



# Howell County News

June 2009

Howell County  
USDA Service Center

**Howell County FSA**  
3210 Hoover Drive  
West Plains, MO 65775  
417-256-7117 (phone)  
417-256-5564 (fax)  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/mo](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo)

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

**County Committee**  
Steve Gleghorn  
Pat Chapin  
Don Nielsen

**Staff**  
Dennis Johnson, CED  
Susie Williams, PT  
LeAnn Barnard, PT



## County Committee Elections “FSA Counts on You”

Since COC elections happen only once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into *local administrative areas*, or LAAs. Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee. Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. In counties with three LAAs, one seat is up for election. LAA3, consisting of Willow Springs, Dry Creek-Siloam Springs, and Goldsberry-Hutton Valley, is the area for this years election.

### Nominations

Candidate nominations for the FSA county committee election will be accepted June 15 through Aug. 3, 2009. Producers who are residents in the LAA holding the election, 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. The nomination form, FSA-669A, is available at the county office or may be downloaded from

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected. The completed nomination form must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Aug. 3, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 3, 2009.

### Voting

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 6, and must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Dec. 7, or postmarked by midnight Dec. 7, 2009. Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote. No one can 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.

### Candidate Eligibility

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate
- Not have been:
  - Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
  - Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
  - Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

For additional clarification about county committee elections, contact your local county office staff.

### DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until August 14, 2009. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. Signup in the ACRE option is also available through August 14, 2009. FSA 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 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this on-line service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

## Changes in Payment Limitations

The payment limitation provisions over the last 39 years have been expanded to more programs. Some of the changes in this area are listed below.

### New forms for 2009 and subsequent years

Anyone that plans to participate in 2009 programs is required to submit a completed CCC-902, CCC-926, and CCC-901, if applicable, for payment eligibility and payment limitation purposes. The form used prior to 2009 was named CCC-502. **Another change for 2009, all must make a contribution in an entity.**

All partners, stockholders, or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make a contribution, whether compensated or **not** compensated, for active--\*

- personal labor,
- personal management,
- or a combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation;

\*Note: there are exceptions for spouses.

Person or Legal Entity Payment Limitations	Limitation (in Dollars)
<b>Program Payment Type</b>	2009/ 2010/ 2011/20012
<b>Commodity Programs</b>	
Counter-cyclical and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE), except peanuts	65,000 <u>1/</u>
Counter-cyclical and Average ACRE payments on peanuts	65,000 <u>1/</u>
Direct payments on covered commodities except peanuts	40,000 <u>2/</u>
Direct payments on peanuts	40,000 <u>2/</u>
<b>Conservation Programs</b>	
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) annual rental payment.	50,000
Cost Conservation Stewardship Program (CSTP) for FY 2009-2012	200,000
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) FY 2009-2012	300,000
Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)	50,000
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)	50,000
Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)	50,000
<b>Disaster Assistance Programs</b>	
Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP); Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP); Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP); Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)	100,000
Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)	100,000
Tree Assistance Program (TAP)	100,000
Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP); Marketing Assistance Loans; Marketing loan gain (MLG)	No limits

1/ Under ACRE, this amount will be a combined limitation for counter-cyclical and ACRE payments. If a person or legal entity has a direct or indirect interest in payments earned on a farm participating in ACRE, this limitation will reflect an increase for the amount that direct payments are reduced.

2/ If the person or legal entity has a direct or indirect interest in payments earned on a farm that is in ACRE, this limitation will reflect a 20 percent reduction in direct payments on each far that is participating in ACRE. **Additional information on payment limitations is available at FSA county offices or on line at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)**

## Crop Reporting

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program, Supplemental Revenue (SURE) Assistance Program, Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments. The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The producer certification deadline for small grains is June 30, and July 31 for all other crops. Livestock Forage Program (LFP) pastureland, or grazing land acreage for which LFP benefits may be requested, must be reported by the final reporting date (July 31).

## CRP & NAP Certification

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. Crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported by final reporting date, or 15 days before harvest.

## Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting is to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

## Failed Acreage:

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions, not a management decision.

