



**Phelps/Crawford
County
FSA Office**

1050 Highway 72 East
Rolla, Mo. 65401

573-364-2088, phone
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Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

February 2011

County Office Staff
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Director

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

CRP GENERAL SIGNUP BEGINS MARCH 14

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is offering a general signup period from March 14, 2011 through April 15, 2011. This is the second consecutive year that USDA has offered a general CRP signup. Landowners enrolled in the CRP program receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland. Land that is not currently enrolled in CRP can be offered during sign-up if all eligibility requirements are met. CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall can make new contract offers during the signup period. Contracts awarded during this general signup will become effective October 1, 2011. For more information, please contact the Phelps/Crawford County Office at 573-364-2088 or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp>.

CONSERVATION LOAN PROGRAM The Farm Service Agency makes and guarantees conservation loans on farms and ranches to help conserve our natural resources. The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the credit necessary to implement conservation measures on their land. The direct CLs loan limit is up to \$300,000 and guaranteed CLs up to \$1,119,000 (amount adjusted for inflation), may be available by applying with lenders working with FSA to obtain a guarantee. Conservation practices must be approved by NRCS before FSA can provide financing. Producers who do not currently have an existing conservation plan should visit NRCS to develop one prior to requesting Conservation Loan Program assistance. Examples of conservation practices include installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; transitioning to organic production; manure management, including manure digestion systems; etc.

SURE SIGNUP 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,

that 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 than 50% or less than normal production of the farm.

DCP SIGNUP & ADVANCE PAYMENTS Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011. Advance payments of 22% on the 2011 DCP program will be available starting December 1, 2010. 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.

THE ACRE OPTION The Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year

average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. In exchange for participating in ACRE, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent. The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year. The June 1, 2011 deadline is statutory for all participants.



CCC-927 OR CCC-928 MUST BE SENT TO IRS

Producers who participated in 2009 or 2010 programs subject to adjusted gross income limitations (AGI) had to certify compliance with AGI rules. The average AGI verification process for 2009 and 2010 payment eligibility requires all program participants to provide written consent to IRS for the disclosure of certain information to FSA. On October 6, 2010, a letter was mailed to producers who have not submitted:

CCC-927: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Individual Form" and CCC-928: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Legal Entity"

Individuals and legal entities, including members of legal entities, that certified to average AGI compliance for 2009 and/or 2010 payment eligibility must submit a completed CCC-927 or CCC-928 to IRS regardless of whether they received program benefits directly or as a member of a joint operation or entity. These forms must be submitted to IRS in order to avoid a demand for refund of program payments and benefits received.

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 the 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 setback 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.

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM

We have been approved to implement the tornado Emergency Conservation Program in Phelps County. The purpose of the program is to provide emergency measures to producers on acreage physically located within Phelps County or those in Dent County that are administered by Phelps County for the tornadoes that touched down on Dec. 31, 2010. Sign-up is now thru close of business on April 7th 2011. Please call the office at 573-364-2088 and or stop by the office for more information.

Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance (NAP) Coverage Application Deadline is March 15

Nap coverage is available for crops such as forage and hay crops. Coverage is also available for grazing acres which is required to be eligible for the Livestock Forage Program. March 15th is the last day for producers to apply for Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance. The application and service fee must be filed by March 15th, the deadline date for 2011 grazing acre coverage. The service fee is \$250 per crop per county. Limited Resource Producers (LR), Beginning Farmers (BF) and Socially Disadvantaged Producers (SD) may request a waiver of service fees.

Livestock Forage Disaster Program

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought conditions.

Eligible producers may receive assistance for qualifying grazing losses that occur due to drought conditions, during the calendar year in which the loss occurs.

Grazing losses for the covered livestock must have

occurred on land that is physically located in a county that is during the normal grazing period for the specific type of grazing land or pastureland for the county, rated by the U.S. Drought monitor as having a D2 (severe drought), D3 (extreme drought).

The current farm bill ends this fiscal year so drought eligibility criteria require that the drought must have occurred on:

*before October 1, 2011

*native or improved permanent vegetative cover

County committees can only accept applications after being notified by the National Office of qualifying drought.

Signup applications must be filed no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the grazing losses occurred. NAP or FCIC coverage or waiver is required to be eligible for LFP.

Additional information about LFP including eligible livestock and fire criteria is available at County FSA Offices or on line at:

www.fsa.usda.gov.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

A new calendar year for the LIP program has begun and has started with some severely cold weather. There is not a risk management requirement to be eligible for LIP. LIP will compensate producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality rates due to adverse weather that occurred on or after 01/01/2011 and before 10/01/2011. Producers who had livestock deaths due to adverse weather conditions should document these losses as to the kind, weight range, number of livestock, and the date the animals were lost. A notice of loss must be filed within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent to the participant. Producers must have proof of death of livestock by the following:

- Rendering truck receipts
- Veterinary record
- Third-party verification

On form FSA-926, the third party must certify in writing name, address, and telephone number, affiliation of the third party to the participant, details of knowledge of livestock deaths, and the number and kinds of livestock. The third party may not be someone such as a hired hand or family member. Producers should keep veterinary records, disposal costs, or take photos and provide third-party verification.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to Ann Edgar and Gary Mullen. Ann and Gary were re-elected to represent farmers from LAA#5 and LAA#2 respectively on the county committee.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation. The committee members held their organizational meeting in January to determine who will serve as the county committee chairperson and vice-chairperson.

ANNUAL GRAZING SCHOOL

The Phelps and Crawford Soil and Water Conservation Districts are sponsoring their annual grazing school this year at Mark and Dana Havens farm in Phelps County on April 14th and 15th. The school will run from 8:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

The University of Missouri Extension and the Natural Resources Conservation Service will be presenting a variety of topics such as: Basic Grazing Concepts and Terminology, Soil Fertility, Resource Management, Economics, On Farm Resource Evaluation, Watering Systems, Animal Nutrition and Pasture Quality. Two farms will be visited. One has an active grazing system and the other needs established. Students will be placed into groups and will be asked to present a plan for this system. This course fulfills one of the requirements for the State Cost-share, DSP-3 Grazing System Practice. It provides valuable information on forage and animal production. The cost of the class is \$75.00 for one person and \$100 for two with one set of materials. The fee covers materials, meals and refreshments for both days. If you are interested in attending the grazing school, please contact the office at 1-800/364-8732 ext. 3 or 573-364- 6202 ext.3 by April 1st. Space is limited, so call for your registration forms today.

Selected Interest Rates for February 2011	
Commodity Loans – 1996-Present	1.250%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.25%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.75%
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.	2.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 10-yr	3.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 12-yr	3.625%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.25%

Dates to Remember	
February 21	Washington’s Birthday observed – FSA offices closed
March 15	NAP application sales closing date for many crops
March 31	Final availability for 2010 crop year MAL & LDP for small grains and honey
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program

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