

December 2009

**Polk County  
USDA Service Center**

**Polk County FSA**  
1333 E. Broadway  
Bolivar, MO 65613  
(417) 326-4823 (phone)  
(417) 326-6174 (fax)  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/mo](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo)

**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**County Committee**  
David Agee  
Mary Wheeler  
Byrian Kramme

County Committee  
Meets fourth Thursday  
each month 9:00 a.m.

**Staff**  
Karen Stillings, CED  
Cathy McNatt, PT  
Cindy Scott, PT



County Committee  
Member Election Bal-  
lots for LAA-2, lan-  
downers in townships  
of Mooney, NE & SE  
Marion, North & South  
Benton, and East Loo-  
ney shall be post-  
marked or returned to  
county office by Mon-  
day, December 7,  
2009.

**2009 Rainfall  
Data as recorded  
at County office:  
53.06" to date**

## 2010 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2010. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2010 DCP contract.

USDA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2010, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment. USDA will issue advance direct payments beginning Dec. 1, 2009. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price. The effective price is the higher of the national average market price received during the 12-month marketing year for each covered commodity and the national average loan rate for a marketing assistance loan for the covered commodity.

## ACRE

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. For 2010, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2008 and 2009 crop years.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The payment is based on 83.3 percent (85 percent in 2012) of the farm's planted acres times the difference between the State ACRE guarantee and the state revenue times the ratio of the farm's yield divided by the state expected yield. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. In exchange for participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, 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, 2010, deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

## SURE PROGRAM

The 2008 Farm Bill amended the Trade Act of 1974 to create the Supplemental Revenue assistance program (SURE).

The SURE program provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster that incurred in the crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. However, crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10 percent of the value of the coverage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

The following are the conditions that trigger SURE payments:

- at least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition
- crop of economic significance is a crop that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5% or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm
- producers in counties declared disaster counties by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or those who show proof of an individual loss of at least

50% are eligible to receive SURE payments for crop producer or crop quality losses. Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

## **Farm Storage Facility Loan Program**

*Hay storage facilities now available*

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 new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a 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. New 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.

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

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## **Commodity Loans**

Producers considering a loan on their stored grain before the end of the year will need to allow enough time before December 31<sup>st</sup>, to get the loan processed. Last second transactions that run into delays can be problematic.

Commodity loans, also referred to as Marketing Assistance

Loans, 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.

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. Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program to be eligible for commodity loans.

The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

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.

## **LDP Deadline on Unshorn Lamb Pelts**

Eligible producers have until February 1, 2010, to apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for unshorn pelts produced during the 2009 crop year. Eligible producers must have beneficial interest in the pelts, owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter.

To qualify for payment, pelts must have been produced by an eligible producer from live unshorn lambs of domestic origin in the United States.

## **CRP (Conservation Reserve Program)**

There is the possibility of a CRP general signup in 2010. Producers are reminded that land must be physically capable of being cropped in order to be eligible for the program. Land currently enrolled in CRP that has tree/brush encroachment over the years will be ineligible unless physically capable of being cropped at the time an offer is made to participate in the program. County Office will publish additional information on CRP as it becomes available.

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## Continuous CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is a private lands environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

Continuous CRP program participation is voluntary. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment.

To be eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year.

For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments, please contact your local FSA office or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/crpcont03.htm>

## Missouri Master Wildlifer Program

**A Short course for Private Landowners and Wildlife Enthusiasts**

The Missouri Master Wildlifer Program is designed for landowners and wildlife enthusiasts who are interested in learning more about the biology and management of Missouri's wildlife. Participants will find the course valuable in highlighting management approaches for wildlife in forest, grassland and farm settings. The 8-session course will provide information on the biology and life history for a variety of wildlife species as well as on the habitats for which they depend. In addition, special emphasis will be placed on managing habitats for wildlife species that provide landowners with recreational opportunities on their property. Participants will obtain the knowledge and tools necessary to enhance habitat for wildlife that can be enjoyed by themselves, family and friends, and outdoor enthusiasts. Curriculum will include a Student Manual and supplemental materials.

The Missouri Master Wildlifer Program will be conducted in Bolivar, MO on the following Monday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 9:00 pm. Preregistration is required by Jan. 13th. The program will provide participants with approximately 21 hours of instruction. The fee for the 8 sessions and the course materials is \$75/person and \$35 for additional family members (only 1 manual per family).

Short course sessions include:

**January 18.....Basic Wildlife Management & Ecological Principles**

**January 21.....Managing for Bobwhite Quail & Grassland Birds**  
**January 25.....Biology & Management of White-tailed Deer**  
**January 28.....Biology & Management of Wild Turkey and Forest Wildlife Management**  
**February 1.....Missouri Furbearers & Mammals of Interest & Wildlife Damage Management**  
**February 4.....Managing Aquatic Habitats on Your Property: Ponds, Streams, & Lakes**  
**February 8.....Fee & Lease Hunting Opportunities**  
**February 11.....Bringing it all Together: Managing Your Property for Biodiversity and Developing a Wildlife Management Plan**  
**February 6.....Optional Field Trip**

**For more information about the Missouri Master Wildlifer Program contact:**

Wesley Tucker, Polk County Extension Center, (417) 326-4916, [tuckerw@missouri.edu](mailto:tuckerw@missouri.edu)  
Stan Sechler, Bolivar MDC Center, (417) 326-5189, [stan.sechler@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:stan.sechler@mdc.mo.gov)

## LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from disaster. Using funds from the Agricultural Disaster Relief Trust Fund established under section 902 of the Trade Act of 1974, the program is administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to floods, blizzards, tornado, lightning, extreme heat and extreme cold, etc. Note: Extreme heat and cold weather conditions shall meet requirements as established by State FSA Committee.


Payment rates are broken down by size and weight range of livestock. Proof of death or third party verification is required. Normal mortality rates as established by each state must be met before payment can be made on adverse weather related deaths. Producers shall also provide proof normal mortality deaths. All deaths shall be reported within 30 days of loss.

For additional details on this program, please contact county office.

## Upcoming Grazing School Information

A grazing school is planned for April of 2010 at the Halfway Lions Club building. Meetings are usually held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and one Saturday. For certification, participants must attend all sessions. For additional information, please contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District office. Final details on this and other grazing schools should be available early March.






**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.



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



National  
Agricultural  
Statistics Service

For more information visit  
[www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)  
or call (800) 727-9540

**BETTER DATA = BETTER DECISIONS**

Selected Interest Rates for December 2009	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.875%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.625%
Limited Resource Loans	5.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Far- mer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7- year term	3.00%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 10- year term	3.50%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 12- year term	3.750%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.375%

Dates to Remember	
December 7	COC election ballots shall be returned to office or postmarked
December 25	Merry Christmas!
January 1	New COC member takes office
January 1	New Year's – Office Closed
February 1	Final date to apply for LDP on unshorn pelts

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

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