Webster County News

August 2009

Webster County USDA Service Center

Webster County FSA
1202 Banning Street
Marshfield, MO 65706
PH 417-468-2088
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www.fsa.usda.gov

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

County Committee
Darrell Ragsdale – Chm
Carolyn Leonard – VChm
Joe Bill Day- Mem

County Committee meets the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the county office.

Staff
Cheryl Grass – PT
June Burton - PT
Sharon Pettibon - FLT
Abigail Calton - PT
Jim Kyle – DD
Ron Keith – AFLPS
Mark Aycock – FLS
Wyman Miller -CED

Livestock Indemnity Program

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from disaster. Using funds from the Agricultural Disaster Relief Trust Fund established under section 902 of the Trade Act of 1974, the program is administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality that die as a direct result of an adverse weather event, including losses due to tornados, hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011.

The following table provides the final dates to file a notice of loss and/or application for payment for either 2008 or 2009 livestock losses.

Date of Livestock Death	Final Date to File a Notice of Loss	Final Date to Submit an Application for Payment
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

Producers must be able to provide documentation for the livestock inventory on the date of the disaster event, proof of death for livestock lost due to the disaster event, and proof of death for livestock lost due to normal mortality.

For more information on available supplemental disaster assistance programs, please visit your FSA county office or http://www.fsa.usda.gov .

Crop Reporting Deadline

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. 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. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Load Deficiency Payments.

The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The producer certification deadline for all crops has been extended to August 14, 2009.

CRP & NAP Certification
Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. Crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Prevented Planting and/or Failed Acreage:
For 2009, County Committee may accept requests for prevented planting and/or failed acreage through the August 14th reporting deadline. For more information, please contact the local FSA office.

DCP & ACRE Enrollment Deadline

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until August 14, 2009. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. Signup in the ACRE option is also available through August 14, 2009.

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 advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone 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 the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

Electronic Services Available

If a producer has Internet access, program participants can access many services from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours.

To participate in these services, you must meet all program eligibility requirements. Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private information.

To utilize electronic services a producer needs an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires an e-mail address and filling out an online registration form at http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/ followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification.

If you have more questions, or would like assistance establishing your account, just contact your local USDA Service Center and talk with our trained FSA personnel.

Payment Limitation Changes

Over time the payment limitation provisions have been expanded to more programs. Some of the changes in this area are listed below.

New forms for 2009 and subsequent years
Anyone that plans to participate in 2009 programs is required to submit a completed CCC-902 (FARM OPERATING PLAN FOR AN INDIVIDUAL or ENTITY**),** CCC-926 (AVERAGE ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME (AGI) STATEMENT) and CCC-901 (Members Information 2009 and Subsequent Years), if applicable, for payment eligibility and payment limitation purposes. The forms used prior to 2009 were CCC-501, CCC-526, CCC-501.

Another BIG change for 2009 - all must make a contribution in an entity
All partners, stockholders, or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity such as corporations, LLC's etc. 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.

All eligibility determinations must be made prior to a producer receiving program benefits.

For more detailed information on this and other programs please contact your local FSA office.

NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

The application deadline date for the 2010 NAP coverage for value loss crops is 9-01-09, controlled environment crops 9-01-09, small grains 9-30-09, apples and peaches 12-20-2009 and honey 12-01-2009.

Producers who already have coverage on 2009 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2010, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date.

A new CCC-471, application for coverage, is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee. The service fee is $250.00 per crop and type up to $750.00 per county for all crops in that county. If a producer is multi-county, the maximum cost would be for three counties up to $2,250.00 (3 x $750.00).

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

For more information on NAP coverage please contact your nearest Farm Service Agency office.

Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity.

Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity.

Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans. ACRE participants will have a 30 percent lower loan rate on production from ACRE farms.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans.

The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

Continuous CRP Available

USDA has indicated there will not be general signups scheduled for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in 2009. The budget has no available funding for CRP general signups, and instead advocates enrollment in Continuous CRP.

Environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the Continuous CRP will be eligible for annual rental payments and cost-share of up to 50 percent on approved practices. This program will remain funded, and continue to provide heightened environmental benefits on select areas.

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 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 are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

COC ELECTION COMING UP

The nomination period for the county committee election ended August 3, 2009. FSA will mail ballots to producers beginning Nov. 6, 2009. The voted ballots are due back at the local county office either via mail or in person by Dec. 7, 2009.

Foreign Landowner 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. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.
Foreign persons who 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 AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.
County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

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:

- A married woman shall sign her given name: Mrs. Mary Doe, not Mrs. John Doe
- For a minor, FSA requires the minor' signature and one from an eligible parent
  Note, by signing the applicable document, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc
- When signing on one's behalf the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form, or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement.
- FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the accept

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able program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information.

Examples of documents **not** approved for FAXED signatures include:

- Promissory note
- Assignment of payment
- Joint payment authorization
- NAP actual production history and approved yield record
- Acknowledgement of commodity certificate purchase
- Financing statement
- UCC financing statement

- 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
- All members of a general partnership must sign for the general partnership unless an individual is authorized to act on the behalf of the general partnership and bind all members
- Spouses may sign on behalf of each other's individual interest in a partnership, unless notification denying a spouse that authority is provided to the county office
- Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, join ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts shall consist of an indicator "by" or "for" the individual's name, individual's name and capacity, or individual's name, capacity, and name of entity

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

Selected Interest Rates for August 2009	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.125%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.0%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.125%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.50%

Dates to Remember	
August 14	Crop acreage reporting deadline
August 14	ACRE sign-up deadline
August 14	DCP sign-up deadline
September 7	Labor Day – FSA offices closed
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

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

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