



NEWSLETTER



Polk County FSA Office

1333 E Broadway
Bolivar, MO 65613
(417)326-4823 phone
(417)326-6174 fax
Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

July 2011

County Committee

Jack Gulick
Mary Wheeler
Byrian Kramme

Next COC Meeting:
August 18, 2011

County Office Staff

Karen Stillings,
County Executive
Director
Cathy McNatt,
Farm Program PT

Brian Hedges,
Farm Loan Manager
Kim Mitchell,
Farm Loan Officer
Ella Strode,
Farm Loan PT

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



Rainfall as recorded at the county office:

2011

Jan	0.51"
Feb	5.05"
March	5.59"
April	5.38"
May	5.98"
June	3.36"
July to date	0.37"

COUNTY COMMITTEE (COC) NOMINATIONS:

Since COC elections happen only once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into *local administrative areas*, or LAAs. Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee. Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three year term is expiring. In counties with three LAAs, one seat is up for election each year. This year the election is being held in LAA #3, which consists of townships Johnson, Flemington, Campbell, Cliquot, NW Marion, Jefferson, McKinley and Green. Byrian Kramme currently represents this area. **Nominations:** Producers who are residents in this LAA holding the election and who participate or cooperate in an FSA programs and are of legal voting age

may be nominated to serve on the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates; also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates. *The nomination form, FSA-669A, is available at the county office or may be downloaded online at www.fsa.usda.gov. This form has also been included on page 3 of this newsletter.* To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected. The completed nomination form must be returned to the county office by the close of business on August 1, or postmarked by midnight August 1, 2011.

PAYMENT LIMITATIONS

Anyone that plans to participate in 2011 programs is required to submit a completed CCC-902, CCC-926, and CCC-901, if applicable, for payment eligibility and payment limitation purposes. The form used previously was called a CCC-502.

Contributions: All partners, stockholders, or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make a contribution, whether compensated or **not** compensated, for active-*

- personal labor,

- active personal management,
- or a combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation;

*Note: there are exceptions for spouses. Additional information on payment limitations is available at FSA county offices or online at: www.fsa.usda.gov

ACREAGE REPORTING Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses on cropland and non-cropland, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits in a variety of programs. Producers are required to file a FSA-578 certification by the applicable final reporting date. **July 31st** is the final reporting date for crops including hay, seed, corn, soybeans, grain sorghum and other annually planted crops other than small grain crops.

CRP & NAP CERTIFICATION

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. Crop acreage for the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported by July 31st.

Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting is to be reported no later

than 15 calendar days after the final planting date. Failure to report prevented planting acreage could result in loss of benefits for the SURE program or possibly other disaster assistance programs.

Failed Acreage: Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.



SODBUSTER REGULATIONS The term “sodbusting” means converting land from native vegetation, such as rangeland or woodland, to crop production after December 23, 1985. Sodbuster violations are unauthorized tillage practices on highly erodible lands. Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs. Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production. If Natural Resources Conservation Service determines that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage, before bringing land into production. In addition, producers and the producer’s affiliates have to file an AD-1026 in the administrative or control county office before any farm program payments can be made. The AD-1026 is the producer’s signed certification that HELC, as well as wetland conservation, provisions will not be violated.

FARM RECONSTITUTIONS When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by August 1 for farms enrolled in the DCP: **Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and

quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

- **Designation of Landowner Method** — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;
- **DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;
- **Default Method** — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

If DCP direct payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded.

COMPLIANCE

Compliance and spot checks will once again be utilized during the 2011 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers is used to achieve a statistical sampling of participating producers. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer’s participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc.

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.

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	
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>		5. COUNTY	
		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-6. 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 provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. **RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.**

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.

GIS As part of a program to digitally map the nation's farms and fields, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has established the Common Land Unit (CLU) as a standardized GIS (Geographic Information Systems) data layer that has allowed mapping to be integrated easily on a nationwide basis. The Farm Service Agency manages this CLU data layer through a distributed data base environment for all field service centers throughout the country. Using GIS provides for more consistent and more accurate land measurements, such as field acreage and acreage boundaries of conservation practices, such as riparian buffers. With high quality digital imagery, new land use changes (farm transfers and land subdivisions) can be easily updated. Maps can be created in either paper or digital format for FSA customers or the public.

Selected Interest Rates for	
July 2011	
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.75%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment	1.50%
Beginning Farmer or Rancher Ownership Loans	4.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7-year term	2.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 10-year term	3.000%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 12-year term	3.250%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%
Dates to Remember	
July 31	Final date to report CRP, NAP and crops, including hay, seed, and annually planted crops(except small grains)
August 1	Final date to return nomination petitions for upcoming County Committee elections.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. 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, employer and lender.