



**Platte County  
FSA Office  
PO. 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.

## 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 Platte County Office at 816-431-2101 or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp>.

## March 2011

**County Office Staff**  
Don Boyer  
County Executive  
Director

Charlotte Holeman  
Farm Loan Manager

Susan Cogan  
Michelle Comer  
David Seibold  
Program Technicians

Brian Fulk  
Diana Blankenship  
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County Committee

Visit our Website at:  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/mo](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo)

**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. **Note: Platte County did not receive a Secretarial Declaration for 2009. However, if you farm in another county that did receive Secretarial declaration than you would be eligible to apply in Platte county.**

- 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.

**MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS** A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available to producers who share in the risk of producing a crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. 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 the producer regains beneficial interest. Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation 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 and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans. 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.

### **FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM**

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a minimum down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. If a participant provides 20% or greater down payment, then the requirement for a

severance agreement for loans under \$50,000 will be waived. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department. Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount not to exceed \$250,000. Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin. The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities.

### **Platte County Committee Organizes**

At the January meeting, the Platte County FSA Committee organized for 2011. Brian Fulk was elected as Chairperson, Diana Blankenship was elected as Vice-Chairperson, and Allen Kisker will serve as the third member.

### **RURAL YOUTH LOANS**

The Farm Service Agency 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 business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

### **FOREIGN INVESTORS MUST REPORT U.S. AGRICULTURAL LAND HOLDINGS**

Foreign investors with an interest in agricultural lands in the United States are required to report their holdings and any transactions to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Any foreign person who acquires or transfers any interest, other than a security interest, in agricultural land in the United States is required by law to report the transaction no later than 90 days after the date of the transaction.

Foreign investors must file Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) reports with the Farm Service Agency County Office that maintains reports for the county where the land is located. Failure to file a report, filing a late report or filing an inaccurate report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land.

### **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*

*March 15 is also the sales closing date for Federal Crop Insurance.*

| Selected Interest Rates for<br>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<br>Down Payment, Beginning<br>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 |  |
|-------------------|--|
| March 14          | General CRP Signup Begins  |
| March 15          | NAP application sales closing date for many crops                          |
| March 15          | Federal Crop Insurance Sales Closing Date                                  |
| March 31          | Final availability for 2010 crop year MAL & LDP for small grains and honey |
| April 15          | General CRP Signup Ends  |
| Continues         | Continuous Conservation Reserve program                                    |

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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.”