



Platte County News

January 2010

**Platte County
USDA Service Center**

Platte County FSA
P.O. Box 1220
Platte City, Mo 64079
816-431-2101 (phone)
816-431-2091 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Brian Fulk
Diana Blankenship
Allen Kisker

County Committee
meets 1:00 Jan. 21

Staff
Susan Cogan
Michelle Comer
David Seibold

CED
Donald Boyer



SURE Signup

Signup for the 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE) began on January 4, 2010. SURE 2008 is for those who suffered crop production losses during crop year 2008. SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm. Total farm revenue takes into account the actual value of production on the farm as well as insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments. Producers with a farming interest physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Agriculture Secretary must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. Producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or NAP coverage, for all economically significant crops. For 2008 crops, producers had the opportunity to obtain a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through a buy-in provision. Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage. If there is no Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may also be eligible for SURE if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster. For SURE, a farm is defined as all crops in which a producer had an interest nationwide. For more information on the new SURE program, please visit the county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Livestock Indemnity Program

Due to the current and impending weather conditions, livestock producers need to be aware of the application process for the Livestock Indemnity Program for livestock losses incurred during the 2010 calendar year.

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from disaster. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2010, and before December 31, 2010.

This program will provide livestock producers with a vital safety net to help them overcome the damaging financial impact of natural disasters.

Eligible ranchers and livestock producers must file a notice of loss within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent and an application for payment no later than January 30, 2011. Livestock deaths due to eligible adverse weather events must have occurred no later than 60 calendar days from the ending date of the adverse weather event.

Eligible livestock for owners under LIP includes Adult/non-adult dairy cattle, Adult/non-adult beef cattle, Adult/non-adult buffalo and beef, Elk, Deer, Sheep, Goats, Alpacas, Llamas, Emus, Poultry, and Swine.

Animals born at normal full-term or near full-term shall qualify if both the death was the direct result of an eligible adverse weather event and the birth produced a fully developed carcass that normally would have survived under normal weather conditions. Feedlot cattle will be eligible under LIP if all other eligibility criteria are met. When application is submitted, participants must provide documentation of livestock deaths by either verifiable documentation or producer records, in conjunction with verifiable beginning and ending inventory records or third party certification. Contact the county office for examples of documenting both normal death losses and losses due to adverse weather.

Marketing Assistance Loans

Marketing Assistance Loans for crop years 2009 through 2012 are available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Beneficial interest

means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan even if you regain beneficial interest. Commodity loan eligibility also requires you comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, report how you use cropland acreage on the farm and ensure that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan. Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program to be eligible for commodity loans. However, the loan rate will be reduced by 30% if the farm is enrolled in the ACRE (Average Crop Revenue Election) Program. Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans. The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

Kansas City Mails 1099-G

Soon, producers who have received payments from FSA should also receive a CCC-1099-G from the Kansas City office. A CCC-1099-G is a report to the Internal Revenue Service about FSA payments made to you during the previous calendar year. The CCC-1099-G is a service to help participating producers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the program participant's responsibility to report income to the IRS. If you received a CCC-1099-G, we recommend that you check the amounts shown with those in your records to see that the amounts are correct. You should pay close attention to the information on the CCC-1099-G for accuracy. We believe refunds will not be reported on the CCC-1099-G, but will be available online from the FSA Financial Inquiries (FSA-FI) web-based database. Program participants with eAuthentication user ID's and passwords can access their refund information at FSA-FI and select "Inquiry Type 1099/Refund Reports". Refund amounts are displayed on the Producer's Year-to-Date Activity web page. The Debt Collection Improvement Act requires all Federal payments to be offset for all delinquent Federal debt. Beginning in Aug. 2009, all FSA payments were sent to the Department of Treasury. Therefore, if a producer's ID number matched the delinquent Federal debt, the Department of Treasury will make an offset of the FSA payment. Producers may still see \$1 or more payment from FSA when these offsets occur, but a letter from Treasury should also be received explaining the offset. If you have any questions on payments received, refunds you have paid or other questions regarding your CCC-1099-G, contact your local FSA office. If you choose to visit the office, please bring your CCC-1099-G with you.



County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Allen Kisker! Allen was elected to represent farmers from Carroll, Lee, May, Pettis, and Waldron Townships on the county committee. Allen was elected to his first term.

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 will hold their organizational meeting in January to determine who will serve as the county committee chairman and vice-chairman.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) 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. All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) 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.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if

another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

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 you 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.

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.

Customer Statement

January signals the beginning of a new year, and a time to starting thinking about filing taxes. Producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement. The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's at your fingertips and available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs, information on farm loans, and conservation plan and land unit information.

AGI and Actively Engaged

USDA has finalized a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to USDA. This agreement will ensure that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation pro-

grams. Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules **must annually certify their eligibility to receive benefits** by either submitting a statement from a certified public accountant or an attorney, or by completing form CCC-926. This form may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at:

<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainervlet>.

USDA has amended the rules that govern the requirements to be 'actively engaged' in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Every stockholder or member of a legal entity, such as a corporation, does not have to contribute labor or management if both of the following apply:

- at least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management that altogether qualifies as a significant contribution to the farming operation;
- the total direct payments received, both directly and indirectly, by the legal entity and each of the members does not exceed \$40,000.

DCP/ACRE Sign Up

Producers may sign up for the DCP (Direct & Counter-Cyclical) and ACRE (Average Crop Revenue Election) annual programs, any time between now and June 1, 2010.

Producers may want to consider signing up now so they can avoid taking time out of planting and coming in to sign up. Calling ahead will allow us to get your folders ready and reduce time in the office.

Conservation Compliance

Several producers across Northwest Missouri were determined, not to be following an approved conservation system, by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), in the crop year 2009. This is very costly for you the producer, and there is not much FSA can do to help you once NRCS determines the determination final.

If you do not know what your Conservation System is contact NRCS and review it with them.



ARMS: AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SURVEY

ARMS is the USDA's primary source of information on the production practices, resource use, and economic well-being of America's farm households.

Your participation in ARMS ensures that decisions affecting you, your family, your business, and your community are based on the facts, straight from the source.

CONSIDER: Just about every Federal policy and program that affects U.S. farmers and farm families is based on this information.

USDA United States Department of Agriculture
NASS National Agricultural Statistics Service

For more information visit www.nass.usda.gov or call (800) 727-9540

BETTER DATA = BETTER DECISIONS

Selected Interest Rates for January 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.875%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.75%
Limited Resource Loans	5.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer, Rancher or Socially Disadvantaged	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7-yr.	2.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 10-yr.	3.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 12-yr.	3.750%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.375%

Dates to Remember	
January 18	Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Offices Closed
February 28	NAP Sales Closing Date - Rice
March 15	NAP Sales Closing Date - Forage & Spring-seeded Crops
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

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

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.