



DeKalb County News

April/May 2010

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

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

County Committee
Ronald Carrel, Chair
John Burton, Vice-Chair
James Carlson, 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



County Committee Election

Forms are now available for those with an interest in a farm to nominate themselves or be nominated to represent their Local Administrative Area on the DeKalb County FSA Committee. Eligible candidates may be nominated by organizations representing socially disadvantaged farmers, or by any producer whose records are administered in the same county committee jurisdiction. This year a representative will be elected from LAA II which is Sherman, Camden, and Adams townships. The term is three years, commencing January 1, 2011. This is a great opportunity to serve your fellow producers, plus learn how government farm programs work, and what it takes to get them implemented. The county committee and staff would like to encourage all persons to take an interest in this important endeavor by nominating and voting in the December election. Nomination forms must be in the county office by August 2, 2010.

SURE Signup Now

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters incurred in the crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. However, crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the coverage. 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
- crop of economic significance is 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
- producers in counties declared disaster counties by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are eligible to receive SURE payments for crop producer or crop quality losses. Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

A SURE calculator is available at: www.fsa.usda.gov/mo. The calculator is not official, but is intended for educational use. A fact sheet and background are also available online.

2010 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) will continue through June 1, 2010. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2010 DCP contract. 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 advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment. For more information on this or other programs, simply contact the nearest FSA office.

The ACRE Program



The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) began in crop year 2009. Through ACRE, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers producers an alternative to Direct and Counter-cyclical (DCP) payments. The ACRE alternative provides eligible producers a state-level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price. The enrollment date for 2010 ACRE is June 1, 2010. ACRE payments are made when both state- and farm-level triggers are met. By participating in ACRE, producers elect to forgo counter-cyclical payments. Producers also elect to receive a 20-percent reduction in direct payments and a 30-percent reduction in loan rates. 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. For more details, contact your local FSA office.

It is important for producers to keep records such as pictures of weather event death losses, and also records of normal death losses that are considered normal mortality.

Marketing Assistance Loans

Marketing Assistance loans are available. Loans are nine months in duration and are non-recourse meaning the collateral can be forfeited in times of extremely low prices. Loan rates for 2009 crops are: Corn -- \$1.90; Soybeans -- \$4.96; hard wheat -- \$2.76; soft wheat -- \$1.92; and grain sorghum -- \$3.22/cwt. Lien waivers can now be obtained prior to making application for the loan. This type of loan is an excellent marketing alternative and features an extremely low interest rate at the present time (1.375%).

Farm Reconstitutions

In program terminology, farms are constituted to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon.

Estate Method: The division of bases for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate.

Designation by Landowner Method: May be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding.

LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM



The Livestock Indemnity Program may compensate farmers who have suffered death losses attributable to a weather event, such as extreme cold or heat, lightning, tornado, etc. The program will cover weather events until at least October 1, 2011. Death losses in excess of normal mortality rates are covered and are based on inventory at the time of the event. A notice of loss must be filed the earlier of 30 calendar days from when the loss is apparent to the producer, or 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss occurred (**January 30, 2011 for 2010**). Producers must document the death loss by rendering truck receipts, veterinary records, records assembled for tax purposes, bank or other loan documents, property tax records, insurance documents, etc. A third party certification may be acceptable as long as it is not a family member or a hired person. Livestock is divided into breeds, then into weight classes for payment determination. Notices of loss may be filed by telephone, facsimile, or e-mail. The producer then follows up with an application for payment due 30 days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss occurred.





DCP Cropland Method: The division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract.

Default Method: The division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

Recons must be requested by August 1, or by June 1 if the new farm is to be enrolled in DCP. In this case the parent farm would not have to be enrolled in DCP by June 1, but the producer would have 30 days after notification to enroll the resulting farm. If the recon request is received after June 1 but by August 1, all parent farms must have been enrolled in DCP by June 1 in order for the resulting farm to be enrolled for 2010.

If payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded.



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. For crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by the June 30th deadline on small grains and a July 31st deadline on all other crops. **File your acreage report with FSA first; then file the exact same acreages with your crop insurance company.** This will eliminate problems later.

Rural Energy for America Program

The Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) provides loan guarantees (up to 50% of the project) and grants (up to 25% of

eligible expenses) to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to purchase and install renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements. Additional funding is available for feasibility studies and energy audit programs. USDA Rural Development is helping to lead the way in the agricultural sector finding energy solutions in our fields and helping rural residents and communities access renewable energy development and commercialization of renewable sources (ethanol, biodiesel, etc.) to change the way people power their cars, homes, businesses, and industries. Many new energy efficient grain handling, storage, and drying facilities have been funded across the country. For more information contact the Rural Development Office, 3915 Oakland Avenue, St. Joseph, MO. 64506 (816-364-3767; ext. 4).

CRP EARLY LAND PREPARATION

There may be a general CRP signup in FY 2010. Producers whose contracts will expire September 30, 2010, may want to prepare land for a fall seeded crop by tillage. This is allowed after July 1, or you can also apply chemical burndown for a spring planted crop. Please be reminded that if the cover is damaged in any way, the land will not be eligible for enrollment in this general signup. Producers who want to prepare land early must file a request by a CRP-1G before starting work.

HELIC & WC Compliance

Producers are reminded of the importance of compliance with highly erodible land conservation (HELIC) and wetland conservation (WC) provisions in order to remain eligible for USDA benefits. If producers plan to clear timber and plant an annually-tilled crop, they will need to complete an AD-1026 to have a Highly Erodible Land or Wetland Conservation determination. Producers who plan to plant an annually-tilled commodity that is currently in grass should check with their local FSA to be sure the field has an HEL determination. Producers who have ruts from last year's harvest should make sure that any tillage done to restore their fields will be in compliance with their conservation system to remain in compliance for USDA benefits.



Changes to CRP



There have been some changes in the Conservation Reserve Program applicable to the management practices that producers have to perform on contracts effective after 10/01/2003. Mid-contract management practices will now only have to be performed once for some contracts. Newly established seedings can have a management cycle completed in years 3-6. If the contract is 20 acres or less, 100% of the acreage can be treated in one of contract year 3-6. Established seedings enrolled or re-enrolled can have the practices performed in years 1-4. All of the acreage must be treated in that time period. If the contract is 20 acres or less, 100% of the acreage can be treated in one of contract year 1-4. Mowing is now allowed in conjunction with strip disking or chemical application at a rate of \$16.00 per acre and cost share of \$8.00 per acre. Disking dates have changed to July 16 to March 31. Spraying cool season grass can be done October 1-November 30; March 15-April 30. Participants can change to the new policy by signing a modification to the conservation plan. Contact the FSA office.



Selected Interest Rates for April 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	2.875%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.00%
Limited Resource	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility- 7 year term	3.125%
Farm Storage Facility-10 year term	3.625%
Farm Storage Facility-12 year term	4.00%
Commodity Loans	1.375%

Dates to Remember	
May 31	Memorial Day Holiday - FSA Offices are Closed.
June 1	Final date to sign up for DCP and ACRE
June 30	Final date to report small grains
August 2	Last date to report acres; CRP
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans

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.