## Missouri FSA Changes NAP Sales Closing Dates for Strawberries & Blueberries

Missouri announced the deadline to purchase coverage under FSA's Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) has changed for strawberries and blueberries effective for the 2010 and subsequent crop years.

The sales closing date for blueberries and strawberries was previously March 15 of the year prior to the growing season. For strawberries, the new closing date for Missouri will be September 30 and for blueberries the new date is November 20. For coverage for the 2010 crop year, producers must purchase a NAP policy by September 30, 2009, or November 20, 2009, respectively.

The NAP program allows producers to have protection on crops in which catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. NAP coverage can provide financial assistance in cases where there is a crop loss or prevented planting due to a natural disaster. To apply for coverage, producers must complete a form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, and pay the applicable service fees at their local FSA office by the applicable sales closing date. The service fee is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. There are special provisions for limited resource producers for a waiver of fees. To apply for NAP coverage or to learn more about the program, visit your local FSA county office. Information is also available online at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

## Sodbusting

The term “sodbusting” is used to identify the plowing up of erosion-prone grasslands for use as cropland. Sodbuster violations are unauthorized tillage practices on highly erodible lands that converted native vegetation such as rangeland or woodland, to crop production after Dec. 23, 1985. Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs. Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production. If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates on a CPA-026 that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage, before bringing land into production. In addition, producers and the producer’s affiliates have to file an AD-1026 with the staff in the administrative or control county office before any farm program payments can be made. The AD-1026 is the producer’s signed certification that HELC, as well as wetland conservation, provisions will not be violated.

## Wetland Compliance

Producers renting or purchasing land that may have a converted wetland status need to check with the county office to learn if there are restrictions. The last thing FSA wants to do is to deny a producer benefits due to wetland non-compliance. The 1985 Farm Bill provides that, **unless exempt**, persons are **ineligible** for benefits under certain programs administered by USDA if they:

- plant an agricultural commodity on wetland that was converted after December 23, 1985
- convert a wetland after November 28, 1990

**FSA may not approve any loan or loan guarantee to drain, dredge, fill, level or otherwise manipulate a wetland, or to engage in any activity that results in impairing or reducing the flow, circulation or reach of water except in the case of activity related to the maintenance of previously converted wetlands.** The following provides permitted uses and restrictions of certain wetlands for compliance with Wetland compliance provisions:

- Wetlands can be farmed under natural conditions. However, **wetlands cannot be converted.**
- Wetlands converted before November 28, 1990, cannot be planted to an agricultural commodity and retain eligibility for benefits.
- Wetlands converted after Nov. 28, 1990, **must** either restored to wetland status or mitigated to regain eligibility for program benefits.
- Wetlands that can be farmed under natural conditions **cannot be manipulated in any way**, unless the Natural Resources Conservation Service determines the work would have a minimal effect on wetland values.
- Wetlands converted before December 23, 1985, can be farmed and maintained.

**Additional information about wetland compliance is available at USDA Service Centers.**

## 2009 Compliance

Compliance and spot checks will once again be utilized during the 2009 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, loans, etc., for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers is used to achieve a statistical sampling of participating producers. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer’s participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Marketing Assistance Loans, Loan Deficiency Payment Program, etc.

State and county offices shall view and print their producer spot check lists as posted on the designated website. If an entity is selected from the national database that is no longer farming or participating in the 2009 crop year, a notation shall be made on the spot check list. For more information about the new spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local office for additional clarification.



We want to congratulate Tom and LeAnn Barnard on the arrival of their new baby girl, Kaylee Catherine. She was born June 11, 2009, weighing 6 lbs 15 oz. and 21 inches long. She has joined her 2 year old big sister Gracie.



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

**Selected Interest Rates for June 2009**

90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.25%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.25%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	2.375%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.625%

**Dates to Remember**

June 30	Small Grains crop acreage reporting deadline
July 31	All other crops acreage reporting deadline
August 14	ACRE sign-up deadline
August 14	DCP sign-up deadline
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program

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