



Howell County FSA Office

3210 Hoover Drive
West Plains, MO
65775

417-256-7117: phone
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Hours

Monday – Friday
7:30am – 4:30 pm

February 2012

County Office Staff
Dennis Johnson,
County Executive
Director

Amy Peiter,
Farm Loan Manager

Susie Williams
LeAnn Barnard
Program Technicians

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

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to Patricia Chapin! Pat was re-elected to represent farmers from Benton, Spring Creek, and South Fork-Myatt Townships on the county committee. Pat was elected to her 3rd consecutive term. The election results for Local Administrative Area 2 are:

Patricia Chapin — Elected to the county committee (COC),
Scott Mahan — 1st alternate to COC,

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 held their organizational meeting in December and determined that Don Nielsen will serve as the county committee chairman and Pat Chapin as vice-chairman, Glen Wilbanks will be a voting member.

2012 DCP/ACRE SIGN-UP

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment will begin Jan. 23, 2012 and will end June 1, 2012. Here are some IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- All producers with an interest in **DCP base** acres must be included on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.
- All producers receiving a share greater than zero on the DCP/ACRE contract must sign the contract no later than June 1, 2012.
- Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1st in DCP/ACRE must be reported to your local FSA office such as:
 - Ownership changes
 - Producer changes (Individuals and Entities)
 - Change in crop shares arrangements

Note: Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 losses started on **Nov. 14, 2011** and runs through **June 1, 2012**.

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2010. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, except grazed crops.
- Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production on the farm because of disaster-related conditions is 50 percent or less than normal production of the farm.

NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP) MARCH 15 DEADLINE

Producers in Southwest Missouri with 2011 NAP grazing coverage have just received payments for pasture losses due to the drought and extreme heat in 2011. An independent assessment conducted determined there was a qualifying loss in an area beginning at the western border of Missouri and extending east and just overlapping into the southwest corner of Howell County. The Howell County Committee requested and approved the area to be extended to include the southern portion of the county.



NAP is now the only risk management tool available to livestock producers for 2012 crop year which is the last year of the current farm bill. The 2007 farm bill authorized the Livestock Forage Program through September 2011 and which NAP grazing coverage was required in order to be eligible. LFP is not authorized for 2012. NAP is the only program available for livestock for livestock forage producers wishing to protect themselves against natural disasters.

NAP is also available for non insurable crops. Howell and Oregon County have no insurable crops. If you're thinking about corn or soybeans for this year, contact us about coverage. Nap coverage is available for yield based crops such as corn, soybeans, grain sorghum and forage and hay crops.

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 2012 grazing acre coverage and coverage for 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 (LR) may request a waiver of service fees. See definition below.**

LR: Is a farmer or rancher that meets the criteria for both of the following: In each of the last 2 years - 1) gross farm sales not more than \$163,200 and 2) adjusted household income less than \$22,350 as entered on IRS Form 1040, Adjusted Gross Income Section. For FY 2012 programs this should be compared with your Adjusted Gross Income for 2009 and 2010.

Note. If a legal entity requests to be considered a "socially disadvantaged", "limited resource", or "beginning" farmer or rancher, at least 50 percent of the persons in the entity must in their individual capacities meet the definition as provided on form FSA-217. Farmer or rancher includes: "owners", "operators" and "other producers".

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. All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and 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 (FSA-153) 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.

FARMING OPERATION CHANGES

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND AND WETLAND CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

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.

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each

other on a CCC-931 Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information

- Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

CUSTOMER STATEMENT

January signals the beginning of a new year, and a time to starting thinking about filing taxes. Producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement. The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's at your fingertips and available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs; information on farm loans; and conservation plan and land unit information.

IRS Form 1099-G

Producers annually receive CCC-1099-Gs detailing payments producers have received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on CCC-1099-Gs 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.

FSA ADOPTING GOVDELIVERY

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation. Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail. FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers. Producers can now subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a minimum down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. If a participant provides 20% or greater down payment, then the requirement for a severance agreement for loans under \$50,000 will be waived. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department. Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount not to exceed \$250,000. Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin. Hay is an eligible commodity for farm storage facility loans along with grains, fruits and vegetables.

For more information about FSFL, please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

Dates to Remember	
February 20	Washington's Birthday (observed) Holiday – FSA offices closed
March 12	CRP General Signup 43 Begins
March 15	NAP Closing Date for Spring-seeded Crops
Continues	Continuum Conservation Reserve Program

Selected Interest Rates for February 2012	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	1.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7-yr.	1.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 10-yr.	2.00%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 12-yr.	2.250%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

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). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.