



September/October 2008



Nodaway County News

Nodaway County Farm Service Agency

Nodaway County FSA

502 W South Hills Dr
Suite 104
Maryville, MO 64468
660-582-7423 (phone)
660-582-8366 (fax)

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Joyce Ecker, Chairperson
Larry Tobin, Vice Chair
Richard Fletchall, Member

Staff

Tim Dreier, CED
Charlotte Holeman, FLM
Tom Shelton, FLO
Brian Wheeler, FLOT
Marianne Adkins, PT
Teresa Blackford, PT
Marilyn Buhman, PT
Judy Fast, PT
Tammy Luke, PT
Re'nee Schrader, PT
Norma Kenny, PT
Andrew Lance, FA
Eric Redden, FA

Issue Highlights

- DCP Sign up
- Power of Attorney
- CRP Re-enrollment
- CRP Reminders
- COC Elections
- Meet Brian Wheeler
- Wind Turbines & FSA
- RMA & NAP Sales Closing Dates
- Dates to Remember

Nodaway County Producers:

The fall harvest season is almost upon us which means it is about time to get the combine greased up and ready to roll. It has been an interesting year to say the least. The cold, wet spring combined with June floods played havoc with our planting dates. Then the dry August added insult to injury for our crops and now it looks like, (and sort of feels like) we could have an early fall as the temperatures drop. All this should make for yields that are varied at best.

Here in the office we have completed crop reporting, are cleaning up after the SURE buy-in, are about to wrap up 2008 DCP signup, and are prepping for a big round of payments that will be made after the first of October. In this edition of the Nodaway County News I felt we should address a couple of points and get you as up to date as possible on what's happening at your local office.

SURE: You should have received a one page flyer in August about the Supplemental Disaster Program (SURE) and the 2008 "buy-in". It gave you some very good information on how SURE works. In a nutshell, if you wish to remain eligible for disaster assistance under the SURE umbrella you must be insured "fence row to fence row". This means that all RMA eligible crops (corn, beans, wheat, etc.) that you grow must have CAT level or better coverage and that any Non-Insured Crop Disaster Program (NAP) eligible crops (alfalfa, grass hay, pasture, fruits and vegetables, etc.) must have NAP coverage to keep your operation eligible for SURE benefits. This requirement makes it imperative that you know the sales closing dates for Federal Crop and NAP for all the crops that you produce. If any one crop is not covered then you could lose SURE benefits to all of them. **I mention this now because the deadline to purchase 2009 wheat insurance is September 30, 2008.** You can find a list of sales closing dates for several Nodaway County grown crops on the back page of this newsletter.

Also, for 2009, be advised that the fees for NAP coverage are increasing from \$100 per crop to \$250 each with a maximum of \$750 per producer per county. CAT fees will also rise in 2009 from \$100 to \$300 per crop per county as well.

Some other items of interest contained in this newsletter include:

- The DCP sign-up deadline is September 30th.
- Expiring CRP contract re-enrollment.
- CRP reminders
- County Committee election

Lastly, I have received a few inquiries about the 2009 farm program. I realize that there has been much written concerning the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program which starts in 2009 but to date the rules for this program have not been finalized. As soon as they do become available I will publish them via this newsletter, news releases, and I do plan to have producer meetings. At this point we are being told that sign up for 2009 will not be until after the first of the year.

As always if you have questions about any program please contact the office and we'll do our best to assist you.

Tim Dreier

2008 DCP Sign-up Continues

Producers have **until September 30, 2008**

to sign-up for the 2008 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP). Producers can fill out their 2008 DCP contract at any USDA Farm Service Agency County Office. Sign-up can also be completed online by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/edcp> and clicking on "Access eDCP Service." Producers choose payment options, assign crop shares and sign and submit contracts from any computer with Internet access and also view and print submitted contract options. Producers who have not used their eAuth account for 180 days will have inactive accounts. If this happens, producers will need to contact the ITS helpdesk at the following telephone numbers: 1-800-457-3642, then Option 1, to reactivate their account.



FSA computes DCP 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 2008, eligible producers may request to receive an advance payment of 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. FSA will issue advance direct payments as soon as practical after enrollment. Final direct payments will be issued after Oct. 1, 2008. Counter-cyclical payments vary depending on market prices, and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate).

To be eligible for DCP payments, owners, operators, landlords, tenants, or sharecroppers must:

- share in the risk of producing a crop on base acres on a farm enrolled in DCP, and be entitled to share in the crop available for marketing from the base acres or would have shared had a crop been produced;
- annually report the use of the farm's cropland acres;
- comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements on all of their land;
- use the base acres for agricultural or related activities;
- **protect all base acres from erosion, including providing sufficient cover as determined necessary by the county FSA committee, and control weeds.**

Power of Attorney

FSA has a required power of attorney form available for those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., that enables the participant to designate another person to conduct his or her business at the office. The form is available at your local USDA Service Center or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>. The FSA-211 form obtained and completed outside the USDA Service Centers offices must be notarized. To find out more, call the office.

Re-Enrolling Expiring CRP Contracts

CRP contracts expiring on September 30, 2008 may be eligible to be re-enrolled with new 10- to 15-year continuous contracts, provided the current contract scheduled to expire in September is in full compliance. If re-enrolled, the new continuous signup contract would begin October 1, 2008. All re-enrolled continuous signup CRP contracts will require new conservation plans to be developed. Other provisions may also apply.

For further information regarding re-enrollment of an expiring CRP contract or for information regarding conservation and wetland compliance provisions for land leaving CRP and returning to crop production, please contact your local FSA office.

