



Howell County News

January 2010

Howell County
USDA Service Center

Howell County FSA
3210 Hoover Drive
West Plains, Mo 65775
Phone: 417-256-7117
Fax: 417-256-5564
www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

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

County Committee
Steve Gleghorn
Pat Chapin
Don Nielsen

County Committee
Meets first Wednesday
Of each Month at 9AM

Staff
Dennis Johnson, CED
Susie Williams, PT
LeAnn Barnard, PT
Amy Peiter, FLM
Jim Kyle, DD



County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Donald Nielsen! Don was re-elected to represent farmers from LAA 3 (Dry Creek-Siloam Springs, Goldsberry-Hutton Valley, and Willow Springs) on the county committee. Don was elected to his 2nd consecutive term.

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.

The committee members will hold their organizational meeting in January to determine who will serve as the county committee chairman and vice-chairman.

SURE

The 2008 Farm Bill amended the Trade Act of 1974 to create the Supplemental Revenue assistance program (SURE).

The SURE program provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster that occurred in the crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. However, crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10 percent of the value of the coverage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

The following are the conditions that trigger SURE payments:

- at least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition
- crop of economic significance is a crop that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5% or more of the total ex-

pected revenue from all crops on the farm

- producers in counties declared disaster counties by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50% are eligible to receive SURE payments for crop producer or crop quality losses. Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

NAP Coverage Deadline

March 15th is the last day for producers to apply for Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage using Form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, and pay the service fee at the county office. To download the electronic "*NAP Basic Provisions Document*", form CCC-471 NAP BP, go to:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/ccc_471_nap_bp.pdf.

The application and service fee must be filed by **March 15th**, the deadline date for 2010 spring planted crops which include: forage sorghum, oats, potatoes, soybeans, sunflowers and all spring planted specialty crops grown for food.

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. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees.

To qualify, a producer must be a landowner, tenant or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop.

BCAP

FSA is currently accepting applications from biomass facilities interested in participating in the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP). BCAP provides financial assistance to producers or entities that deliver eligible biomass material to designated biomass conversion facilities for use as heat, power, bio-based products or bio-fuels. Ini-

tial assistance will be for the Collection, Harvest, Storage and Transportation (CHST) costs associated with the delivery of eligible materials. Once an agreement is signed between FSA and a facility allowing funding through the program to become available, the facilities can begin accepting materials.

Producers who sell these materials can apply for matching payments under the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) component of BCAP.

A biomass material producer is eligible to receive payments for two years. The purpose of the matching payments is to assist biomass producers with the CHST cost of delivering biomass to a qualified biomass conversion facility. Once a facility becomes qualified, eligible material owners or producers who deliver biomass to that facility may be eligible to receive CHST payments.

Eligible material owners or producers, who market eligible material to a qualified biomass conversion facility, may apply for the matching CHST payment at their FSA county office. An application must be submitted before the eligible material is sold and delivered to a qualified biomass conversion facility. After the product is delivered, a producer must provide FSA with documentation of product quantity, quality and payment rate. County offices will validate payment requests with information in the county office and information provided under the terms of MOUs with the qualified biomass conversion facilities.

LDP Deadline on Unshorn Lamb Pelts

Eligible producers have until February 1, 2010, to apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for unshorn pelts produced during the 2009 crop year.

Eligible producers must have beneficial interest in the pelts, owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. Producers must also comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands on which they operate or have interest.

To qualify for payment, pelts must have been produced by an eligible producer from live unshorn lambs of domestic origin in the United States.

Continuous CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is a private lands environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

Continuous CRP program participation is voluntary. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental

and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment.

To be eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year.

For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments or local Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) availability, please contact your local FSA office or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/crpecont03.htm>

Livestock Indemnity Program

Due to the current and impending weather conditions, livestock producers need to be aware of the application process for the Livestock Indemnity Program for livestock losses incurred during the 2010 calendar year.

