



February 2010

Harrison County Newsletter

Harrison County
USDA Service Center

Harrison County FSA
1400 N. 41st Street
Bethany, MO 64424
(660) 425-7635 – phone
(660) 425-3536 – fax

Hours:
Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee:
Glenn Dale Cox - Chair
Teresa Johnson -Vice
Mike Folgate – Member

Farm Program Staff:
Tony Thompson – CED
Kim Hulett – PT
Bettie Lee – PT
Korissa Robertson – PT
Paula Rinehart - PT
Linda Vandivert –PT

Farm Loan Staff
Charles Meissen, Manager
Teresa Akers, Officer
Pat Barnett – PT

The County Committee meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 8:00 AM – 12:00PM.



Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) sign-up Begins

Sign up for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) on 2008 crops is under way in Harrison County. SURE is a permanent disaster program created by the 2008 Farm Bill that replaces past crop disaster programs. Unlike those disaster programs that paid for losses by unit and crop, the SURE program is a “total farm” disaster program. This revenue based program compares crops’ expected revenue and program guarantee dollar amounts to the actual crop revenue of the entire farming operation. Entire farming operation refers to all farms and all interests, in all counties.

In order to be eligible for payments under SURE, you are required to have carried insurance at the CAT level or better on all insurable crops and NAP coverage on all non-insurable crops (hay for example) with an economic significance of 5% or greater, within the farming operation. In 2009 and subsequent years, RMA’s Rainfall Index policy is acceptable coverage for hay acres. For the SURE program, grazing acres do not require coverage.

The SURE program is available to eligible producers if two ‘triggers’ are met. First, the county must have received a Secretarial Disaster Declaration due to natural disaster, or be contiguous to a county with the declaration. Harrison County had a Secretarial Disaster Declaration in 2008. Second, at least one crop of economic significance in a producer’s operation must have a 10% crop production loss. For qualifying producers, if the total farm revenue is less than the SURE program guarantee, the SURE payment is made at 60% of the difference. The SURE guarantee is very similar to a producer’s crop insurance guarantee. Depending on the coverage levels, the higher the coverage the higher the guarantee level will be. There is an online calculator that can help producers estimate probable payments. You may access the calculator at www.fsa.usda.gov/mo.

If you believe that you might be eligible for SURE, please call 660-425-7635 and schedule your appointment. We will access your RMA (crop insurance) informational downloads and discuss the applicable eligibility requirements with you prior to your office visit.

Since the SURE program is available through 2011, as a producer, you can prepare your operation for SURE eligibility by insuring all economically significant crops in all counties each year.

2010 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2010. Producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2010 DCP contract. For 2010, eligible producers may request advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment.

ACRE

The optional ACRE Program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. The signup deadline is June 1, 2010. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications. 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. For 2010, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2008 and 2009 crop years. An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. Payment is based on 83.3% (85% in 2012) of the farm’s planted acres times the difference between the state ACRE guarantee and the state revenue times the ratio of the farm’s yield divided by the state expected yield. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. If you participate in ACRE, you cannot receive counter-cyclical payments, a farm’s direct payment is reduced by 20%, and marketing



assistance loan rates are reduced by 30%. 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.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from extreme adverse weather/natural disaster events. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of established normal mortality rates due to natural disasters, including losses due to floods, blizzards, wildfires, extreme heat, extreme cold, tornados, and lightning. The natural disaster must be a direct cause of the livestock death.

It will be the producers' responsibility to notify the county FSA office about their livestock deaths. Payments are based on 75% of the fair market value for each type and weight range of livestock as determined by FSA. ***Producers are reminded that LIP regulations require that they must file a notice of loss within 30 calendar days of when the livestock died in order to be eligible for LIP.*** Producers are also responsible for providing documentation of proof of death (pictures and veterinary inspections are suggested). Beginning inventory (as of the date of the adverse weather event) is also required. Verifiable evidence of normal mortality throughout the calendar year will be required with an LIP Application. Deaths due to normal mortality will be used in calculating eligibility percentages when a natural disaster occurs.

The program is intended to compensate producers for livestock deaths that are a direct result of weather-related events. Many losses may have weather as a factor, but not qualify as an eligible adverse weather event. Livestock that die from common diseases and illnesses are not eligible for payment. If you have questions about LIP, give us a call at 660-425-7635.



Highly Erodible Land & Wetland Conservation Compliance

Conservation compliance is required for participation in farm programs. As you visit your county office this spring, ***make sure to review your Conservation Plan of Operation (CPO) with NRCS.*** Extra tillage trips to remove ruts and level fields may require revisions to the CPO to remain in compliance. Contact NRCS before fieldwork begins to protect program eligibility.

1099-G

Producers who have received payments from FSA should have received a CCC-1099-G. A CCC-1099-G is a report to the Internal Revenue Service about FSA payments made to producers during the previous calendar year. The CCC-1099-G is a service to help participating producers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the program participant's responsibility to report income to the IRS.

When the CCC-1099-G is received, it should be checked with your records to see that the amounts are correct.

Refunds will no longer be reported on the 1099-G, but will be available online from the FSA Financial Inquiries (FSA-FI) web-based database. If you have a question concerning the 1099-G refund information, you may contact your local FSA office for assistance locating the correct payment data.

NAP Coverage Deadlines

Noninsured Crop Disaster applications are due at different times according to the crop being insured. Producers should apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage using form CCC-471 (Application for Coverage). Related service fees are due when the application is filed. The application and service fee ***MUST*** be filed by the crop sales closing date. ***2010 NAP sales closing date for forage and spring-seeded crops is March 15, 2010.***



Rural Youth Loans

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 \$5000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Conduct a modest income-producing agriculture-related project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the Harrison county office for help preparing and processing the application forms.

Adjusted Gross Income

USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to USDA. The agreement ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm

average AGI for conservation programs. Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service by June 15 to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at:

<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainervlet>.

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 more information. Spouses may sign for each other automatically without executing a power of attorney document.

FSA Signature Policy

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse. There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents. For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact your local FSA office.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

County Committee Election Results



Congratulations to Mike Folgate! Mike was elected to the FSA Harrison County Committee. Mike will be serving his first term representing producers in Grant, Trail Creek, Sherman, Fox Creek, Adams, and Sugar Creek townships.

We would like to thank Ryan Klindt for his 3 years of service on the County Committee.



FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

Dates to Remember	
Feb. 15	George Washington's Birthday. FSA Offices Closed.
March 1	NAP Sales Closing Date - Rice
March 15	2010 NAP sales closing date for forage and spring-seeded crops
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program.

Selected Interest Rates for February 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.625%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.875%
Limited Resource Loans	5.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
7-year Farm Storage Facility Loan	3.25%
10-yr. Farm Storage Facility Loan	3.75%

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.