



SW Mo FSA News

July
2009

District 8
USDA
Service Centers
On the web at
www.fsa.usda.gov

Barry County FSA
Cassville, Mo 65625
417-847-2862

Barton County FSA
Lamar, Mo. 64759
417-682-3571

Bates County FSA
Butler, Mo. 64730
660-679-6112

Cass County FSA
Harrisonville, Mo.
64701
816-884-4432

Cedar County FSA
Stockton, Mo. 65785
417-276-4712

Dade County FSA
Greenfield5d, Mo. 65661
417-637-991

Hickory County FSA
Hermitage, Mo. 65668
417-745-6496

Jackson County FSA
Blue Springs, Mo.
64015
816-229-5113

Jasper County FSA
Carthage, Mo. 64836
417-358-8198

Lawrence County FSA
Mt Vernon, Mo. 65712
417-466-7107

Newton/McDonald FSA
Neosho, Mo. 64850
417-451-1007

St Clair County FSA
Osceola, Mo. 64776
417-646-8107

Vernon County FSA
Nevada, Mo. 64772
417-667-8137

DCP & ACRE 2009 Signup Deadline

Signup for the 2009 Direct & Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until **August 14**.

No late-file provisions are available so FSA cannot accept any late-filed applications. Signup in the ACRE option is also available through August 14, 2009. Details of the DCP & ACRE program regulations were in your April/May newsletter.

FSA 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 2009 you may request to receive an advance direct DCP payments based on 22% of the direct payment for each crop on the farm. The balance of your payment is made in Oct. Direct payments average about \$17/base ac.

Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a crop is statutorily set below its target price.

An electronic DCP (or eDCP) service is available to those eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this on-line service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> followed by a visit to your local FSA Office for identity verification.

2009 Crop Reporting

Acreage reports are required in order to be eligible for program benefits if you participate in DCP, ACRE, SURE CRP, NAP, or to apply for grain loans or LDP payments. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs.

When you report your Crop Acreage you must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The reporting deadline for all crops and CRP acreage has been extended, *this year only*, to **August 14, 2009**.

You will need to know your planting dates when you report. Acreage reported after Aug. 14 will be considered late filed and a measurement service fee (min. \$46/farm) will be charged for a field visit to verify physical evidence.

You must report your intended use of insured NAP crops the earlier of 15 days before normal harvest of the crop or its final reporting date. Your reported acres to crop insurance should match FSA's.

Production evidence for insured NAP crops must also be provided every year by the final acreage reporting deadline for the crop.

Farm Record changes

If you have recently bought, sold, or are renting different land, or even if you have switched bank accounts make sure and report any and all of these changes to FSA on all land you have or accounts that you use. Not reporting could lead to possible program ineligibility, delays in payments or loss of benefits if you are a program participant. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or recorded land contract to verify proof of ownership.

Filing a Notice of Loss for Failed & Prevented Planted Crops

Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting of program crops.

Failed acreage must be reported to the FSA office within 15 days of the disaster event or when losses become apparent and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date for the crop.

For '09 Prevented Planting & Failed Acreage requests may be accepted through Aug 14 as timely filed.

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, not a management decision. Limited Late File provisions are available.

2009 Compliance

Compliance and spot checks will once again be utilized during the 2009 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, 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, Marketing Assistance Loans, Loan Deficiency Payment Program, etc. For more information about the new spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local office for additional clarification.

Sodbusting

The term "sodbusting" is used to identify the plowing up of erosion-prone grasslands for use as cropland. Sodbuster violations are unauthorized tillage practices on highly erodible lands that converted native vegetation such as rangeland or woodland, to crop production after Dec. 23, 1985. 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 NRCS indicates that the area is highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage, before bringing land into production.

The producer's affiliates must also file an AD-1026 with the FSA office before any farm program payments can be made. The AD-1026 is the producer's signed certification that HELC and Wetland Conservation provisions will not be violated. Be sure to have determinations made on any new land you plan to plant to annual crops. If you plan to plant a different crop on your current cropland, check with NRCS to assure the new crop will qualify under your conservation system.

Wetland Compliance

Producers renting or purchasing land that may have a converted wetland status need to check with the county office to learn if there are restrictions. The last thing FSA wants to do is to deny a producer benefits due to wetland noncompliance. The 1985 Farm Bill provides that, unless exempt, persons are ineligible for benefits under certain programs administered by USDA if they: plant an agricultural commodity on wetland that was converted after December 23, 1985 or convert a wetland after November 28, 1990.

