



## November 2010

### Gentry County FSA Office

512 E Highway 136  
Albany, MO 64402  
660-726-5525 phone  
660-726-3254 fax

#### Hours

Monday - Friday  
7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

#### County Office Staff

Mary Ann Gibson, PT  
Kathy Ward, PT  
Brenda Walker, PT  
Barbara Ratliff, PT

#### County Committee

Mike Sager  
David Waltemath  
Donnie Stevens  
Nancy Findley

### Worth County FSA Office

19 West 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Grant City, MO 64456  
660-564-3341 phone  
660-564-3443 fax

#### Hours

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

#### County Office Staff

Veronica Craven, PT  
Ann Gilland, PT

#### County Committee

Mike Cook  
Bernard Runde  
Mary Ewing

#### County Executive Director

Mark Cadle

Farm Loan Manager  
Charles Meissen,

Fieldman  
Bill Grabb

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

What a fall harvest season we have had this year! It appears that harvest in Gentry and Worth County is almost complete. Most producers that I have spoken with have been a little disappointed in corn yields but in most cases very pleased and maybe even a little surprised with their soybean yields. With the good weather for harvest it appears to me that more fall tillage has been completed in the area than in the past several years and a lot of fall fertilization has been done in preparation for the 2011 crop year.

Now is also the time to prepare for the 2011 crop year with FSA. You can now begin to sign up now for the DCP or annual farm program. Remember that participation in the ACRE program is also an option under the new Farm Bill. Read the article USDA issues First ACRE Program Payments to help decide which program is best for you for 2011. We also are implementing a new program called the Crop Assistance Program (CAP). The program compensates producers in this area for losses to their 2009 soybean crops. Read the following CAP article for complete details and note the short signup period – the deadline to apply is **December 9th**. Signup for the 2009 SURE disaster program will probably begin in December. See the SURE article later in the newsletter for details. Read the article NAP Deadline to determine if you need NAP coverage to help protect your operation and stay eligible for other USDA/FSA programs.

Remember that we have 9 month Marketing Assistance Loans available and the interest rates are very attractive. This month's rate is 1.25%. Farm Storage and Facility loans are available to provide funds to build hay and crop storage structures. The terms of these loans can be from 7 to 12 years and they offer very attractive fixed interest rates.

In addition to these programs, we currently have many other on-going programs, which are described in detail in this newsletter. If you have any questions concerning the programs administered in the FSA office, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving, Mark Cadle, CED

## Crop Assistance Program (CAP)

On September 15th, Secretary Vilsack announced a disaster assistance package that will affect many of America's producers. Using authorities and funding from Section 32 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act, the CAP will provide payments to producers with qualifying losses in counties that received Secretarial disaster designations for excessive moisture in 2009. The specific crops involved with the CAP include rice, cotton, sweet potatoes, and soybeans. Both Worth and Gentry Counties received a Secretarial Disaster Declaration in 2009.

Other requirements are that producers:

- must have filed a 2009 crop report (FSA-578)
- must self certify to a 5% or greater loss in yield.

Determined by comparing the higher of the farm's APH for crop insurance or by using county average yield for soybeans in 2009, which was 44 bu/ac in Gentry and 42 bu/ac in Worth for soybeans.

Producers are required to have verifiable evidence in support of their application and must retain that evidence for up to 3 years. However, because CAP is a self certification process, the production evidence is not required at the time of application. CAP benefits are calculated on a farm by farm basis. The application process will look at each FSA farm number separately as it pertains to the 5% loss. Payments for CAP will be calculated by multiplying the 2009

acres of soybeans for an individual FSA farm # by the producer share and that result by \$15.62. In order to keep payments within available funds for the program, FSA will prorate payments by limiting the initial payment to 75% of the total earned. Once signup is complete, producers may receive up to an additional 25%.

**The deadline to apply is December 9, 2010.**



## **USDA Issues First ACRE Program Payments**

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that FSA has started issuing an estimated \$420 million in 2009 crop Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) payments to producers enrolled in the ACRE program for wheat, corn, barley, dry peas, grain sorghum, lentils, oats, peanuts, soybeans, and upland cotton.

In order for producers to receive ACRE payments, revenue triggers for a commodity must be met on both a state and farm basis. The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) requires 2009 ACRE payments to be made as soon as practicable following the end of the marketing year, but no earlier than Oct. 1, 2010. Of the \$420 million in payments, about 70 percent are expected to be issued to wheat producers and 23 percent to corn producers. About 80 percent of the payments are expected to be issued to producers in Oklahoma, Washington, Illinois, South Dakota, Idaho and North Dakota. The only ACRE crop earning payments in Worth and Gentry Counties for 2009 was wheat.

