**Info to be “In the Know”**

Please see the following articles inside this newsletter for more details on each.

- **Acreage Reporting Deadline**—All crops and land uses (including CRP and grasses) must be reported to FSA by **August 1, 2011**. $46 late file fee for reports after this date.
- **2009 SURE sign-up deadline approaching**—If your operation in 2009 had a 10% or greater loss on any one crop and you had CAT level or better crop insurance on all crops you may be eligible for SURE benefits. Sign up deadline is **July 29, 2011**.
- **County Committee Nominations Deadline**—The deadline to nominate yourself or someone you feel would make a good county committee person is **August 1, 2011**. In 2011 we will be having an election for the NW portion of the county, Local Administrative Area-2.
- **Retirement**—The Nodaway County FSA Office will be losing a staff member to retirement on August 31, 2011. Please see the article on page 2.

**County Committee Nominations Deadline August 1**

County Committees (COC) are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They direct the delivery of FSA farm programs at the local level and work within national guidelines to help programs fit the needs of their communities. Committee members provide general oversight, review and act on appeals from program participants, keep the state FSA committee informed of issues in their county, and provide a link between the Agency and local producers.

Since June 15th, FSA has been accepting nominations for candidates from Local Administrative Area Two (LAA-2) holding this year’s election. LAA-2 covers the Atchison, Green, Hopkins, Lincoln, Nodaway, and Union Townships in Nodaway County. Only producers living in these townships are eligible to be nominated for the COC in 2011.

Joyce Ecker currently represents the producers of this area on the COC but has reached the limit on the number of years a producer may serve and will not be eligible to run again. Thus, we will have a new representative for this area.

USDA and FSA is committed to increasing the participation of all farmers including women, minorities and beginning farmers. You may nominate yourself or someone else as a candidate.

Candidates must:

- Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch.
- Live or farm in the LAA holding the election for the given year
- Participate in FSA administered programs.

If you would like to represent the producers in this area of the county on the COC or if you’d like to nominate someone you believe would make a good representative please stop by the office and submit an FSA-669 form by August 1, 2011.

**Recorded Rainfall at the Nodaway County FSA Office**

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Visit our Website at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/mo](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo)
Marilyn Buhman
Retirement Reception
August 24th from 1:00 to 3:00

The Nodaway County FSA Office would like to invite producers from around the county to a retirement reception at the USDA Service Center to honor Marilyn Buhman for her years of service to FSA and the producers of this county. Marilyn’s 25 year career with the agency began in March 1986, just as the new Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) was beginning. Marilyn is the resident expert on CRP and her knowledge and expertise will be sorely missed in the office.

In retirement Marilyn plans to dote over her grand-kids and keep Don out of trouble!

We hope many of you will take the opportunity to stop by to thank her for the years of service and wish her well in retirement!

Acreage Reporting Deadline
August 1st Fast Approaching

Producers are reminded that we need your final crop report for corn, soybeans (including double crop), CRP, hay & pasture, fruits and vegetables, and any other land uses by August 1, 2011. Crop reports, including prevented planted and failed acreage, are required for most FSA programs including SURE, CRP, DCP/ACRE, and commodity loans. Any reports after this day can be taken with a late-file fee of $46 per farm. Remember, it is important that acreage and shares are consistent with USDA Farm Programs, crop insurance and crop sales receipts. Please visit your office as soon as possible to timely file your report.

Compliance

Compliance and spot checks will once again be utilized during the 2011 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers is used to achieve a statistical sampling of participating producers. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer’s participation in CRP, DCP, LDP’s, etc.

USDA Reminds Producers to File Adjusted Gross Income Consent Forms with the IRS

In order to receive USDA program payments, each payment recipient must have an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) verification consent form on file with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The consent form authorizes IRS to verify for FSA whether a payment recipient’s AGI meets the eligibility requirements for FSA programs.

The form became a requirement for payment eligibility beginning with the 2009 crop year, however many program participants have not complied with this requirement. IRS and USDA reports show that, nationwide, FSA is still missing the required consent forms from many producers for 2009 and 2010.

To avoid an interruption of program payments, producers need to turn these forms in to the IRS immediately if they have not done so already. Individuals must submit form CCC-927 and legal entities must submit form CCC-928. Without these forms on file, producers will not receive USDA program payments.

These consent forms are required for payments received from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), as well as those received through FSA. Completed forms must be returned to IRS by the producer, not FSA.

