



March 2011

**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 3rd
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

Mary Ewing
Bernard Runde
Helen Foster

**County Executive
Director**

Mark Cadle

Farm Loan Manager
Charles Meissen,

Fieldman
Bill Grabb

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www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

Hard to believe, but spring is once again almost here. As we begin thinking about the upcoming crop year, I want to remind producers that sign up for the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program and / or Average Crop Revenue Election Program is an annual sign up. The deadline to enroll in either program is June 1, 2011.

There will be a **general CRP sign up conducted from March 14, 2011 through April 15, 2011**. New acreage or CRP contracts that expire September 30, 2011 may be offered for enrollment during this time period. You need to be aware that this is a completely new sign up period. Your land will not automatically re-enroll or just because it is enrolled in CRP now does not guarantee that it will be accepted if re-offered. Many decisions are required to be made during the sign up period concerning items such as seeding mixtures, rental rates, and the necessary mid contract management practices that must be done. It will be difficult to handle all this information over the phone or by fax. I encourage all interested producers to make the effort to come to the office during the sign up period. The contract period is for 10 years so it is important that you completely understand the program before you offer acreage for enrollment. Let us explain it and answer your questions. The Gentry and Worth County offices will be extremely busy during the sign up period and I encourage you to call ahead for an appointment so that we can make your time in the office as short and productive as possible. CRP rental rates have increased significantly over the past couple of years which may make the CRP program very attractive to many landowners. See the article on the CRP General Sign up for more details.

Sign up for the **Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)** is also underway for the 2009 crop year. This program will provide assistance to eligible producers for income losses for the 2009 crop year. The **deadline to apply for SURE is July 29, 2011**.

Another important item to remember is that **NAP** coverage or crop insurance must also be purchased on all crops of economic significance to your farming operation by **March 15** of each year. Not having NAP coverage on forage crops has caused some producers to not be eligible for SURE payments for 2009 year. If you have questions concerning NAP be certain and contact the office before the **March 15th deadline**.

An article on each of these programs is included in this newsletter. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or stop in.

Have a safe and productive spring season, Mark Cadle

CRP General Sign up Begins March 14

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is conducting a general sign up period from **March 14, 2011 through April 15, 2011**. This is the second consecutive year that USDA has offered a general CRP sign up.

Landowners enrolled in the CRP program receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland. Land that is not currently enrolled in CRP can be offered during sign-up if all eligibility requirements are met. CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall can make new

contract offers during the sign up period. Offered land must be physically capable of being farmed, which means trees must be removed and gullies must be repaired before the end of the sign up period which is April 15th. Whole or partial fields may be offered. Landowners must provide a copy of the deed for all acreage offered. Contracts awarded during this general sign up will become effective October 1, 2011. If you wish to offer new or expiring land during this sign up period call your local FSA office to schedule an appointment.

2009 SURE Signup

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) began Jan. 10, 2011, and **ends July 29, 2011**. SURE provides benefits for 2008 - 2011 crop year farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. A farm enrolled in SURE may be eligible for benefits when either of the following is met:



*Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both. Gentry and Worth County received Secretarial disaster declarations in 2009.

* Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production of the farm because of disaster related conditions was less than 50% of normal production of the farm.

Contact your local FSA office for more details.

DCP Signup & Advance Payments

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011. Advance payments of 22% on the 2011 DCP program will be available starting December 1, 2010. The remaining 78% of your DCP payment will be issued after October 1, 2011. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. DCP contract signatures for enrollment are due by the signup deadline of **June 1, 2011**. For more information, producers can contact their local FSA office.

The ACRE Option

The Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of countercyclical payments under DCP. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. In exchange for participating in ACRE, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent. The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year. The June 1, 2011 deadline is statutory for all participants.

NAP Coverage Deadline

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. **March 15, 2011**, is the application closing date for forage, fruits and vegetables.

These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available for the crop. NAP is not available for crops when the Risk Management Agency (RMA) offers coverage.

Production records for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the final acreage reporting date for the crop for the following year. 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.

IRS Form 1099-G

Producers annually receive CCC-1099-G's detailing payments received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on CCC-1099-G's is a service intended to help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producers' responsibilities to report income to IRS.

FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy.

County Committees Organize

At their respective January meetings, the Worth and Gentry County Committees organized for 2011. In Worth County, Mary Ewing was elected Chairperson, Bernard Runde was elected Vice-Chairperson, and Helen Foster will serve as the third member. Regular Committee meetings are open to the public and are held the 3rd Thursday of each month at 8:00 a.m.

