Oregon County FSA Office

Route 2 Box 2924
Alton, MO 65606

Phone: 417-778-7561
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Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

June 2011

County Office Staff
Dennis Johnson
County Executive Director

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Farm Loan Manager

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Martha Henderson
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Visit our Website at:
www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

COUNTY COMMITTEE (COC) NOMINATIONS:

Since COC elections happen only once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into *local administrative areas,* or LAAs. Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee. Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three year term is expiring. In counties with three LAAs, one seat is up for election. In combined counties in some years, two seats may be up for election. **Nominations:** Producers who are residents in LAA 3 (Couch, Billmore, Jeff, Myrtle, & Cedar Bluff townships) and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates; also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates. The nomination form, FSA-669A, is available at the county office or may be downloaded online at www.fsa.usda.gov . To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected. The completed nomination form must be returned to the county office by the close of business on August 1, or postmarked by midnight August 1, 2011. Inserted in this newsletter is form FSA-669A, used for nominating your desired candidate.

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM (ECP) FUNDING AVAILABLE

ECP offers assistance to eligible producers who have damage to agriculture land due to the spring flooding. Funds can be used to repair farmland damaged by natural disasters. ECP funding is not "automatic". Producers aware of a need for this type of assistance should contact their local FSA office by **July 31, 2011**.

It is important to submit your request for ECP assistance before beginning reconstructive work. Completing reconstructive work before submitting an ECP request could result in forfeiture of program eligibility. Producers can use ECP funds to remove debris on agricultural lands, restore fences, grade and shape land and repair existing conservation structures damaged by the disaster.

Program eligibility is determined by the county committee by conducting on-site inspections that take into account the type and extent of the damage. ECP program participants can receive financial assistance for up to 75 percent of the cost to implement approved emergency conservation practices.

NAP Closing Dates

The 2012 NAP coverage purchase deadline for the following crops are:

- Value loss crops such as nurseries: 9/01/11
- Small grain grazing acreages: 9/30/11
- Small grain acreages that will be harvested as forage: 9/30/11
- Small grain inter-seeded in perennial grasses: 9/30/11
- Apples, Blueberries, Grapes, Peaches, Pears, Plums: 11/20/11

The final date to purchase NAP coverage on perennial crops such as native improved grasses is March 15, 2011.

NOTE: NAP coverage is a requirement for all noninsurable crops in order to qualify for benefits received under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) program.

Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Announces Process to Resolve Discrimination Claims of Hispanic and Women Farmers

As part of continued efforts to close the chapter on allegations that discrimination occurred at USDA in past decades, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Assistant Attorney General Tony West announced the establishment of a process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who assert they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans.

The claims process offers a streamlined alternative to litigation and provides at least $1.33 billion in compensation, plus up to $160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. This announcement follows the Obama Administration's settlement of longstanding litigation brought by African American farmers and Native American farmers.

In conjunction with this announcement, USDA is launching an outreach effort to potential claimants that will include a call center for farmers and ranchers, a website, public service announcements, and in-person meetings around the country. Individuals interested in participating in the claims process may register to receive a claims package, or may obtain more information, by visiting www.farmerclaims.gov. Beginning February 25, 2011, individuals can register to receive a claims package by calling the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429. USDA cannot provide legal advice to potential claimants. Persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

Acreage Reporting

Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses on cropland and non-cropland, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits in a variety of programs. Producers are required to file a FSA-578 certification by the applicable final reporting date. The final reporting date is July 31, 2011.

CRP & NAP Certification

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. Crop acreage for the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

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 Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc.

GIS

As part of a program to digitally map the nation's farms and fields, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has established the Common Land Unit (CLU) as a standardized GIS (Geographic Information Systems) data layer that has allowed mapping to be integrated easily on a nationwide basis. The Farm Service Agency manages this CLU data layer through a distributed database environment for all field service centers throughout the country. Using GIS provides for more consistent and more accurate land measurements, such as field acreage and acreage boundaries of conservation practices, such as riparian buffers. With high quality digital imagery, new land use changes (farm transfers and land subdivisions) can be easily updated. Maps can be created in either paper or digital format for FSA customers or the public.

 Form Approved - OMB No. 0560-0229

FSA-669A
(03-31-11)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

1. NAME OF NOMINEE *(Type or Print Nominee's Full Name)*	**TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE** 4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE	5. COUNTY 6. LAA / 7. STATE
3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION: *I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.* ☐ *I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.* ☐ *I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.*	**8. NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION:** *If this nomination is by other than self, the following eligible voter or representative of a community based organization hereby nominates the afore-named person to be a candidate in the next County FSA Committee election for the county.*
3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE / 3B. DATE ☐ ***Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.***	8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR / 8B. DATE ***(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required).***

9. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE

VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES: The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.

ETHNICITY	RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)	GENDER
☐ Hispanic or Latino ☐ Not Hispanic or Latino	☐ American Indian or Alaska Native ☐ Asian ☐ White ☐ Black or African-American ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	☐ Male ☐ Female

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

Complete the form as follows:

ITEM 1 Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:

A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
C. Willing to serve if elected.

ITEM 2 Enter the nominee's current address.

ITEM 3 The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.

ITEMS 3A &3B The nominee must sign and date.

ITEMS 8A & 8B The nominator must sign and date. *(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required.)*

ITEM 9 Completing this item is voluntary.

ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 1, 2011.

NOTE: *The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a - as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246). The information will be used to obtain nominees for election to the County FSA Committee. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for County Personnel Records, USDA/FSA-6. Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility for nomination for election to the County FSA Committee.*

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. ***RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.***

Howell County FSA Office
Route 2 Box 2924
Alton, MO 65606

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

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FARM RECONSTITUTIONS

When changes in farm 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. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by August 1 for farms enrolled in the DCP.

FSA SIGNATURE POLICY

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse. There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents. For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact your local FSA office.

Selected Interest Rates for June 2011	
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.75%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7-year term	2.625%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 10-year term	3.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 12-year term	3.500%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.250%

Dates to Remember	
June 15	County Committee nomination period begins.
June 30	Final date to report fall- and spring-seeded small grains
July 4	Independence Day - FSA Offices closed
July 31	Final date to report CRP, NAP and all other crops (except small grains)

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). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.