dates to Remember

March 15	NAP Sales Closing Date - Grazing, Hay, Seed & Spring-seeded Crops
June 1	DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

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