



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.

January 2012

County Committee
Jack Gulick
Mary Wheeler
Byrian Kramme

County Office Staff
Karen Stillings,
County Executive
Director

Brian Hedges,
Farm Loan Manager

Cathy McNatt,
Program Technician

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



Rainfall as recorded at the county office:

2011 Year	45.06"
October	1.95"
November	5.39"
December	3.18"

2012	
Jan. to date	0.19"

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to Byrian Kramme! Byrian was elected to represent farmers from Johnson, Flemington, Jefferson, McKinley, Green, Campbell, Cliquot, and NW Marion townships on the county committee.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation. The county committee organizational structure for 2012 is Jack Gulick, Chairperson; Mary Wheeler, Vice-Chairperson; and Byrian Kramme, member.

2012 DCP/ACRE SIGN-UP

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment will begin Jan. 23, 2012 and will end June 1, 2012. Here are some IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- All producers with an interest in **DCP base** acres must be included on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.
- All producers receiving a share greater than zero on the DCP/ACRE contract must sign the contract no later than June 1, 2012.
- Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1st in DCP/ACRE must be reported to your local FSA office such as:
 - Ownership changes
 - Producer changes (Individuals and Entities)
 - Change in crop shares arrangements

Note: Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

NON INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE (NAP) COVERAGE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 15

COVERAGE AVAILABLE ON GRAZING ACRES

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, crops for livestock feed, including grazing acreage. These benefits are only available for crops for which crop insurance is not available.

The two insurable crops in Polk County at this time are corn and wheat. Therefore, NAP is available for yield based crops such as soybeans, grain sorghum, and forage crops. ***NAP coverage is also available for grazing acres, and is required on grazing in order to be eligible for the Livestock Forage Program (LFP).*** The LFP program could be implemented if county met eligibility for a drought type disaster.

The NAP program covers production or grazing type losses in excess of 50 percent of established county average yields or a producers actual production yields if available. At least four years of production is required to establish actual yields on grain crops or forage.

County Committees with State Committee concurrence shall establish grazing loss percentages. Either similar acreage on a farm with an approved actual production history yield may be used, or if not available, two independent assessments of grazing conditions in the county will be utilized to determine grazing percentage losses.



Any producer whom has purchased NAP for grazing and has a loss during the grazing period shall file a notice of loss at county office within 15 days of when loss becomes apparent.

Payments on NAP are established at 50 percent of yield and 55 percent of established price.

March 15th is the last day for producers to apply for Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage using Form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, and pay the service fee at the county office. The application must be filed and service fee paid **by March 15th**. This deadline date is for 2012 grazing acre coverage and coverage for spring planted crops which include: forage sorghum, oats, soybeans, sunflowers and includes all spring planted specialty crops grown for food.

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 with farming interest in multiple counties. Limited Resource Producers (LR), may request a waiver of service fees. The definition of a Limited Resource Producer (LR) is a farmer or rancher that meets the criteria for both of the following: In each of the last 2 years - 1) gross farm sales not more than \$146,400 and 2) adjusted household income less than \$22,050 as entered on IRS Form 1040, Adjusted Gross Income Section. For FY 2012 programs this should be compared with your Adjusted Gross Income for 2009 and 2010.

FSA ADOPTING ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATIONS

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation. Producers are asked to contact their local office about options for electronic delivery of notices, newsletters and reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail. FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email and text messages will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers.

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 new 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. 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. 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

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

LDPs FOR UNSHORN LAMB PELTS

Eligible producers have until Jan. 31, 2012, to apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for unshorn pelts produced during the 2011 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. Producers must also comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or in which they have an interest. To qualify for payment, pelts must have been produced by an eligible producer from live unshorn lambs of domestic origin in the United States.

FARMING OPERATION CHANGES

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND AND WETLAND CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Producers shall notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and Federal payments.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

BANK ACCOUNT CHANGES

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

FSA SIGNATURE POLICY

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other on a CCC-931 Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information
- Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

CUSTOMER STATEMENT

January signals the beginning of a new year, and a time to starting thinking about filing taxes. Producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement. The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's at your fingertips and available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs; information on farm loans; and conservation plan and land unit information.

IRS FORM 1099-G

Producers annually receive CCC-1099-Gs detailing payments producers have received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on CCC-1099-Gs is a service intended to help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producers' responsibilities to report income to IRS. FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy.

LOANS FOR THE SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches. While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for socially disadvantaged applicants. A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders. If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and

Dates to Remember	
January 23	2012 DCP Enrollment begins
January 30	Signup ends for LFP, LIP and ELAP
January 31	Deadline to apply for Unshorn Lamb Pelts Loan Deficiency Payment
March 15	Deadline to purchase NAP and/or crop insurance
Selected Interest Rates for January 2012	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	1.50%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.50%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7-yr.	1.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 10-yr.	2.00%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 12-yr.	2.250%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

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.