Please note that after the expiration of a CRP contract that had been devoted to trees, the acreage will no longer be considered cropland and may become ineligible for CRP or other farm programs. However, this provision does not apply for acreage immediately re-enrolled into a new contract without any intervening period of time.

Also, be advised that new Soil Rental Rates which dictate the price that land can be enrolled under the CRP Program will be increasing in the near future. While the specifics of each soil type are not available at this time the county average price is estimated to raise approximately \$20/acre.

If you are interested in re-enrolling your CRP acreage please contact the Nodaway County Office for specifics that are applicable to your farm and contract(s).

Other CRP Reminders

The above 2008 policy does not waive or negate the other on-going CRP requirements:

- Management practices are still required as scheduled in your conservation plan. Be very aware that work completed after October 1 will count for 2009. **Be sure to report all management practice work completed in fiscal year 2008.**
- You can still participate in managed haying/grazing by paying the 25% rental fee, and thereby hay or graze the entire field. You can hay/graze every third year. Dates are July 16-Sept. 30. The bales must be removed by Sept. 30th as well under managed.
- Plant required food plots and report them to FSA.
- All haying activity for the summer of 2008, including Critical Feed Use, must be reported to FSA in order to chart the history and allow the contract to be paid. Bales must be removed by November 10th under CFU.
- **Emergency Haying and Grazing is available in Nodaway County until September 30.** This allows a waiver of the "three year" rule, but haying or grazing would count in 2008. The regular fee of 25% of the rental payment applies to this activity. Bales must be removed by October 30th under emergency.

County Committee Elections

Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters by Nov. 3 in preparation for the election to be held December 4. Voter ballots must be returned to the county office **by Dec. 1** or postmarked by midnight Dec. 1, 2008. This year, one person will be elected to represent LAA 2, which is Lincoln, Atchison, Hopkins, Union, Nodaway, and Green townships. The person elected will take office January 1, 2009.



County committee elections give farmers and producers an important opportunity to ensure that their FSA county committees represent them. Farmers and producers who serve on county committees help make decisions necessary to administer federal farm programs offered in their communities.

County committees make decisions on agricultural issues such as commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, disaster payments and employing County Executive Directors.

Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote. No one can be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

If you participate or cooperate in programs administered by FSA and live in the local administrative area conducting an election, you may be nominated for candidacy for a committee. We encourage everyone to participate in this process. You can obtain a complete list of eligibility requirements by visiting the county office or online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/cocelig06.htm>.

Financial FACTS for agriculture's future

Respond to USDA's Agricultural Resource Management Survey and let the financial facts be known for agriculture's policies and programs.



NASS

Fact Finders for Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Meet Brian Wheeler

The Nodaway County office has a new face in it. Brian Wheeler has been assigned to the Nodaway County Farm Loan Team as a Farm Loan Officer Trainee. Brian was raised in Hardin, Missouri and graduated from Hardin-Central High School in 2001. He grew up working on a family farm that consisted of hog and row crop production. Brian graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia in December of 2005 with a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture Business Management. After graduating, he managed a hog production facility department in East-Central Illinois. For the better part of the last two years, Brian has been an Agriculture Lending Specialist for a bank in Richmond, Missouri. Some of Brian's interests include pheasant and quail hunting, farming, and going to sporting events.



Brian will spend approximately the next twelve months training with this office before his next assignment. Welcome aboard, Brian!

Wind Turbines and FSA

The wind farm at Conception Junction is up and running and groups of wind turbines are planned for different areas across the county. The Nodaway County Office felt you should be aware of your options should you be considering having one constructed on your farm especially if you participate in the CRP Program or are a Farm Loan Program borrower.



Any land where government assistance is being received by the farmer (CRP, WRP, Farm Loan borrower) will need an assessment of potential environmental impact, which is required by law. Federal law requires what impact the wind turbine could have on historical sites or endangered species of plants and animals to be assessed. These assessments can be fairly simple or quite involved and costly to the farm owner.

If you are participating in FSA's CRP, WRP, or the direct or guaranteed loan program please contact the office prior to executing any leases and/or contracts with a wind power company so that we can properly inform you of your options.



**2009 Sales Closing Dates by Crop in Nodaway County for
 Crop Insurance or Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance (NAP)**

**Insurable Crops
 (Purchased through RMA)**

Corn	3/15/09
Soybeans	3/15/09
Grain Sorghum	3/15/09
Popcorn	3/15/09
Wheat	9/30/08

**NAP Crops
 (Purchased through FSA)**

Alfalfa	3/15/09
Grass Hay	3/15/09
Barley	3/15/09
Oats	3/15/09
Potatoes	12/31/08
Pumpkins	3/15/09
Sweet Corn	3/15/09
Tomatoes	3/15/09
Watermelons	3/15/09

If you will be planting a crop that is not listed above and revenue will be generated from that crop, you are required to purchase either crop insurance or NAP to be eligible for the Supplemental Disaster Programs. Please check with the applicable office to determine the sales closing date.

Dates to Remember

Sept. 30	Final date for DCP contract initiation
Sept. 30	Final date to hay CRP under Managed, Emergency or Category B/C CFU release
Sept. 30	Purchase 2009 Wheat Insurance RMA deadline
Sept. 30	Final date to remove bales from CRP under Managed release
Oct. 13	Closed – Columbus Day
Oct. 15	Final date for signatures on DCP contracts
Oct. 30	Final date to remove bales from CRP under Emergency release



Farm Service Agency



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.