



NEWSLETTER



Polk County FSA Office

1333 East Broadway
Bolivar, MO 65613

417-326-4823 phone
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Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

December 2010

County Office Staff
Karen Stillings,
County Executive
Director

Brian Hedges,
Farm Loan Manager

Kim Mitchell,
Farm Loan Officer

Cathy McNatt
Cindy Scott
Ella Strode
Program Technicians

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

Voting for County Committee Begins

Ballots for this year’s county committee election were mailed to eligible voters on November 5, 2010. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 6, 2010. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 6.

The candidate in this year’s election is:

Mary Wheeler is nominated in LAA 1, Polk County, to serve as a committee member. Wheeler resides at Bolivar. Mary and her husband Monty operate a 300 head cow/calf operation on 1000 acres of managed land. Cattle are sent to feedlot, source and age verified and sell on the certified angus program, based on carcass grade and yield. The Wheeler’s utilize a low stress cattle handling program in their operation. Mary is active in Polk County Cattlemen’s, Polk County Farm Bureau and has served on the

Polk County FSA Committee for ten years, four of which were in a minority advisor position.

Eligible voters in a local administrative area 1 who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

Voter Requirements Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, is eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following: an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, *or* a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper; *or*
2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; *and*
3. Eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

Discrimination Prohibited No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

2010 RAINFALL TO DATE

January	2.88”	July	7.29”
February	1.93”	August	1.67”
March	3.97”	September	12.27”
April	2.32”	October	.56”
May	11.33”	November	3.78” to date
June	2.36”	Total	50.36” to date

NAP Coverage Deadlines

Noninsured Crop Disaster applications are due at different times according to the crop being insured. Producers should apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage using form CCC-471 (Application for Coverage). Related service fees are due when the application is filed. The application and service fee **MUST** be filed by the crop sales closing date. Contact your local FSA office for the filing dates for your crops.

For most spring-seeded crops and grazing and forage type crops, the sales closing date for Missouri is March 15. The service fee is \$250 per crop per county or \$750 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1875 per producer for individuals with farming interests in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver for service fees. To qualify, a producer must share in the risk of producing an eligible crop.

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”
- CCC-928: “Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Legal Entity form”



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.

Unauthorized Disposition of Loaned Grain

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe. Additionally, producer could be subject to criminal prosecution under federal law. Always call the office before any grain under loan is fed or sold.

Changing Banks

If you have changed banks and not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in producer’s account such as type account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

FSA Conservation Loan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes and guarantees conservation loans on farms 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.

Applicants will work with Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) Staff to develop a conservation plan. Conservation practices must be approved by NRCS before FSA can provide financing. 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.

For more information on the Conservation Loan program, contact your local FSA office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official. Or visit the Missouri FSA website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/mo and select the “County Offices” link to locate the nearest FSA office.

Crop Assistance Program

Sign-up for the Crop Assistance Program (CAP) began October 25, 2010, and will continue through December 9, 2010. Up to \$550 million in disaster assistance will be issued to producers of rice, upland cotton, soybeans and sweet potatoes that suffered losses because of excessive moisture or related conditions in 2009. Missouri producers with land physically located in Cedar County, and are *administratively carried in Polk County* that suffered losses in 2009 because of excessive moisture or related conditions are eligible. **The deadline to sign-up for CAP is December 9, 2010.**

CAP will provide financial assistance to producers in the qualifying Missouri counties who are still feeling the effects of the quality and quantity losses to soybean and sweet potatoes caused by excess moisture and related conditions in 2009.

Producers of eligible crops in disaster counties who certify to a five percent or greater crop loss in 2009 due to excessive moisture or related conditions will receive a payment based on a predetermined payment rate times the planted acres of the crop. FSA will not consider acres in late-filed acreage reports on or after Monday Oct. 25, 2010 to be eligible acres for CAP. Per acre payment rates will be prorated by FSA in order to keep payments within available funds for the program. Producers will initially receive 75 percent of their CAP payment and once sign-up is complete they

may receive up to an additional 25 percent.

The predetermined per-acre payment rates for the eligible crops are: Long grain rice - \$31.93; Medium/short grain rice - \$52.46; Upland cotton - \$17.70; Soybeans - \$15.62; Sweet potatoes - \$155.41.

The general eligibility provisions, payment limits and adjusted gross income limits that apply to FSA programs apply to CAP. No person or legal entity (excluding a joint venture or general partnership), may receive, directly or indirectly, more than \$100,000 in CAP benefits. Additionally, CAP payments will be treated as 2009 revenue under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program.

For more information about the CAP or any other disaster assistance programs, visit your local FSA county office or to view the CAP factsheet go to: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/cap10pfs.pdf.

Farm Loan Year End Reviews

Producers who have a farm loan with FSA are reminded they must provide data for their Year-End Analysis (YEA) to their loan officer each year. Borrowers are urged to provide this information timely so that their files can be maintained. The office will contact you for the data you will need to provide us.

Applications for FSA Farm Loan Assistance

Farmers and ranchers who intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Failure to apply early may result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan representative for more details and assistance in applying.

Selected Interest Rates for November 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.000%
Farm Ownership and Conservation Loans — Direct	4.125%
Limited Resource Loans	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans —Beginning Farmer Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 7 year	1.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 10 year	2.500%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 12 year	2.750%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.250%

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 the FSFL program is \$500,000. Participants are 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. 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. 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.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is taking applications for the next round of the **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**. This conservation program is based on both the existing and planned management practices on the farm(s) you operate. It is also dependent on the records you maintain of your management system. A sign up cutoff period for the next evaluation batch is anticipated in January of 2011. Now is the time to be finding out what records you'll need as well as how this program can benefit your operation. Producers in previous signups will be receiving annual payments (5 years) of \$10 to over \$20/acre based on their operations and the enhancements they plan to implement during the contract period.

To sign up for CSP or to get more information about these and other NRCS programs, contact the NRCS office in Bolivar at 1333 E Broadway or phone 417-326-5993 ext 3. Look in the phone book under "U.S. Government, Department of Agriculture," or access this website: <http://offices.usda.gov>. You can also get information about NRCS programs online at <http://www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov/programs>

Dates to Remember	
Nov. 5	County committee ballots mailed to voters.
Dec. 1	NAP application sales closing date for honey
Dec. 6	Last day to return voted Ballots in county committee election.
Dec. 9	Crop Assistance Program (CAP) signup ends .
Dec. 24	Office Closed in observance of Christmas
Dec. 31	Office closed in observance of New Year's
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program.

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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



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