

Farm Service Agency

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SWCD Rental Equipment

The Lewis County soil and water conservation district have the following equipment available for rent.

- ◆ No till drill
- ◆ Vermeer Bale Buster
- ◆ Straw Tacker
- ◆ Tree Planter
- ◆ Level/Tripod/Rod
- ◆ Measuring Wheel
- ◆ Drip Torch
- ◆ Water Backpack
- ◆ Tree Spade (free rental)

Contact Audrey Rayl (573) 767-5274, Extension 101 for more information and regarding prices.



DCP and ACRE Sign-up Underway

Producers may now enroll in the 2010 DCP and/or ACRE Program. Signup ends June 1, 2010. 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 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. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price. The effective price for each covered commodity equals the direct payment rate plus the higher of the national average market price received by farmers during the 12-month marketing year or the national average loan rate.

Producers who are eligible for the DCP Program will also be eligible to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program.

The ACRE program was new for 2009 and is a farm by farm election. ACRE payments are calculated based on the actual crop acres planted (up to the previous crop base). Crop revenue will be determined by using the farm's previous 5 year production yields times prices based on a two year average. For 2010, the two-year price average will be based on the 2008 and 2009 crop years. The election to enroll in the ACRE program is irrevocable. The owner(s) of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled in ACRE, the farm will remain in ACRE through 2012 crop year. By enrolling in ACRE producers would give up some current benefits: a 20% reduction in direct payments, a 30% reduction in marketing assistance loan rates, and no counter-cyclical payments.

ACRE payments are triggered when both the Actual State Revenue for the crop year for the covered commodity is less than ACRE Program Guarantee AND Actual Farm Revenue is less than the Farm ACRE Benchmark Revenue.

Adjusted Gross Income Certification

Producers will be required to certify their AGI (Adjusted Gross Income) again this year when applying for benefits. Currently the provisions are as follows: **Average non-farm AGI** cannot exceed \$500,000 to qualify for commodity program benefits, **farm average AGI** cannot exceed \$750,000 to remain eligible for direct crop base payments and **average adjusted non-farm income** cannot exceed one million (with some exceptions) to remain eligible for Conservation programs. The rules for AGI provisions changed significantly last year and producers should be sure to review all information carefully before making their certification.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

SURE is a permanent disaster program created by the 2008 Farm Bill that replaces the previous “ad hoc” crop disaster program. Unlike previous 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 amount to the actual crop revenue of the entire farming operation. Entire farming operation refers to all farms, all interests, in all counties.

In order to be eligible for payments under SURE, producers are required to carry insurance on all crops with an economic significance of 5% or greater, within the farming operation. Crop insurance coverage of CAT level or higher for insurable crops and/or NAP coverage for non insurable crops is required. For 2009 and subsequent years, RMA’s Rainfall index policy is acceptable coverage for hay acres. Grazing acres do not require coverage under the SURE program.

SURE 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. Second, at least one crop of economic significance must have a 10% crop production loss. In the absence of a secretarial declaration, any farm in which actual production for all crops is 50% of normal production may also qualify. All Counties in our area received a Secretarial Disaster Declaration in 2008.

Sign up for 2008 losses under SURE is underway. County office personnel will access RMA informational downloads for application data. If a producer has production evidence that is not obtainable through the RMA download, such as double crop soybeans, hay/forage, fruits and/or vegetables, the producer must supply that production evidence. Regardless of insurance type or coverage level, the economic stimulus funding has created additional options under the SURE program. Every producer and each situation will be different, so it is in your best interest to inquire about the SURE program.

Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL)

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan. Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans. Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans. The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification. Loans are nine months in duration and are non-recourse, meaning the collateral can be forfeited in times of extremely low prices. If stored at an approved warehouse, arrangements for storage charges must be made.

Loan rates for 2009 crops are: Corn -- \$2.02; Soybeans -- \$5.15. Lien waivers shall be obtained prior to making application for the loan.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program Changes

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 new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a 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. New 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.

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.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

For more information contact our office.

General CRP Signup

There is the possibility of a CRP general signup in 2010. Producers are reminded that land must be physically capable of being cropped in order to be eligible for the program. Land currently enrolled in CRP that has tree/brush encroachment over the years will be ineligible unless physically capable of being cropped at the time an offer is made to participate in the program.

Lewis County FSA

County Staff

Mary Ann Evans
Pam Hunolt
Lisa Logsdon
John Wheeler—CED
Randy Scoggin

County Committee

Daniel Warning—Chair
Dale Stice—Vice Chair
Doug Lay—Member
Linda Rutledge—Advisor

County Committee meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 8:00 AM

Hours

Monday-Friday
7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

District Director

Tom Balsler
Shelby County

Farm Loan

Bill Bonine
Clark/Lewis County

Digital Photography Available:

Landowners who have access to the internet may find the following site of interest. Producers can access 2004 digital imagery for their land by using the map room link at <http://www.cares.missouri.edu/index.asp>

There will be no line work on the fields, but it is a good source of current photography. Producers can also access topographical maps, floodplain maps and measure distance and acreages.

United States Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency
Lewis County
502 S Washington
Monticello, MO 63457

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Dates to Remember

Dates to Remember

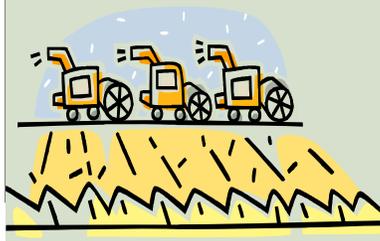
February 15
President's Day
Office Closed

June 1
DCP/ACRE
Deadline

June 30
Crop Reporting
Deadline

July 31
Crop Reporting
Deadline

July 31
ACRE Production Evidence
Deadline



Changes to CRP

There have been some changes in the Conservation Reserve Program applicable to the management practices that producers have to perform on contracts effective after 10/01/2003.

Some of those changes are:

- Mid-contract management practices will now only have to be performed once for some contracts.
- If the contract is 20 acres or less, 100% of the acreage can be treated in one of contract years 3-6.
- If the contract is 20 acres or less, 100% of the acreage can be treated in one of contract years 1-4 for re-enrolled contracts.
- Mowing is now allowed in conjunction with strip disking or chemical application at a rate of \$16.00 per acre and cost share of \$8.00 per acre. The average cost of burning has been adjusted to \$32.00 per acre and disking and chemical application are now each \$20.00 per acre.

Participants can change to the new policy by signing a modification to the conservation plan. Contact our office for more details.

Lewis County Committee Election Results

Dale Stice was reelected to the Lewis County Farm Service Agency County Committee and took his oath of office January 14, 2010. Dale and his wife Mary have three children and three grandchildren. Dale has farmed for more than 34 years and has owned his own repair shop for fifteen. Dale's favorite hobby is working. Dale is a valuable asset to the FSA committee.

Dale joins current members Daniel Warning of LaGrange; Doug Lay of Lewis-town, and Linda Rutledge of Monticello. The organizational meeting was conducted January 14th and Daniel Warning will serve as Chairperson, Dale Stice as Vice- Chairperson, Doug Lay as Member, and Linda Rutledge will serve as advisor to the committee for 2010.