



**Livingston
County
FSA Office**

1100 Morton Parkway
Chillicothe, MO 64601

660-646-6220 phone
660-646-4894 fax

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
The office will be
closed on all Federal
holidays.

County Committee

David Williams
Mary Smith

County Committee
meets the third
Thursday each month
at 8:30 a.m.

January 2011

County Office Staff

Program Technicians
Dianna Sewell
Anissa Johnson
Jeannette Straker

County Executive
Director
David Meneely

Farm Loan Manager
John McKinny

Farm Loan Officer
Gary Elrod

SURE (Disaster Program) Signup

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) began Jan. 10, 2011. SURE provides benefits for 2008 - 2011 crop year farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. A phone call to the office will place you on the register to have us calculate possible benefits from this program.

A farm enrolled in SURE is eligible when either:

- a portion of the farm is located in a county covered by a qualifying natural disaster declaration (USDA Secretarial Declarations only) or a contiguous county (Livingston County qualifies for 2009); or,
- actual production is less than 50% of the normal production.

2011 DCP/ACRE Signup

FSA offices continue to sign producers up for the 2011 DCP (Direct & Counter Cyclical) and ACRE (Average Crop Revenue Election) annual programs. The sign-up period will end June 1. Contracts are approved after all producers have signed the contract. For 2011, eligible producers may request to receive an advance payment based on 22% of their direct payment. The remaining 78 % of your DCP payment will be issued after October 1, 2011.

Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. DCP contract signatures for enrollment are due by the signup deadline of **June 1, 2011**. For more information producers can contact their local FSA office.

Annual Notice to Producers

FSA is required annually to notify producers of many program requirements, policies, and reminders. The following are some of those notifications:

Spousal Signatures: Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) programs in which either has an interest. In most cases, this option is automatically available unless a request for exclusion is made to the county office

staff by either spouse. Exceptions include: claim settlements and lien filings.

Power of Attorney: We have a power of attorney form for those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc, that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the FSA office. This can be done by completing an FSA-211, Power of Attorney. The form is available at your local USDA Service Center or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>

Forms obtained and completed outside the USDA Service Center must be notarized. To find out more, call the office.

Foreign Landowners: The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act 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 within 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.

Faxed Signatures: Certain faxed signatures shall be accepted for all applicable program forms or other documents approved for faxed signatures, if all other requirements are met.

Reasonable Accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the FSA County Office staff, and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are necessary.

Direct Deposit Mandatory: As of Jan 1, 1999, all payments issued by the county FSA office will be by direct deposit (electronic funds transfer) to a predesignated checking or savings account with your financial institution. Forms are available at the FSA office to sign up for direct deposit if you haven't yet. For those already signed up, it is important that we are notified anytime there is a change in your account number or financial institution. If we are not notified timely, future payments may be delayed.

Controlled Substance: Any person who is convicted under federal law of planting, producing, cultivation, harvesting, growing, or storing a controlled substance will be ineligible to participate and receive payments under USDA programs. Marijuana, opium poppies, and other drug producing plants are controlled substances.

Reporting Farm Changes: It is also the producer's responsibility to notify FSA of ANY changes in their farming operation or entity status throughout the year. Changes that may affect a determination include, but are not limited to, a change in contract shares which may reflect change of land lease from cash rent to share rent or from share rent to cash rent; addition or deletion of a farm; change in the structure of the farming operation, such as individual to a corporation or trust; change in contributions or inputs such as personal labor, or change in farming interests.

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland 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. Contact should be made to the USDA Service Center prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance, which is recorded on form AD-1026.

USDA's Risk Management Agency Unveils Proposed Rule to Reward Farmers Participating in Federal Crop Insurance Program

The Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency (RMA) announced that it has published a proposed rule in the Federal Register that would reward farmers participating in the federal crop insurance program for good performance.

"This proposed Good Performance Refund will benefit qualifying farmers and ranchers across rural America and strengthen the Federal crop insurance program," said RMA administrator, William J. Murphy. "It encourages producers to use the best available management practices in order to qualify for the refund in future years and rewards good performance by returning a portion of the out-of-pocket costs paid for crop insurance premiums back to those who have paid into the program and have had limited or no losses."