Following are permitted uses and restrictions of certain wetlands for compliance with Wetland compliance provisions:

- Wetlands can be farmed under natural conditions. However, wetlands cannot be converted.
- Wetlands converted before November 28, 1990, cannot be planted to an agricultural commodity and retain eligibility for benefits.
- Wetlands converted after Nov. 28, 1990, must either be restored to wetland status or mitigated to regain eligibility for program benefits.
- Wetlands that can be farmed under natural conditions cannot be manipulated in any way, unless the Natural Resources Conservation Service determines the work would have a minimal effect on wetland values.
- Wetlands converted before December 23, 1985, can be farmed and maintained.

To avoid the possible loss of all USDA benefits it is strongly recommended that you check with NRCS before starting work in your fields to convert a wetland to it make possible to plant a crop.

2010 Nursery Crop Year and Application Closing Date

FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) application closing date for 2010 nursery is September 1, 2009. The NAP coverage period and NAP year for 2010 nursery crops has been changed to June 1, 2009, through May 31, 2010. However, the 2010 NAP coverage will be retroactive to June 1, 2009. For those producers who obtained 2009 NAP coverage for nursery, and choose not to obtain 2010 continuous coverage, the 2009 NAP coverage for nursery will continue until September 30, 2009.

NAP coverage may be continued for each subsequent year for the same crop or crops, if the producer pays the applicable service fee by the next year's application closing date. To apply for continuous coverage, producers must pay the applicable service fee before the application closing date.

Producers considered as limited resource are not subject to annual fees. Eligible producers must apply for coverage of noninsurable crops and pay the applicable service fees at their local FSA office. The service fee is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Contact your local office for more information or at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Strawberries & Blueberries; The sales closing date for blueberries and strawberries was previously March 15 of the year prior to the growing season. For strawberries, the new date for coverage for the 2010 crop year will be September 30 and for blueberries the new date is November 20.

Direct Deposit

The Debt Collection Act of 1996 mandates that future payments from FSA be directly deposited into a producer's savings or checking bank account. A transaction statement will be sent from the FSA office indicating the payment type and amount. All producers were required to have initiated Electronic Funds Transfer by January 1, 1999. Any person may request a waiver of EFT if it poses a financial or personal hardship. 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 delays.

CRP Management Reminders

CRP Producers are reminded that the nondisturbance period to protect the habitat of ground nesting birds is May 1 through July 15. This means that no activity can be conducted on CRP during this time period including mowing, weed control, and management practices. If there is a severe noxious weed problem in the field, producers can request approval from FSA & NRCS to spot treat.

As of July 16, permitted activity may resume. Certain CRP acreages can be hayed or grazed every third year by filing a request at the FSA office prior to haying or grazing and paying 25% of the CRP rental rate fee. If you participated in the Critical Use Feed Program in 2008, you are restricted from haying or grazing any acreage in that field or at a minimum twice the acreage actually hayed or grazed for the standard three year period.

CRP Mid-Contact Management Practices may begin on July 16 including prescribed burns, chemical application, or light disking per your management plan. Please contact the office if you have any questions concerning management activities on your CRP acreage.

MOWING LIMITATIONS ON CRP CONTRACTS

CRP contracts effective prior to Oct '03 are limited to mowing only up to 1/2 of their CRP acreage in each field each year and mowing should only be done between July 16 and August 15. Acreage mowed in excess of the 50% limit will be ineligible for payments the year it is mowed. Noxious weeds (multiflora rose, musk thistle, field bineweed, marijuana) are required to be controlled and can be mowed anytime with written approval by NRCS and FSA. Also if weeds are inhibiting the seeded CRP approved cover then mowing or chemical application may be approved any time with written approval by NRCS and FSA. Mowing is not an approved practice or authorized on CRP contracts effective Oct '03 and after. These new CRP contracts require Maintenance Practices noted above. Most extended contracts are still subject to the original conservation plan allowing mowing (per limitations above) New CRP, CREP and re-enrollments require the maintenance requirements and no mowing is allowed except during establishment or with written approval by NRCS for noxious or heavy weed infestation.