FSA eAlerts

Missouri FSA introduces FSA eAlerts—a new way to receive FSA program reminders via e-mail or text. You can sign up for eAlerts at your County Office and choose whether you would like to receive information via e-mail, text or both. If you elect to receive information by text, remember standard text messaging rates apply. Consult with your cellular carrier to discuss your text plan details. You can opt out of receiving FSA eAlerts at any time.

You will still receive your FSA newsletter, but Missouri FSA will discontinue sending postcard reminders for upcoming sign ups and deadlines. FSA eAlerts are provided as an additional service to Missouri FSA producers. Always refer to your county office newsletter for program information and bookmark www.fsa.usda.gov/mo to check back frequently for program deadlines and information.
2009 Crop Year SURE Sign-up
Deadline July 29th

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) began Jan. 10, 2011, and ends July 29, 2011. SURE provides benefits for 2008 - 2011 crop year farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. A farm enrolled in SURE may be eligible for benefits when either:

- farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, 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 of the farm because of disaster related conditions is less that 50% or less than normal production of the farm.

Nodaway County received the Secretarial disaster declaration in 2009 for SURE purposes. If your operation in 2009 had a 10% or greater loss on any one crop and you had CAT level or better crop insurance and/or NAP coverage on all crops of economic significance you may be eligible for SURE benefits.

The deadline to sign-up for 2009 SURE is July 29th.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting 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 set-back 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 $1,119,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

Rural Youth Loans

FSA 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 experience. The maximum loan amount is $5,000.

Expanding CRP Contracts

You may be aware that FSA has recently had two general CRP sign ups These were the first general CRP sign ups FSA has offered since 2006. Both of these sign ups allowed producers who had contracts that were going to expire that year on September 30th, to re-offer their acre. It is assumed that this same process will continue each year allowing producers of expiring contracts to re-offer them via a general sign up. Again, this is only an assumption, a sign up or an official plan has not been announced.

During those last two general sign ups our office has found numerous expiring CRP farms that had tree and gully issues. For your CRP acreage to be eligible to be offered if/when a sign up does become available it must meet all CRP eligibility criteria. Trees and gullies will not be eligible. Per paragraph 151 of Handbook 2-CRP, for land to be considered as eligible to be offered into CRP it must “be physically capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity.” The Nodaway County Committee does not consider CRP acreage with tree and gully issues as being physically capable of being planted in a normal manner and as such will deem those acres ineligible to be re-offered.

Producers who have contracts that will expire in the next few years are encouraged to begin to evaluate your acreage now for potential issues. If you have trees and/or gullies you should address them as soon as possible. The acreage must be “openly cropable” at the time of re-offer or it will not be eligible.

CRP Managed Haying/Grazing

Certain CRP contracts may be eligible to be hayed or grazed under managed haying and grazing provisions of the contracts compliance plan. Managed haying and grazing is allowed once every three years on the same acreage. In 2011, any CRP hayed or grazed in 2009 or 2010 would not be eligible. Eligible CRP practices include CP-1, CP-2, and CP-10. CRP participants interested in haying or grazing their CRP must do the following:

- Request prior approval
- Obtain a modified conservation plan
- Once completed must report actual acres
- Pay a fee of 25% of the per acre rate of the CRP contract on acres actually hayed or grazed

Haying and grazing is approved from July 16th through September 30th. Contact the FSA office for more details or to request acres to be released.
Did You Miss the DCP Sign-up Deadline?

No, you didn’t! Most producers made it in by the June 1st deadline and timely filed for 2011 DCP benefits. However, our office will still complete DCP and ACRE contracts for producers under late-file provisions. Thus, producers still have time to get signed up in case they missed the earlier deadline. They can still receive the 22% advance payments and expect the balance to come in October. If you still haven’t signed up you should come by the office at your earliest convenience to do so.

Would You Like to Cut Down on Time Spent in the FSA Office?

If so, please call 660-582-7423, ext 2 to schedule an appointment prior to visiting us! Scheduling appointments allows us to prepare for your arrival and greatly reduce your waiting time.

Are You Getting eAlerts?

Producers who utilize email and cell phone text messages can now receive urgent and timely FSA updates! Interested Missouri producers may sign up for eAlerts at your County FSA Office and choose whether you would like to receive information via e-mail, text or both. Please see the enclosed article for more details.

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

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).