



February 2009

DeKalb County News

DeKalb County
USDA Service Center

DeKalb County FSA
1101 S. Polk
Maysville, MO. 64469
816-449-2112 (phone)
816-449-2082 (fax)

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Ronald Carrel, Chair
John Burton, Vice-Chair
Lecil Andrews, Member
Ruth A. Owen, Advisor

Committee meets the 1st
Friday of each month at
9:30 a.m.

Staff
G. Eugene Keats, CED
Darlene Fisher, PT
Kristy L. Gray, PT
Cindy L. Barker, PT
Robert Barton, Field
Daniel White, Field

Farm Loan Staff
Charles Meissen, Manager
Teresa Akers, Farm Loan
Officer
Tuesday mornings, 10:00
a.m. to Noon



Annual Notice

Each year FSA is required to give annual notice pertaining to ongoing program policy that is effective each year. The following lists some of those policies:

- Payment Limits – DCP Direct \$40,000
- Counter-Cyclical and ACRE -- \$65,000
- NAP -- \$100,000
- SURE, LIP, LFP, ELAP -- \$100,000
- CRP Annual Payments -- \$50,000
- LDP and Market Gain – Unlimited
- Adjusted Non-Farm Income -- \$500,000 (Avg. 07,06,05); In excess, ineligible for all program payments and benefits
- Adjusted Farm Income -- \$750,000 (Avg. 07,06,05); In excess, ineligible for direct payments
- Adjusted Non-Farm Income -- \$1,000,000 (07,06,05); In excess ineligible for all conservation benefits
- **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.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing.

- **Controlled Substance**

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits.

Dates to Remember

Feb 16	Office closed – President’s Day
Feb. 27	Last day of Lamb Referendum
March 16	Last day to purchase crop insurance or NAP for hay
June 1	Last date to sign up for DCP

Visit our Web site:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo>

Appeal Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options your can pursue if you disagree.

Generally, program participants have three choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

DCP Sign-up Underway

Sign-up has started for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program for farms with base acres. You can sign-up online or at local FSA Service Centers. Sign-up will continue **until June 1, 2009** and unlike years past, participants **may not enroll** in DCP after June 1 of the applicable contract year. There are **no late-filed provisions** for contract years 2009-2012.

Producers who are eligible for the DCP Program will also be eligible to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. The enrollment period for the ACRE Program will begin in the spring. You may first enroll in the DCP Program, and receive advance direct payments (22%).

Supplemental Revenue (SURE)



SURE is a revenue based program which uses the entire marketing year's prices for crops plus the occurrence of natural disaster(s) to be implemented. It does not offer immediate payments. Producers are eligible for SURE if they have all crops insured or NAP policies purchased for non-insurable crops (including hay). It has been determined that pasture will not be required to be insured. If a producer has mixed grass hay, alfalfa, and alfalfa mixed hay, that would be three policies at \$250 each. NAP fees are due by **March 16, 2009** at the FSA Office. Insurable crops must be covered by at least a CAT (catastrophic) level policy, but can be covered by multi-peril, crop revenue coverage, group risk plans, or other policies. The CAT fee for these crops is \$250 each. For 2009-2012, there is a cap of \$750 for CAT and the same for NAP per county, or \$1875 for all counties.



At the end of the marketing year after the national average monthly price for each crop is calculated, the SURE program compares actual revenue for a producer's farming operation (all crops in all counties planted or intended to be planted for harvest including hay) to the revenue that was expected at the beginning of the year. SURE pays 60% of the difference between the two if revenue is below expectations. There are several points to keep in mind:

- Every crop has a deadline to purchase insurance or NAP coverage. For spring crops including hay, the date is **March 16, 2009**. It is too late to purchase CAT or other insurance for 2009 wheat.
- In order for SURE to take effect, the county must have had a secretarial declaration of disaster or be a contiguous county, or must have incurred a 50% loss in total farm revenue regardless of county designation.
- An exception to the above rules are crops that would not make at least 5% of the value of all crops grown by the producer.



Average Crop Revenue (ACRE)

ACRE is a new component of the Farm Bill that protects against a shortfall resulting from price and/or production declines at the state and farm level. Enrollment in ACRE means that you are giving up some benefit in DCP(20%) and marketing assistance loan rates(30%) in return for protection against a drop in crop price or a disaster causing low yield or both. This does not eliminate the counter-cyclical payments on the DCP. It is simply another option in farm management. We expect the program provisions to be out in the spring. In the meantime, you can go ahead and sign up for DCP, and enroll in ACRE later. See our December newsletter for more details.