Congress established ACRE as part of the 2008 Farm Bill to protect producers from farm market revenue declines. A list of state payment rates for the 2009 crops of barley, corn, dry peas, lentils, oats, peanuts, grain sorghum, soybeans, upland cotton and wheat is available at <http://go.usa.gov/CCS>.

For more information on the ACRE program visit the local FSA office or the website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp>.

## **Voting for County Committee Begins**

Ballots for this year's county committee election were mailed to eligible voters on November 5, 2010. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 6, 2010. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 6.

The candidates in this year's election in Gentry

County are Nancy Findley and Donnie Stevens. The area they are running to represent includes Athens, Howard and Bogle townships. In Worth County Helen Foster is running unopposed to represent producers in Smith and Allen townships. Eligible voters in these local administrative areas who have not received a ballot should contact either the Worth or Gentry County FSA office staff.

Mike Cook who has served as a county committee member and is the current chairperson of the Worth County FSA Committee will end his service to FSA in December due to term limits. A County Committee member is limited to no more than 10 consecutive years and Mike is completing the last year of his third 3-year term on the Committee. We thank Mike for his work and really appreciate his service to FSA and the agricultural producers in Worth County.

**Voter Requirements** Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, are eligible to vote:

- 1.** Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following: an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, *or* a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper; *or*
- 2.** Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; *and*
- 3.** Eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

**Discrimination Prohibited** No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

## **NAP Deadline**

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to FCIC catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT insurance is not available. Producers who already have coverage on 2010 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2011, if the applicable service fee is submitted by Nov. 20, 2010. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures

and pay the applicable service fee. The service fee is \$250 per crop per county or \$750 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1875 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties. NAP coverage is only available for crops not covered under the Federal Crop Insurance program. Producers are reminded about the need for insurance coverage on crops in order to remain eligible for the agency's Disaster Assistance Programs such as SURE, LFP, TAP, and ELAP.

Producers must purchase at least catastrophic (CAT) level of insurance for all insurable crops and producers must apply for coverage before a disaster strikes.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to remain eligible for NAP benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods.

For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.

- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, so the loss can be appraised and production counted before the crop is put to another use, abandoned or destroyed.

For more information on NAP coverage, please contact your local FSA office.

## Marketing Assistance Loans

Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) are available for producers who share in the risk of producing a crop. Interest rates are very attractive, with this month's rate at 1.25%. The loans are a very cost effective way to raise money for operating expenses without having to sell grain.

To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity, responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity, and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements, acreage reporting, and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity

Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible, they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC.

The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan. Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans. Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans.

The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

Remember, **Call Before You Haul.**

## FSA Financial Services Website

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) Financial Services website allows producers to generate reports that show both current and historical financial information. Registered producers may view summary and detail information about specific payments, collections, outstanding debt (excluding loans) and CCC-1099-G. Registered producers may enter their own information to assign a payment to a third party, request that a payment be made jointly to the producer and a third party, or route their program payments to their account at a financial institution. This makes it convenient to obtain your own information. FSA is currently undergoing a long term process to make it easier to do business with USDA. Currently, individual producers who have Internet access and have registered for e-authentication Level 2 may use the FSA Financial Inquiries website. Producers may sign-up for an e-authentication Level 2 Account on the [www.eauth.egov.usda.gov](http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov) website. Below are the steps needed to obtain an eauthentication Level 2 Account.

- To obtain a Level 2 Account you must complete a customer profile and submit it online.
- After submitting your customer profile, you will receive a confirmation email, and you must respond to it within 7 days to activate your account.
- Then you must complete the "Identity Proofing" process by visiting a local USDA Service Center and present a photo ID, such as your Driver's License. The Financial Management Information webpage is <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/fmi>.

### SURE Program

Since Worth and Gentry Counties received a Secretarial Disaster Declaration in 2009, producers will be eligible for the SURE program. All crops must have been insured. We expect signup to begin sometime in December.

### CRP Transition Incentive Program

Remember the CRP Transition Incentives Program (TIP) sign-up opened May 17, 2010. Retired or retiring owners or operators are encouraged to transition their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers. Generally, CRP contracts expiring in 2011 or later are eligible. Qualifying owners can receive two additional years CRP payments while the land is being farmed. The CRP acreage can either be sold or leased to the beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer. Contact your local FSA office for complete details on this program.

### Changing Banks

If you have changed banks and not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account. If we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in a producer's account such as type of account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office.

Dates to Remember	
Nov. 20	<b>Last day to apply</b> for NAP coverage for apples, apricots, blueberries, grapes, nectarines, peaches and pears.
Nov. 25	Thanksgiving Day Holiday. <b>FSA Offices Closed.</b>
Dec. 1	NAP application sales closing date for <b>honey</b>
Dec. 6	<b>Last day</b> to return voted Ballots in county committee election.
Dec. 9	Crop Assistance Program ( <b>CAP</b> ) signup <b>ends.</b>
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program.

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