Under the proposed program, payment amounts would vary by producer and will be based on each qualified producer's history in the program. RMA estimates that the average refund amount per producer this year will be about \$1,000. The program has a proposed maximum limit at \$25,000, with a minimum payment of \$25. The first year of the proposed program will use data from 2009 and prior crop years because not all 2010 data is finalized. RMA expects that this proposed Good Performance Refund program will provide producers in rural America with about \$75 million this year in crop insurance refunds. It is estimated that the proposed program would benefit farmers and ranchers in over two-thirds of counties nationwide.

This proposed program is made possible by the savings realized from the Obama Administration's recent Standard Reinsurance Agreement public an opportunity to review the proposed rule and prepare comments to be submitted during the comment period. The proposed program is intended

to be available before the spring planting season.

RMA encourages any comments or submission of opinion on this matter.

IRS Form 1099

Producers annually receive CCC-1099's detailing payments they have received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on CCC-1099 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, the county office staff can review payments for accuracy. The 1099 is mailed from KCMO but County Offices have access to the report to be able to assist producers if they have any questions.

LDP Deadline on Unshorn Lamb Pelts

Eligible producers have until Jan 31, 2011, to apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for unshorn pelts produced during the 2010 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 they operate or in which they have an 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.

Appeal Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options your can pursue if you disagree.

Generally, program participants have three choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

| Selected Interest Rates for January 2011 | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 90-Day Treasury Bill | 0.125% |
| Farm Operating Loans — Direct | 1.75% |
| Farm Ownership Loans — Direct | 4.50% |
| Limited Resource Loans | 5.00% |
| Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher | 1.50% |
| Emergency Loans | 3.75% |
| Farm Storage Facility Loans 7-yr. | 2.50% |
| Farm Storage Facility Loan 10-yr | 3.125% |
| Farm Storage Facility Loan 12-yr | 3.375% |
| Commodity Loans 1996-Present | 1.25% |

Conservation Reserve Program Celebrates 25 Years

Edward J. Hamill, Executive Director of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Missouri announced the 25th anniversary of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) which has protected our nation's natural resources since the signing of the historic Food Security Act of 1985. The act provided for the establishment of CRP and for the protection of highly erodible land.

"CRP has a 25-year legacy of successfully protecting the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation," said Hamill. "Although it was designed to address soil erosion, CRP has become one of the standouts in the USDA arsenal of conservation programs by continuing to provide significant economic and environmental benefits beyond its original intent."

CRP was introduced at a time when soil erosion exceeded more than 3 billion tons per year, wetlands were being drained, water quality was deteriorating and wildlife populations were under stress due to the loss of habitat. CRP provided solutions to all of these problems. Since its inception, the program has helped reduce soil erosion by 622 million tons, provided natural habitats for wildlife, restored more than 2 million acres of wetlands and removed millions of tons of carbon dioxide from the air.

CRP, which is administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), is a voluntary program that encourages agricultural landowners to convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover. Landowners receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term conservation practices on eligible farmland. To date, the total national CRP stands at 31.3 million acres enrolled in nearly 738,000 contracts. In Missouri, there are 1.4 million acres enrolled in 37,000 contracts.

Another general signup is expected this year for contracts expiring in 2011 and eligible new acreages producers wish to offer. Watch for details in future newsletters. The average maximum soil rental rate for Livingston County is \$122 per acre.

| Dates to Remember | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jan 31 | Deadline for 2010 LDP on wool, mohair and unshorn lamb pelts |
| Feb 21 | Office closed for President's Day |
| Mar 15 | Final date to purchase NAP Ins coverage on hay, pasture & other NAP crops |
| Mar 15 | Final date to purchase FCIC Crop Ins on Corn/beans |
| Mar 31 | Final date to obtain a loan or LDP on wheat & oats |
| May 31 | Final date to obtain a loan or LDP on corn & beans |
| June 1 | DCP sign up ends |
| Continues | Farm Storage Facility Loan Program. |
| Continues | Continuous Conservation Reserve program. |



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

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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 and employer."