

**Laclede, Camden
& Pulaski County FSA**
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Lebanon Mo 65536
417-532-5741
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www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

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

County Committee
Homer Jones Jr.
C. Kent Ledbetter
Warren C. Hoffman
Adv. Berniece Hamilton

County Committee
Meets 2nd Thur. 9:00am

Staff
Darrel McCann, CED
Ava Baker, PT
Pam Akers, PT

2010 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) will continue through June 1, 2010. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2010 DCP contract.

USDA 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 2010, eligible producers may request advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment.

For more information on this or other programs, simply contact the nearest FSA office.

Conservation Security Program (CSP)

Receive financial assistance while conserving the natural resources of your operation! Producers who have implemented conservation practices on their operations such as rotational grazing, soil testing, interseeding legumes, livestock exclusion, and or timber stand improvement and are willing to implement additional conservation activities on the operations have a better than average chance of being enrolled in the program. During the last signup period producers accepted into the program will receive between \$14 and \$18 per acre for pastureland and \$4 to \$5 per acreage on forestland for up to 5 years. If you are interested, please contact NRCS staff in the Lebanon Service Center at 1-417-532-6305. Also visit www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov/programs for more information.



Acreage Reporting

Acreage reporting time will soon be here. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by the June 30th deadline on small grains and a July 31st deadline on all other crops.

Acreage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of June 30 for small grains and July 31 for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

Livestock Indemnity Program

LIP is an ongoing program to compensate producers for Livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather. There are no Disaster designations & no insurance requirements to be eligible for LIP – payments will be based on a producer's eligible loss due to adverse weather conditions which include lightning, ice storms, flooding, wildfire, blizzard, tornado, extreme heat or cold etc documented by the FSA county committee. Producers will need to file a notice of loss within 30 days of when a loss is apparent. Payment rates per head will be 75% of the market value of livestock, by kind, type & weight range, to be determined by CCC.

When a producer's first LIP application is filed for a calendar year a beginning livestock inventory will be required. Producers need to report all losses including normal mortality losses. Proof of death is required through verifiable records such as Veterinary records, insurance documents or tax assessor records. If these are not available then records such as bank records, vaccination or branding records may be used if accompanied by a verifiable record showing beginning and ending inventories. If the producer certifies in writing the above records are not available and lists the physical location of animals at time of death for FSA verification and provides some documentation of number of livestock in inventory at time of death then a third party certification may be used by someone not affiliated with the operation who witnesses the death or disposition.

Natural Resources Conservation Service Celebrates 75 years of “Helping People Help the Land”

NRCS will celebrate 75 years of assisting landowners with conservation on April 27, 2010. Originally called SCS (Soil Conservation Service), it was created out of concern for soil erosion during the dust bowl era. Although in 1994 the name was changed to Natural Resources Conservation Service, the focus remained on soil conservation.

Hugh Hammond Bennett was named the agencies first director for his arguments that soil erosion, if left untreated, would make the agricultural lands which provided the nations food source, useless. Bennett drove this point home when, during the congressional hearing the members stopped to watch a dust storm from the Dust Bowl go by. After this display of soil erosion the remainder of the meeting went smoothly.

What began with demonstration projects in specific watersheds was eventually spread throughout the nation. Different practices have been offered but, over the years the commitment to soil, water, air, plants and animals has remained the same.

The local NRCS office has been present in Laclede County for over 40 years, providing technical services, assisting the soil and water conservation districts and Farm Service Agency and administering federally funded programs.

So let us take the opportunity to say Thank you and Happy Anniversary to an agency who has served and continues to serve by Helping People Help the Land.



NAP Records

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit production records as soon as harvest is complete. All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.

HELCS & WC Compliance

Producers are reminded of the importance of compliance with highly erodible land conservation (HELCS) and wetland conservation (WC) provisions in order to remain eligible for USDA benefits. If producers plan to clear timber and plant an annually-tilled crop, they will need to complete an AD-1026 to have a Highly Erodible Land or Wetland Conservation determination. Producers who plan to plant an annually-tilled commodity that is currently in grass should check with their local FSA to be sure the field has an HEL determination. Producers who have ruts from last year's harvest should make sure that any tillage done to restore their fields will be in compliance with their conservation system to remain in compliance for USDA benefits.

Banking Changes?

If you have changed banks and not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in producer's account such as type account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

Direct and Guaranteed Loans

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 \$1,112,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

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
- be unable to get a loan from other sources
- 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 county office for help preparing and processing the application forms.

Farm Reconstitutions

In program terminology, farms are constituted to group all tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon.

- **Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;
- **Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold

must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

- **DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;
- **Default Method** — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

If payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded. Request for recons should be filed by June 1.

SURE

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters incurred 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. 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
- 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.

USDA Service Center Host Open House May 13th

The USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Laclede County Soil and Water Conservation District will be hosting an Open House and customer appreciation day on **Thursday, May 13th, 2010** at the USDA Service Center in Lebanon. In addition to NRCS celebrating its 75 birthday with cake and punch, staff and board members will be on hand to answer any questions you may have on the various programs available from the three agencies. Lunch will be provided between 11:00 and 1:00 pm. The FSA and NRCS in Lebanon administer federal agriculture related programs in Camden, Laclede and Pulaski Counties. Everyone is welcome. Please join us!

Dates to Remember

May 31	Memorial Day Holiday - Federal Offices are Closed.
June 1	Final date to sign up for DCP and ACRE
June 30	Final date to report small grains
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan program
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program

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