



Platte County FSA Office

P.O. Box 1220
Platte City, Mo 64079

816-431-2101 phone
816-431-2091 fax

Hours

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

January 2011

County Office Staff
Don Boyer,
County Executive
Director

Charlotte Holeman
Farm Loan Manager
660-582-8366 phone

Susan Cogan
Michelle Comer
David Seibold
Program Technicians

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

SURE Signup (Permanent Disaster Program)

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) begins Jan. 10, 2011. SURE provides benefits for 2008 - 2011 crop year farm revenue losses due to natural disasters.

A farm enrolled in SURE is eligible when either:

- a portion of the farm is located in a county covered by a qualifying natural disaster declaration (USDA Secretarial Declarations only) or a contiguous county; (for SURE Program purposes, a farm is the entirety of all acreage in all counties that a producer has an interest in), or,
- actual production is less than 50% of the normal production,

Producers must also have obtained for the 2009 crop year, Federal Crop Insurance Coverage or Non-insurable Crop Assistance Coverage (see article in this newsletter) for all crops, in all counties that they have an interest in.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is a federally-funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date.

Production records for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the application closing date for the crop for the following year. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications. *NAP losses must be reported within 15 days of loss.*

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Diana Blankenship! Diana was re-elected to represent farmers from the Green and Preston TOWNSHIPS on the county committee.

Diana was elected to her third consecutive term.

The election results were for Local Administrative Area 2.

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.

Farming Operation Changes

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.



Highly Erodible Land and Wetland

Conservation Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

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.

Financial Management Information

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 the Financial Inquiries webpage.

FSA has created for the customer a new Financial Management Information webpage with links to Financial Inquiries, Financial Services and includes:

- how to get financial applications
- walk-through instructions on financial applications
- Financial Fact Sheet
- Examples of Disbursement Statements
- Electronic Form Link

A link to the new Financial Management Information webpage can be found on the Missouri Public Home Page at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo> on the right side of the screen under “I Want to ...” View my Financial Information.

To obtain USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> or call our office.

IRS Form 1099-G

Producers annually receive CCC-1099-Gs detailing payments producers have received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on CCC-1099-Gs is a service intended to help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producers’ responsibilities to report income to IRS. FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy.

Selected Interest Rates for January 2011	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	1.75%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.50%
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.	2.50%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 10-yr	3.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 12-yr	3.375%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.25%

Dates to Remember	
January 17	Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday observed – FSA offices closed
January 31	Final availability date for 2010 crop year MAL & LDP for wool, mohair and pelts
February 21	George Washington’s Birthday observed – FSA offices closed
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program

DCP Signup

Producer may now sign up for the 2011 program year Direct and Counter-cyclical and ACRE program. Producers can receive 22% of the payment in advance with the remainder coming in October.

Producers must sign-up annually to participate in the DCP program.

Farm Combinations

Tracts of land with common ownership and operator and administered in the same FSA Office, will be combined as one farm number.

Some exceptions are:

- ACRE farms cannot be combined with non-ACRE farms
- CRP land and non-CRP land are not required to be combined, if the owner requests that they be kept separate

Land for sale or for your convenience is not valid reasons to keep farm numbers separate.

We are in the process of notifying landowners of these combinations. We will notify you again when the combination is complete.

Fruits and Vegetables on DCP Base Acres

The planting of fruits, vegetables and wild rice on participating DCP base acres is prohibited.

Producers may plant fruits, vegetables and wild rice on DCP cropland acres that exceed the DCP base acres on a farm.

Example: Producer has 40 acres of soybean base and 40 acre of corn bases for a total of 100 acres of DCP cropland. The producer may plant 20 acres of fruits, vegetable and wild rice, without penalties.

These provisions apply on a farm by farm basis.

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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 and employer.”