



Texas/Dent County
FSA Office

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Houston, MO 65483

417.967.2028 phone
417.967.4059 fax

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

February 2011

County Office Staff
Elvie Younger,
County Executive
Director

Amy Peiter,
Farm Loan Manager

Kelly Arnold, Farm
Loan Officer Trainee

Debi Huff, Farm Loan

Loretta Hinton,
Lori Martens,
Program Technicians

Committee:
Jim Freeman
Oran Naramore
Jerry Kiser
Christin Keller

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

CRP GENERAL SIGNUP BEGINS MARCH 14

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is offering a general signup period from March 14, 2011 through April 15, 2011. This is the second consecutive year that USDA has offered a general CRP signup. Landowners enrolled in the CRP program receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland. Land that is not currently enrolled in CRP can be offered during sign-up if all eligibility requirements are met. CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall can make new contract offers during the signup period. Contracts awarded during this general signup will become effective October 1, 2011. For more information, please contact the office at 417-967-2028 ext. 2 or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp>.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

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 and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date. Production records for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the application closing date for the crop for the following year. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications.

NAP losses must be reported within 15 days of loss. Spring seeded crops, pasture and forage deadline to purchase NAP is March 15, 2011.

County Committee Elections

Congratulations to Christin Keller! Christin was elected from Texas county to represent farmers located in LAA 2, which is landowners East of Highway 63. Oran Naramore was reelected to represent landowners located West of Highway 19 and Highway 68 in Dent county. Jim Freeman from Dent county and Jerry Kiser from Texas county are members of the 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 Committee meets the first Tuesday each month from 9:00 to 12:00.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the form FSA-153 could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

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 are to 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 all 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.

Appeal Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree.

Generally, program participants have three choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

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.

Financial Management Information

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 the Financial Inquiries webpage.

FSA has created for the customer a new Financial Management Information webpage with links to Financial Inquiries, Financial Services and includes:

- how to get financial applications
- walk-through instructions on financial applications
- Financial Fact Sheet
- Examples of Disbursement Statements
- Electronic Form Link

A link to the new Financial Management Information webpage can be found on the Missouri Public Home Page at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo> on the right side of the screen under “I Want to ...” View my Financial 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-G 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.

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.

BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The BCAP provides financial assistance to producers or entities that deliver eligible biomass material to approved biomass conversion facilities (BCF) for conversion to heat, power, bio-based products or bio-fuels. Initial assistance is targeted to providing direct payments to eligible material owners to mitigate the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) costs associated with the delivery of eligible materials. Producers (eligible material owners) who sell these materials can apply for FSA matching payments under the matching payment provisions of BCAP CHST. An application and supporting eligibility documentation must be submitted before the eligible material is sold and delivered to a BCF to qualify for potential benefits. After the eligible materials are delivered, the eligible producer must provide FSA with documentation from the BCF reflecting the producer, product quantity, payment rate and date of transaction. County offices will validate submitted payment requests and if other eligibility requirements are met continue to complete the process for the producer. BCAP also allows the submission of area wide project proposals for review as a means of obtaining longer term approval as well as additional benefits through authorized cost share for establishment costs and an annual contract payment to support the development of the eligible biomass production in the area. Interested producers are encouraged to review the information available on the FSA website. www.fsa.usda.gov/bcap and contact their local office for additional assistance.

BEGINNING FARMERS & RANCHERS

FSA assists beginning farmers and ranchers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more that 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in any loan assessment and borrower training in financial and production management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm greater than 30 % of the median size farm in the county.

Additional program information, loan applications, and

other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov

CONSERVATION LOAN PROGRAM The Farm Service Agency makes and guarantees conservation loans on farms and ranches 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. Conservation practices must be approved by NRCS before FSA can provide financing. Producers who do not currently have an existing conservation plan should visit NRCS to develop one prior to requesting Conservation Loan Program assistance. Examples of conservation practices include installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water

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 members of 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 a group. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

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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.”