New Price Support and Payment Provisions

The Farm Service Agency has new provisions in making payments and disbursing commodity loans. The county office no longer writes checks for either payments or loan disbursements. This means producers need to sign up for direct deposit so that payments and loans can go directly to their banks. This normally takes about three days. Otherwise, National Payment Services will write the checks and mail to the producer which takes about 7-10 days. Direct deposit works very well and is easy to sign up for.

This change also means that loan repayments that come from the grain buyer work the same way. If the producer is due a refund from the buyer's check, the process is slower. Elevators and grain buyers are currently being notified that the best practice is to provide CCC (the county office) a check for the amount necessary to pay for the quantity delivered or the amount to repay the loan. In these cases, if the check arrives a day or two later than the target date, there would only be some interest the producer could cover. The buyer could settle any extra proceeds from the sale of the grain with the producer and other lienholders. CCC's position is always going to be first because there is a lien waiver to disburse the loan.

This new procedure does not negate the absolute necessity for producers to obtain a marketing authorization to a buyer before moving CCC loan collateral to the elevator, unless the loan is repaid before movement.



County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to John Burton! John was elected to represent farmers from Washington, Colfax, and Grand River on the county committee. John was elected to his second consecutive term. The election results for Local Administrative Area III are:

John Burton — Elected to the county committee (COC),
Gabe DeShon — 1st alternate to COC,
Chris Curtis — 2nd alternate to COC
FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation. The committee held its organizational meeting in January. Ronald Carrel is Chairperson, John Burton is Vice-Chairperson, and Lecil Andrews is member. Ruth Owen serves as a County Committee advisor.



Financial Inquiries and FOIA

January signals the beginning of a new year, and a time to gather financial records and start thinking about filling out a 1040. Producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will be able to access their farm data through Financial Inquires for FSA Producers. The site is available under Online Services on the Missouri FSA webpage at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo>

If you do not have eAuthentication, you can call the county office and obtain any financial information as it pertains to you. Your accountant or tax preparer can request the amount of program payments unless you are a Farm Loan Program applicant or borrower. Otherwise any other information released has to have your written consent. Spouses cannot obtain exempted information for the other spouse unless their name is on the document, but could have program payments because they are available under the Freedom of Information Act.



Selected Interest Rates for February 2009	
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.125%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.750%
Farm Ownership Loans Beginning Farmer Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	1.875%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.375%

CRP Reminders

This is a good time to plan management practices for 2009. Some contracts are in the second cycle of practices, so the acreage has to be covered again. For Signup 26 (10/01/2003), this is year 6. For Signup 29 (10/01/2005), this is year 4. Burning and spraying cool season grass is allowed March 15 to April 30. Warm season grass can be burned through March 15.

Lamb Referendum

Lamb producers, feeders, and first handlers now have the opportunity to vote in a nationwide referendum on whether to continue or terminate the Lamb Promotion, Research, and Information Order. Voting will take place until February 27, 2009. Producers will complete form LS-86, and provide documentation such as sales receipts which shows they have been engaged in the production, feeding, or slaughtering of lambs during the period January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008.

Prevented Planting

In the event of a wet spring, producers are reminded that the final dates to file for prevented planting are June 20 for corn and July 5 for soybeans. PP credit will no longer be based on history. Producers will still file a CCC-576.

Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the Farm Service Agency county office staff, and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are necessary.

If you are considering a new grain bin, ask FSA about a Farm Storage Facility Loan! Loans are seven year fixed payment loans. Eligibility is determined by the bushels of crops normally raised on the farming operation, and the amount of storage already available. Documentation is provided to show repayment ability. The loan can be made up to 85% of the total cost of the structure, concrete, wiring, fan, and other equipment. If the loan amount is over \$50,000, a deed of trust will be taken on the real estate.



. Power of Attorney

FSA has a required power of attorney form available for those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., that enables the participant to designate another person to conduct his or her business at the office. This can be done by completing an FSA-211, Power of Attorney. The form is available at your local USDA Service Center or online at: http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFile/Services/Forms/FSA0211-0211A_081217V02.pdf.

Husbands and wives can sign for each other in cases where either has an interest. This is not the case if one is a partner in a partnership, member of a joint venture, or member of a corporation, trust, estate, or other similar entity. Notice can be given to the county office to deny the automatic privilege.

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, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.