



NEWSLETTER



**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.

June 2011

As most of you are aware, the budget has been a major issue with the federal government. Budget constraints will require the Farm Service Agency to change some services that have been provided in the past. One change is that we will no longer be able to mail reminders for the various programs. Because of this, it will be very important to watch our newsletters and other media sources very closely to keep yourself informed of upcoming deadlines. One service we are adding to assist with providing information to producers is what Missouri FSA calls FSA eAlerts. FSA eAlerts is a new up, you just need to contact the office and provide us with your_email and / or cell phone number. If providing your cell phone number, we will also need to know who your cell phone provider is. This newsletter contains important information regarding the upcoming County Committee Election, Conservation Reserve Program, reporting your planted and prevented plant acres and other pertinent program information. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

County Office Staff
Don Boyer
County Executive
Director

Charlotte Holeman
Farm Loan Manager

Susan Cogan
Michelle Comer
Tim Lowery
Program Technicians

Brian Fulk
Diana Blankenship
Allen Kisker
County Committee

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

County Committee Nominations

County Committees are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They direct the delivery of FSA farm programs at the local level and work within national guidelines to help programs fit the needs of their local communities. Committee members provide general oversight, review and act on appeals from program participants, keep the Missouri State FSA committee informed of issues in their county, and provide a link between the Agency and local producers.

From June 15 through August 1, 2011, FSA offices will be accepting nominations for candidates from the Local Administrative Areas (LAA) holding this year's election. USDA and FSA are committed to increasing the participation of all farmers including women, minorities and beginning farmers. You may nominate yourself or someone else as a candidate. Candidates must:

- . Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch.
- . Live or farm in the LAA holding the election.
- . Participate in a program administered by FSA.

In 2011, the LAA up for election in Platte County is LAA-3 which is made up of Weston, Marshall and Fair townships. Brian Fulk is the current Committee person from this area and is completing his second 3 year term.

If you are interested in nominating yourself or someone else to run for a County Committee position, you may complete the FSA-669A Nomination Form on the 2nd page of this newsletter or come to your local FSA office for help completing the form. If you have any questions about the nomination or election process, feel free to contact your local office or any County Committee Member.

BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (BCAP)

The Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) Project Area 1 is the first BCAP Project Area in the nation. The program's purpose is to provide incentives for producers to establish and harvest biomass crops, such as switchgrass, for heat, power, and bio-based products and biofuels. Eligible producers will receive annual rental payments (similar to crp) for 5 years, cost share up to 75% of the cost to establish the biomass crop, and matching payments for up to 2 years for the harvesting, storage, and transport of the biomass to a qualified biomass conversion facility. Any landowner who is interested or might be interested in participating in this program should stop by the office or call 816-431-2101.

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	
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE		4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED	
		5. COUNTY	
3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION: <i>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>		6. LAA	
		7. STATE	
<input type="checkbox"/> I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee. <input type="checkbox"/> I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.		8. NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION: <i>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.</i>	
3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE	3B. DATE	8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR	8B. DATE
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.		(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
<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> 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-5. 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 penalties of appropriate criminal and civil laws, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to

CRP Mid-Contract Management (MCM) Practices

Producers who have enrolled acreage in CRP since the 26th sign-up (2003) are required to complete a round of MCM practices, per the guidelines of their conservation plans. MCM practices are typically completed in years three to six of the CRP contract. Types of MCM include chemical application, strip disking, and burning. Cost share of 50% is available once the practice has been completed and all bills are submitted to the office. **Be advised, in the past this office has contacted producers by letter to inform them they have MCM practices to complete during the year. Due to budgetary constraints we will no longer follow that policy. Producers should take care to ensure they don't miss any required MCM on their contract as penalties are severe. They can range from \$40 to \$64 per acre.** Wildlife food plots are also required on many contracts. In the past we have often sent reminders and maps concerning food plots. This will not be done this year. After your food plot is planted, please stop by your local office to sign that you have completed this requirement. If you have questions about your contract and its required mid-contract management practices, please contact your local office.

2012 (& beyond) Expiring CRP Contracts

FSA has had two general sign-up periods recently, the first in August 2010, and the second this past mid-March to mid-April 2011. These were the first general CRP sign-up periods FSA had offered since 2006. Both of these sign-up periods allowed producers who had contracts that were going to expire that year to re-offer their expiring acres. New acreage was also allowed to be offered. While it is not official, I assume that there will be another general sign-up period next year that will allow contracts expiring on September 30, 2012 to be reoffered. Again, this is only an assumption on my part. **A general sign-up period for next year has not been announced. However, Continuous CRP Practices are Available** In addition to the CRP general sign-ups, like the one that just ended last month, producers can also take advantage of the Continuous CRP Program. Environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for enrollment through the Continuous CRP program may be offered anytime during the year. These environmentally-targeted programs remain funded, and continue to provide heightened environmental benefits for selected practices such as filter strips and riparian buffers. Contact your local FSA office for details.

CRP Acreage with trees and gullies is not eligible for re-enrollment.

CRP regulations state that for land to be considered as eligible to be offered into CRP it must "be physically capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity". The Platte County Committee does not consider CRP acreage with tree and gully issues as being physically capable of being planted in a normal manner and as such will deem those acres ineligible to be re-offered. I encourage producers that have CRP acreage under contracts that will expire in 2012 and beyond to evaluate their acreage for potential issues and make decisions as to whether or not you wish to offer the land for reenrollment if a sign-up period is held. If you have trees and/or gullies on CRP acreage that you wish to re-offer for CRP, this summer is the time to start working on addressing these problems. Think to yourself what a corn or soybean field looks like. Then determine if your CRP acreage is planted to a crop, would it look like crop fields in the area or do you have trees and gullies that would not allow the acreage to be planted or to resemble other crop fields. The acreage must be capable of being farmed at the time of re-offer or it will not be eligible. If you have any questions about your CRP acreage feel free to contact me and we can discuss your options. Rental rates from the last two general sign-ups have averaged around \$100 per acre in Platte County. Don't miss out on these increased rental rates because your CRP acreage no longer meets eligibility requirements. Contact the office for more in depth details.

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 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.



Acresage Reporting Deadlines

- June 30 Wheat and other Small Grains
- July 31 All other crops and CRP
 Pasture and Hay

Acresage reporting is the foundation of all our programs and **required** for participants in CRP, DCP, NAP. Thus it is important that accurate and timely acresage reports are made.

Do you know someone or do you want to be on the Platte County FSA Committee? See the article on page 1 and nomination form on page 2 of this newsletter. Forms must be returned by August 1, 2011.

Dates to Remember

June 30	Small Grain crop Reporting Deadline
July 4	Office Closed
July 31	Crop Reporting Deadline
August 1	Final Date to Nominate Someone For County Committee
Continues	BCAP Signup
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program Signup

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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.”