



# DeKalb County News

July/August 2009

DeKalb County  
USDA Service Center

DeKalb County FSA  
1101 S. Polk  
Maysville, MO. 64469  
816-449-2112 (phone)  
816-449-2082 (fax)  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/mo](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo)

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

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

County Committee  
meets First Friday of  
Month at 9:30 a.m.

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

Farm Loan Staff  
Charles Meissen, Manager  
Teresa Akers, Farm Loan  
Officer 660-425-7635  
Tuesday mornings, 10:00  
a.m. to Noon



## FSA COC Nomination Deadline

Producers in the townships of Polk, Grant, and Dallas are needed as nominees for a representative to the DeKalb County FSA Committee, effective January 1, 2010. One person will be elected by ballots submitted by mail. County committees play a crucial role in helping the county office staff implement farm programs. Producers are encouraged to participate in the election process by nominating an eligible candidate. To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and other valuable information about FSA county committee elections are available online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>; click on News & Events, then County Committee Elections. Nomination forms for the 2009 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on **Aug. 3, 2009**.

FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. The DeKalb County Committee consists of three members who are elected by eligible local producers.

FSA will mail ballots to producers beginning Nov. 6, 2009. The voted ballots are due back at the local county office either via mail or in person by Dec. 7, 2009.

## DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until **August 14, 2009**. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. Producers may elect to receive advance payments at a rate of 22% of the guaranteed payment. Final payments are made in October of each year.

## The ACRE Program

The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is a new program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill that begins in crop year 2009. Through ACRE, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers producers an alternative to Direct and Counter-cyclical (DCP) payments. ACRE sign-up dates will be the same as the DCP signup, extending through **August 14**.

A decision to elect ACRE binds the producer to the program through the 2012 crop year, the last crop year covered by the 2008 Farm Bill. ACRE payments are based on what the producer actually plants, with payments calculated using recent market prices. ACRE payments are triggered when the farm revenue and state revenue-price multiplied by yield-fall below a calculated guarantee for a crop.

By electing the ACRE option, producers agree to forgo counter-cyclical payments; accept a 20 percent reduction of the direct payments; and accept a 30 percent reduction in loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm.

Commodities eligible for ACRE payments are wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, peanuts, soybeans, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, safflower, mustard seed, rapeseed, sesame seed, crambe, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas and large chickpeas. Producers may elect to participate in ACRE even if they have already accepted advanced payments under DCP.

## Crop Reporting

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the



Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments. For the SURE program, all crops on all farms must be reported.

The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The reporting deadline for all crops has been extended to **August 14, 2009**. For NAP crops, the reporting deadline is either August 14, or 15 days before harvest, whichever is earlier.

## Successor in Interest

Many FSA programs will allow payments to be made to heirs or successors when a program participant passes away. 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. Generally, if the contract involved (DCP or CRP) can be revised, the estate should obtain an employer ID number. The payment would be made to that number. If the contract cannot be revised; e.g. DCP contract after September 30, the payment can be made using the deceased's ID number. If an estate is opened, the administrator or executor may want the payment issued to another name; e.g. spouse. In that case, the deceased producer's ID would be used. If you have this situation, contact the office.

## Help Available to Stressed Farmers

In the past year, the economy, inclement weather, drought and other factors have hurt many farming operations around the country. These events pushed some farmers to the emotional breaking point. Watching their livelihood being threatened is difficult for farmers and ranchers and especially for those who care about them.



The National Suicide Prevention Hotline is available to help. If you know a farmer or rancher who is under stress and is reluctant to ask for help, or if you just need to talk to someone, call 1-800-273-TALK (8255). Your call will be routed to the crisis center nearest you, where trained staffers are available 24/7. This service is not affiliated with the US Department of Agriculture.

This nationwide service is free and confidential. Help is just a phone call away. For more information, go to <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>.

## Filing of Loss/Prevented Planting

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting of program crops and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (notice of loss) in the FSA County Office.

A number of producers have filed prevented planted acreage for corn or soybeans. If the acreage remains idle for the crop year, the county committee can approve the acreage for credit if there is evidence the crop would have been planted timely had it not been for excess rainfall. If the acreage is planted to a subsequent crop, the application will be disapproved and the acreage will be considered planted to the crop in the field. In this case, the acreage is ineligible for prevented planted credit. The determined acreage of the prevented planted crop will be zero.

Committees have the authority to disapprove the prevented planted acreage application if it is believed the crop could have been planted timely. In this case, the acreage will be reported as fallow. Producers should provide documentation that shows the intention to plant such as fertilizer, seed or chemical invoices, or crop insurance evidence.

Applications for prevented planting or failed acreage will continue to be taken through the final date to report acreages which is **August 14, 2009**.



## New Payment Limitations

Over time, the payment limitation provisions have been expanded to more programs. Some of the changes in this area are listed below.

### **New forms for 2009 and subsequent years**

Anyone that plans to participate in 2009 programs is required to submit a completed CCC-902, CCC-926, and CCC-901, if applicable, for payment eligibility and payment limitation purposes. The form used prior to 2009 was named CCC-502.

### **Another change for 2009, all must make a contribution in an entity**

All partners, stockholders, or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make a contribution, whether compensated or **not** compensated, for active--\*

- personal labor,
- active personal management,
- or a combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation;



For example an entity may have a member with a 10% share. If that member provides no contribution of personal labor or management of any kind, 10% of the entity's payment would not be made. For trusts, income beneficiaries with an interest of at least 50% must provide a significant contribution of labor and management. For corporate entities, all members must contribute, and those contributions must be performed regularly, be documentable, separate and distinct. Some members may perform different management duties. Bookkeeping is considered labor.

Determinations for joint operations such as joint ventures and partnerships are made on a member basis. Each member must be determined to be "actively engaged".

To receive USDA payments every person must be determined "actively engaged" and meet average adjusted income limitations.

Landowner provisions are different. Landowners, whether personal or entity, who own all of the land in the operation are automatically "actively engaged", but must still meet the income limitation guidelines.



## Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers & Ranchers

FSA has a program to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) and [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov).

## Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing agriculture-related 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 \$5000.

For eligibility information contact the farm loan staff noted on the front page of this newsletter.

## Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. The deadline for 2009 for recons is August 3. After this, any recon will be effective in 2010.

## CRP Notes



Summer activities after the non-disturbance season on CRP include mowing, weed control, and management practices. Older contracts still allow mowing for weed and brush control up to one-half of each field in the contract. Contracts effective October 1, 2003 and later do not allow mowing because they have management practices. Please check with the office as to the status of your contract. As of July 16, activity can resume such as managed haying and grazing. Certain CRP acreages can be hayed or grazed every third year by making a request and paying the standard 25% of the rental rate fee. Haying and grazing activity can continue until September 30. If you participated in the Critical Use Feed Program in 2008, you are restricted from haying or grazing any acreage in that field or at a minimum twice the acreage actually hayed or grazed for the standard three year period.



Management practices that began on July 16 are disking, burning warm season grass, and spraying warm season grass. Practices completed by September 30 will credit for FY 09.

### Selected Interest Rates for July 2009

90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.50%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.625%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.25%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.50%

### Dates to Remember

August 3	Deadline to request reconstitution for 2009
August 3	Deadline for nomination forms for County Committee
August 14	Crop Acreage Reporting Deadline including CRP
August 14	ACRE sign-up deadline
August 14	DCP sign-up deadline
Continuous	Conservation Reserve Continuous Practices

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

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.

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, 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, audiotope, 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.