



**Farm Service Agency**



**November 2008**

**USDA Service Center**

**Wright County FSA**  
5220 Hwy 5.  
P.O. Box 370  
Hartville, MO 65667-0509  
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**County Committee**

*Gale Kinser, Chairperson*  
Evelyn Livermore-Fisher, Vice-Chairperson  
Gary Taylor, Member

**Program Technician**

Sue Price  
Ashley Martin

**Office Hours**

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

**County Executive Director**

Clyde Connelly  
**District Director**  
James J. Kyle

***NAP Application Closing Date December 1 !!!***

Since the Farm Bill was announced so late this year, the National Farm Service Agency Office has extended the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) activity for 2009.

***As a result, the State Committee established that the NAP application closing dates that fell before December 1, 2008 have been extended to December 1, 2008 for the 2009 application year.***

Please note that by extending the 2009 NAP application deadlines to December 1, 2008 does not modify the definition of coverage period. NAP coverage will not begin until the later of the following dates:

- \* 30 calendar days after the date form CCC-471 is filed: and
- \* The date the crop is planted, not to exceed the final planting date

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. Stature limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

The application deadline fate for the 2009 NAP coverage for winter wheat, rye, barley, apples, cherries, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, honey, aquaculture (finfish), Christmas trees, floriculture, ginseng, mushrooms, ornamental nursery, turf grass sod and watercress in Missouri, ***is December 1, 2008.*** For 2009 thru 2012, the NAP Service Fees have increased from: \$100 to \$250 per crop; \$300 to \$750 per county; \$900 to \$1,875 per producer for all counties.

Producers who already have coverage on 2008 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2009, 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. However, if you add or delete crops, or change crop shares, you must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

***2008 DCP Sign-Up Deadline with 10.0 or less Base Acres***

Producers with 10.0 or less base acres *have until November 26, 2008* to initiate and complete enrollment of a farm for 2008 DCP. Late filed crop acreage report requirements and fees will be waived if application are filed by close of business December 1, 2008. All producers with 10.0 or less base acres are

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## ***Voting for County Committee Begins***

Ballots for this year's county committee election were mailed to eligible voters on November 3, 2008. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 1, 2008. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 1<sup>st</sup>. Eligible voters in local administrative area 3 who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff. This area is the south east corner of Wright County bounded by highway 5 on the west, and highway 38 on the north. No person shall be denied to right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

## ***Changing Banks***

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit. Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

## ***GIS Mapping***

As part of a decade-long program to digitally map the nation's farms and field, the United States Department of Agriculture 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 database environment for all field service centers through out the country.

Transitioning to the GIS environment has made good business sense for FSA for a variety of reasons. For one, CLU certification has improved communication between Service Centers and FSA customers through the use of current ortho-photography or NAIP (National Agricultural Imagery Program). For years, FSA had been using hard copy maps that were 10 years old or more. During that time span, it was difficult to keep information accurate due to urban development and other land use changes. USDA Service Centers use NAIP in order to maintain the Common Land Unit (CLU) boundaries and assist with a multitude of other farm programs.

Second, using GIS and GPS (Global Positioning System) provides for more consistent and more accurate land measurements, such as field acreage and acreage boundaries of conservation practices, such as riparian buffers. In conjunction with yearly updated 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.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communications of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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## 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's 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. Example-John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc.
- \* FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the acceptable 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.
- \* Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, joint 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.

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Wright County FSA  
P.O. Box 370  
Hartville, MO 65667

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## *Farm Reconstitutions*

In Farm Service Agency terms, farms are **constituted** to group as tracts having the same owner and the same operator under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm **reconstitution** is necessary. Neither the realtor nor the court house will notify us of these changes. It is up to you to let us know when you buy and sell property in order to allow us to keep our farm records correct.

## *Acreage Spot Check Determinations and Notification*

Each year the Farm Service Agency completes spot checks of acreage reports. Acreage reports are an integral part of farm program participation. Acreage spot checks are completed to ensure accurate acreage reports are used in farm program computations.

FSA will conduct spot checks on a selected number of farms in each state. All acreage determinations will be completed using the FSA Geographic Information System official acreages.

After farms are spot checked, a Notice of Determined Acreage will be sent to the farm operator. Producer notifications will be issued by FSA as spot checks are completed. Questions concerning determined acres should be directed to your local FSA office for further explanation.

## *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 within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25% of the fair market value of the property.