JUNE 2011

Douglas/Ozark County FSA Office

Rt. 1 Box 50
Ava, MO 65721

417-683-4212 Phone
1-800-434-0366 Phone
417-683-3054 FAX

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

County Office Staff
Timothy K. Kennemer
County Executive Director

Amy Peiter
Farm Loan Manager

Debby Tate
Program Technician

Elaine Graham
Program Technician

Visit our Website at:
www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

FLOOD DAMAGE ASSISTANCE FOR FARMS: Producers in Douglas and Ozark Counties may apply for cost share assistance under the **E**mergency **C**onservation **P**rogram (**ECP**) for flood damage that began April 20. Although no funds are currently available, a signup period for the **ECP** program has began and will run through **July 31, 2011**. Funding for ECP is appropriated by Congress. ECP program participants may receive cost-share assistance to rehabilitate farmland damaged by the flooding. Participants may receive of up to 75 percent of the cost for practices to remove debris, replace fences and conservation structures and to remove gravel or sand deposits and level and reshape land damaged by the flooding to return the land to agricultural production. Onsite inspections are required prior to approval. Applications are subject to availability of funds and may be made at the FSA Office. For more information call or stop by the Douglas/Ozark County FSA Office in Ava, MO at 417-683-4212 x2. or 1-800-434-0366 x2. Program eligibility is determined by the county committee by conducting on-site inspections that take into account the type and extent of the damage. Conservation problems that existed before the disaster are not eligible for ECP assistance.

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VILSACK ANNOUNCES PROCESS TO RESOLVE DISCRIMINATION CLAIMS OF HISPANIC AND WOMEN FARMERS

As part of continued efforts to close the chapter on allegations that discrimination occurred at USDA in past decades, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced the establishment of a process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who assert that they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans. The claims process offers a streamlined alternative to litigation and provides at least $1.33 billion in compensation, plus up to $160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. This announcement follows the Obama Administration's settlement of longstanding litigation brought by African American farmers and Native American farmers. In conjunction with this announcement, USDA is launching an outreach effort to potential claimants that will include a call center for farmers and ranchers, a website, public service announcements, and in-person meetings around the country. Individuals interested in participating in the claims process may register to receive a claims package, or may obtain more information, by visiting www.farmerclaims.gov. **Beginning February 25, 2011, individuals can register to receive a claims package by calling the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429.** USDA cannot provide legal advice to potential claimants. Persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM (LIP) LIP provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from natural disaster. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including loss due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, diseases, wildfires, extreme heat or extreme cold. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011. A notice of loss must be filed with FSA within 30 days of when the loss of livestock is apparent. USDA has established normal mortality rates for each type and weight range of eligible livestock, i.e. Adult Beef Cow = 1.5% and Non-Adult Beef Cattle = 3%. These established percentages reflect losses that are considered expected or typical under, "normal" conditions. Producers should file a LIP application as soon as possible to avoid a delay in processing and receipt of disaster assistance.

. **NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)** The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is a federally-funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. Production records for all crops must be reported to FSA.

FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications. ***NAP Losses must be reported within 15 days of a disaster event or the date the loss becomes apparent.***

LOANS FOR THE SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED

FSA has loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches. While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided targeted funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged groups. A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of a group. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Nominations Open June 15

Nominations for candidates to run for the Farm Service Agency county committee election representing producers in a Local Administrative Area will be accepted from June 15 through Aug. 1, 2011.

Producers who are residents in the LAA holding the election and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program *and* are of *legal voting age* may be nominated *to serve on* the *county* committee.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates.

A nomination form, FSA-669A, is included in this newsletter. Additional forms and details may be picked up at your local USDA Service Center, FSA county office or downloaded from www.fsa.usda.gov.

Eligible voters can nominate as many candidates as they wish.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected, and returned to the FSA county office by the close of business on Aug. 1, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 1, 2011.

LAA TOWNSHIPS ELIGIBLE FOR THIS YEAR

- **OZARK COUNTY**
- **BAYOU I, BAYOU II, PART OF BRIDGES, DAWT, LICK CREEK, PINE CREEK, RICHLAND, AND SPRING CREEK**

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available. Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan. 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 $1,119,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

BEGINNING FARMER & RANCHERS FSA assists beginning farmers and ranchers 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 that 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in any loan assessment and borrower training in financial and production management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm greater than 30 % of the median size farm in the county.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

FSA-669A
(03-31-11)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

1. NAME OF NOMINEE *(Type or Print Nominee's Full Name)*	**TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE** 4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE	5. COUNTY 6. LAA / 7. STATE
3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION: *I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.* ☐ *I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.* ☐ *I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.*	**8. NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION:** *If this nomination is by other than self, the following eligible voter or representative of a community based organization hereby nominates the afore-named person to be a candidate in the next County FSA Committee election for the county.*
3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE / 3B. DATE	8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR / 8B. DATE
☐ ***Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.***	***(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required).***

9. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE

VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES: The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.

ETHNICITY	RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)	GENDER
☐ Hispanic or Latino ☐ Not Hispanic or Latino	☐ American Indian or Alaska Native ☐ Asian ☐ White ☐ Black or African-American ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	☐ Male ☐ Female

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

Complete the form as follows:

ITEM 1 Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:

A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
C. Willing to serve if elected.

ITEM 2 Enter the nominee's current address.

ITEM 3 The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.

ITEMS 3A &3B The nominee must sign and date.

ITEMS 8A & 8B The nominator must sign and date. *(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required.)*

ITEM 9 Completing this item is voluntary.

ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 1, 2011.

NOTE: *The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a - as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246). The information will be used to obtain nominees for election to the County FSA Committee. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for County Personnel Records, USDA/FSA-6. Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility for nomination for election to the County FSA Committee.*

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. ***RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.***

Douglas/Ozark County FSA Office
Rt. 1 Box 50
Ava, MO 65608

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

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Dates to Remember	
June 15	County Committee nomination period begins.
June 30	Final date to report fall- and spring-seeded small grains
July 4	Independence Day - FSA Offices closed
July 14	COC meeting
July 31	Final date to report CRP, NAP and all other crops (except small grains)

Selected Interest Rates for June 2011	
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.75%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7-year term	2.625%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 10-year term	3.250%
Com. Loans 96-Present	1.250%

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. 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, employer and lender.