In Gentry County Mike Sager will serve as the Chairperson, David Waltemath will be the Vice-Chairperson and Donnie Stevens will be the third member. Nancy Findley will serve as an advisor to the Gentry County Committee. Their regular meeting date is the 2nd Friday of each month at 8:00 am.

2011 Food Security Act Compliance Status Reviews

The Natural Resources Conservation Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, as part of its responsibility in carrying the conservation provisions of the Food Security Act (FSA) of 1985, as amended, conducts compliance status reviews on a random selection of USDA program participants. Those that have been selected will be notified by letter early this spring. You are not required to be present during the status review, but you are certainly welcome. In order to review your farming practices the intended crop for this year needs to be planted.

Compliance reviews are conducted to ensure that farms receiving commodity payments are implementing and/or maintaining conservation practices. Status reviews are conducted on highly erodible (HEL) and wetlands (WET) designated farm tracts.

Farms with tracts found to be in non-compliance with the provisions are subject to revocation of certain USDA benefits in the crop year of the non-compliance violations, and for any future years until the USDA participant has fully applied and maintained, and/or restored the areas or tracts where the violations had been found.

USDA Weather Variance

During the 2010 growing season, many areas of Missouri received excessive rainfall amounts. Nearly every county in northern Missouri received 7" or more rainfall than normal. Farmers were forced to complete harvest under extreme wet conditions. The excessive moisture caused rutted up fields and loss of residue. Operators will have to decide how to maintain their approved conservation system during planting season. The NRCS District Conservationist can grant a temporary variance for 2011 due to excessive rainfall. This variance allows farmers to restore affected areas to prevent conditions prior to planting and to avoid noncompliance. All tracts granted this variance will be placed on the 2012 compliance review list. It is very important that the NRCS office is notified prior to beginning intended field work.



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.

Conservation Loan Program

The Farm Service Agency makes and guarantees conservation loans on farms and ranches to help conserve our natural resources. The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the credit necessary to implement conservation measures on their land. The direct CL's loan limit is up to \$300,000 and guaranteed CL's up to \$1,119,000 (amount adjusted for inflation), may be available by applying with lenders working with FSA to obtain a guarantee. Conservation practices must be approved by NRCS before FSA can provide financing. Producers who do not currently have an existing conservation plan should visit NRCS to develop one prior to requesting Conservation Loan Program assistance. Examples of conservation practices include installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; transitioning to organic production; manure management, including manure digestion systems; etc.

Youth Loans Available

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing 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 \$5,000.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

CCC-927 Or CCC-928 Must be Sent To IRS

Producers who participated in 2009 or 2010 programs subject to adjusted gross income limitations (AGI) had to certify compliance with AGI rules. The average AGI verification process for 2009 and 2010 payment eligibility requires all program participants to provide written consent to IRS for the disclosure of certain information to FSA. On October 6, 2010, a letter was mailed to producers who have not submitted: CCC-927: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Individual Form" and CCC-928: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Legal Entity" Individuals and legal entities, including members of legal entities, that certified to average AGI compliance for 2009 and/or 2010 payment eligibility must submit a completed CCC-927 or CCC-928 to IRS regardless of whether they received program benefits directly or as a member of a joint operation or entity. These forms must be submitted to IRS in order to avoid a demand for refund of program payments and benefits received.

BCAP The Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) provides financial assistance to producers or entities that deliver eligible biomass material to approved biomass conversion facilities (BCF) for conversion to heat, power, bio-based products or bio-fuels. Initial assistance is targeted to providing direct payments to eligible material owners to mitigate the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) costs associated with the delivery of eligible materials. Producers (eligible material owners) who sell these materials can apply for FSA matching payments under the matching payment provisions of BCAP CHST. An application and supporting eligibility documentation must be submitted before the eligible material is sold and delivered to a BCF to qualify for potential benefits. After the eligible materials are delivered, the eligible producer must provide FSA with documentation from the BCF reflecting the producer, product quantity, payment rate and date of transaction. County offices will validate submitted payment requests and if other eligibility requirements are met continue to complete the process for the producer. BCAP also allows the submission of area wide project proposals for review as a means of obtaining longer term approval as well as additional benefits through authorized cost share for establishment costs and an annual contract payment to support the development of the eligible biomass production in the area. Interested producers

Dates to Remember

March 14	CRP General Sign Up Begins.
March 15	NAP Application Closing Date for Many Crops.
April 15	CRP General Sign Up Ends
May 31	Final Availability for 2010 Year Marketing Loans for Spring Seeded Crops (corn, soybeans).
June 1	Deadline to Enroll into 2011 DCP and/or ACRE.
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program.

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are encouraged to review the information available on the FSA website. www.fsa.usda.gov/bcap and contact their local office for additional assistance.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for information.

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).