Report of Payments to Producers

A summary of all earned payments & refunds from FSA during the previous calendar year (Form CCC-1099G), is mailed to producers each year during the last week of January from KCMO.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm commodity storage facilities. Seven-year Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. All farm storage facility loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A lien on the real estate on which the farm storage facility is located will be required on loans exceeding \$50,000. A minimum down payment is also required. July Int. is 3.25% (Info on hay barn standards is still pending – watch next newsletter)

Grain Loans

Producers who have reported their crop acres and are in compliance with their conservation plan are eligible to apply for a loan or LDP on their warehouse or farm stored grain. Grain loans are for 9-months following the month the loan was disbursed and may be redeemed at any time during the term of the loan at principle + interest; or at the maturity date of the loan you may request to deliver the grain to CCC. The 09 Loan rates vary by county but are approx; Wheat-SRW \$1.91, HRW-\$2.64, Corn-\$2.04, Soybeans-\$4.97. July Int is 1.5%.

New State Executive Director named for FSA

USDA Sec. of Agric., Tom Vilsack, announced July 2 that Edward Hamill will serve as Missouri State Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency. Eddie has been the Ralls County Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency since 1979.

County Committee Elections

COC elections are held only once a year. 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. In combined counties in some years, two seats may be up for election.

Nominations

Candidate nominations for the FSA county committee election will be accepted June 15 through Aug. 3, 2009. Producers who are residents in the LAA holding the election, who participate in an FSA program, 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 minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates. The nomination form, FSA-669A, is available on line at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce> or at your FSA Office.

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 close of business on Aug. 3, or postmarked by midnight Aug 3, 2009

Below is a list of areas, by county, holding an election in 2009

County	LAA Area # Location	Townships in Area to hold an election in 2009
Barry --	#1-SW & S Central area of County.	Crane Creek, Jenkins, McDonald, McDowell, Mineral, Ozark, Roaring River, Shell Knob, Sugar Creek, White River #1, White River #2
Barton --	#2 - East 1/3 of Co.	Milford, Newport, & Golden City & the eastern parts of Doylesport, Lamar & Richland
Bates --	#1 - West 1/3 of Co.	Howard, Walnut, Homer, Charlotte, Elkhart, West Point & East & West Boone
Cass --	#1 - SW 1/3 of Co.	Cold Water, Dolan, Everett, Grand River & West Dolan
Cedar --	#3 - North 1/3 of Co.	Box & Cedar
Dade --	#2 - NW 1/3 of Co.	Marion, Cedar, Earnest & North
Hickory --	#1 - West 1/3 of Co.	Montgomery, Weaubleau & Tyler
Jackson --	#3 - West 1/2 of Co.	Blue Brooking & Prairie Washington
Jasper --	#1- West 1/3 Co.	Jasper, Twin Groves, Galena, Duval, Mineral & Joplin
Lawrence--	#3 - SE 1/3 of Co.	Turnback, Buck Prairie, Aurora, Spring River
Newton & McDonald	#1 -Center & NW Newton #3 - East 1/3 Newton	Shoal Creek, Marion, Neosho Van Buren, Granby, Newtonia, Berwick, Benton & Franklin
St Clair --	#3- East & SE 1/3 Co.	Jackson, Polk, Dallas, Doyal, Collins & Washington
Vernon --	#2 - SW 1/3 of Co.	Coal, Deerfield, Harrison, Moundville, Drywood & Center

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) for 1-1-2008 →10-1-2011

LIP is an ongoing program to compensate producers for Livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather. There are no Disaster designations & no insurance requirements to be eligible for LIP – payments will be based on a producer's eligible loss due to adverse weather conditions which include lightning, ice storms, flooding, wildfire, blizzard, tornado, extreme heat or cold etc documented by the FSA county committee. The signup period for 2008 losses and 09 losses Jan through 9-12-09 ends Sep 13, 2009. From Sept 13 after there is no signup period as such – producers will need to file a notice of loss within 30 days of when a loss is apparent. Payment rates per head will be 75% of the market value of livestock, by kind, type & weight range, to be determined by CCC.

Eligible livestock are those owned and maintained for commercial use at the day of death -beef, dairy, buffalo, beefalo, swine, sheep, equine, deer, elk, goats, poultry, ducks & geese, catfish & crawfish.

When a producer's first LIP application is filed for a calendar year a beginning livestock inventory will be required. Producers need to report all losses including normal mortality losses. Proof of death is required through verifiable records such as Veterinary records, insurance documents or tax assessor records. If these are not

Voting

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 6, and must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Dec. 7, or postmarked by midnight Dec. 7, 2009. Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote.