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from disaster. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2010, and before December 31, 2010.

This program will provide livestock producers with a vital safety net to help them overcome the damaging financial impact of natural disasters.

Eligible ranchers and livestock producers must file a notice of loss within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent and an application for payment no later than January 30, 2011. Livestock deaths due to eligible adverse weather events must have occurred no later than 60 calendar days from the ending date of the adverse weather event.

Eligible livestock for owners under LIP includes Adult/non-adult dairy cattle, Adult/non-adult beef cattle, Adult/non-adult buffalo and beefalo, Equine as part of the farming operation, Elk, Deer, Sheep, Goats, Alpacas, Llamas, Emus, Poultry, and Swine.

Animals born at normal full-term or near full-term shall qualify if both the death was the direct result of an eligible adverse weather event and the birth produced a fully developed carcass that normally would have survived under normal weather conditions. Feedlot cattle will be eligible under LIP if all other eligibility criteria are met.

When application is submitted, participants must provide documentation of livestock deaths by either verifiable documentation or producer records, in conjunction with verifiable beginning and ending inventory records or third party certification. Contact the county office for examples of documenting both normal death losses and losses due to adverse weather.

To apply for LIP or to learn more about the program, visit the Howell County FSA office at 3210 Hoover Drive or call at (417)256-7117. The Oregon County office is located on Hwy 160W, Alton or call (417)778-7561. Additional information is also available online at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Kansas City Mails 1099-G

Soon, producers who have received payments from FSA should also receive a CCC-1099-G from the Kansas City office. A CCC-1099-G is a report to the Internal Revenue Service about FSA payments made to you 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. If you received a CCC-1099-G, we recommend that you check the amounts shown with those in your records to see that the amounts are correct. You should pay close attention to the information on the CCC-1099-G for accuracy. We believe refunds will not be reported on the CCC-1099-G, but will be available online from the FSA Financial Inquiries (FSA-FI) web-based database. Program participants with eAuthentication user ID's and passwords can access their refund information at FSA-FI and select "Inquiry Type 1099/Refund Reports". Refund amounts are displayed on the Producer's Year-to-Date Activity web page. The Debt Collection Improvement Act requires all Federal payments to be offset for all delinquent Federal debt. Beginning in Aug. 2009, all FSA payments were sent to the Department of Treasury. Therefore, if a producer's ID number matched the delinquent Federal debt, the Department of Treasury will make an offset of the FSA payment. Producers may still see \$1 or more payment from FSA when these offsets occur, but a letter from Treasury should also be received explaining the offset. If you have any questions on payments received, refunds you have paid or other questions regarding your CCC-1099-G, contact your local FSA office. If you choose to visit the office, please bring your CCC-1099-G with you.

AGI and Actively Engaged

USDA has finalized a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electron-

ic 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. This agreement will ensure 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 annually certify their eligibility to receive benefits** by either submitting a statement from a certified public accountant or an attorney, or by completing form CCC-926. This form may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainervlet>

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture.

The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

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.

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.

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.



ARMS: AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SURVEY

ARMS is the USDA's primary source of information on the production practices, resource use, and economic well-being of America's farm households.

Your participation in ARMS ensures that decisions affecting you, your family, your business, and your community are based on the facts, straight from the source.

CONSIDER: Just about every Federal policy and program that affects U.S. farmers and farm families is based on this information.

For more information visit www.nass.usda.gov or call (800) 727-9540

BETTER DATA = BETTER DECISIONS

Selected Interest Rates for January 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.875%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.75%
Limited Resource Loans	5.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer, Rancher or Socially Disadvantaged	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7-yr.	2.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 10-yr.	3.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 12-yr.	3.750%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.375%

Dates to Remember	
January 18	Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Offices Closed
February 28	NAP Sales Closing Date - Rice
March 15	NAP Sales Closing Date - Forage & Spring-seeded Crops
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

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

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