No one can 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.

Candidate Eligibility

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the following basic eligibility criteria:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate

Not have been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services

For additional clarification about county committee elections, contact your local FSA county office staff.

available then records such as bank records, vaccination or branding records may be used if accompanied by a verifiable record showing beginning and ending inventories. If the producer certifies in writing the above records are not available and lists the physical location of animals at time of death for FSA verification and provides some documentation of number of livestock in inventory at time of death then a third party certification may be used by someone not affiliated with the operation who witnesses the death or disposition.

Following are the National normal mortality rates – Missouri's will be announced soon and should be very similar; Beef & Dairy; non-adult -5%, adult -1.5%, Sows/Boars/Barrows/Gilts -3%, feeder pigs -10%, rams/ewes -4%, lambs -10.7%, chickens -2.5%, chicks-5% rates for other livestock are also available. Any eligible losses you had above these rates should qualify for payment per above rules.

Date of Livestock Death	Final Date to File a Notice of Loss	Final Date to Submit an Application
Calendar Year 2008	Sept. 13, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009
Jan. 1, 2009 to July 12, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009	Jan. 30, 2010
July 13, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2009	30 days after death is apparent	Jan. 30, 2010

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

Socially Disadvantaged Loans: Special funding for FSA direct and guaranteed loans is set aside annually to target socially disadvantaged applicants. A socially disadvantaged farmer is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice. These targeted funds are designed to assist socially disadvantaged farmers to enter farming or maintain and expand their operations. SDA applicants must meet all the eligibility requirements and show they are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Loans can be made as operating loans for annual lines of credit, operating loans for chattels (livestock and equipment) and farm real estate loans. Although specific funds are targeted for the SDA applicants, any qualified producer may apply for FSA farm loans; however, all are subject to the availability of funding.

Emergency Loans: These are low interest (3.75%) loans covering physical and/or production losses. Applicants must be unable to obtain credit elsewhere. For production losses, producers must have a disaster yield that is 30% below normal yield production that comprises a basic part of the applicant's total farming operation. For physical loss loans, producers must have suffered disaster-related damage to chattel or real estate essential to the farming operation. Producers can borrow up to 100% of actual production or physical losses, to a maximum amount of \$500,000. Fund use is restricted. All EM loans must be secured and show repayment ability.

Several disaster designations remain in effect for counties in our District 8 area. Producers who suffered losses due to events such as severe storms, flooding, tornadoes, ice storms, low temperatures, frost, freezes, severe winter storms, and damaging winds occurring from last September 2008 to present, should contact their local office or the Farm Loan servicing office to determine if there is a designation for the specific incident for their county and the deadline to apply under the designation.

Risk Management Agency (RMA) Crop Insurance

Each year FSA works with RMA and insurance providers in monitoring crop conditions during the season. FSA refers all suspect cases of fraud, waste, or abuse about FCIC to RMA. Producers may report suspected cases of fraud, waste, or abuse to FSA, RMA, or OIG. FSA assists RMA with auditing claims as necessary. The FCIC sales closing dates for most spring crops, in our area is March 15 and for fall seeded crops is Sept.30.

Final Signup & Reporting Deadlines

July 16	Beginning date for most CRP management Practices	Ongoing	EQIP, WRP & WHIP Signup through NRCS
Aug. 1	To request Farm Reconstitution for current year.	Ongoing	CRP- cont-signup (waterways, filter strips, buffers, CP-33's etc)
Aug 14	To sign up in the DCP &/or ACRE (22% Advance 2009 DCP Payments – balance of DCP payment to be paid in Oct 09.)	Ongoing	FSFL Grain & Hay storage facility loans @ 3.25% int. (Info on hay barn standards is still pending – watch next newsletter)
Aug 14	To report Corn, Soybeans, Gr. Sorghum, CRP, un-insured NAP crops (All cropland on a farm must be reported.)	Crop Losses	Report Notice of Loss within 15 days of when disaster occurred or when damage to the crop became apparent to the producer
Aug 14	To provide production evidence for NAP Crops for proven yld.	Ongoing	CRP Required Management Practices Producers should check your Plans to ensure you are current.
Sept 13	To file notice of loss for 08 through 9-12-09 Livestock Losses - LIP	Ongoing	MILC- Milk Income Loss signup through Sept 30, 2012

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