

September 2010

Wright County  
USDA Service Center

**Wright County FSA**  
5220 Hwy 5  
Hartsville, MO 65667  
417-741-6195(phone)  
417-741-6198(fax)  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/mo](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo)

**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**County Committee**  
Gale Kinser  
Evelyn Livermore-Fisher  
Bonita Raney

County Committee  
meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of  
each month

**Staff**  
Clyde Connelly, CED  
Sue Price, P.T.  
Gale Davis, P.T. Temp  
Mark Aycock, F.L. M.  
Jim Kyle, District Director



## Drought 2010 ????

In the 2008 Farm Bill, Congress wrote into law a permanent disaster law. In this law, Congress stated that a livestock producer needed to share in the risk by purchasing NAP (Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) insurance. This program was a USDA program which covered all crops not insured by private insurance companies. Before 2008, NAP insurance premiums were \$100 per crop. After 2008, the NAP insurance premiums were raised to \$250 per crop, and a producer had to have a 50 % loss to qualify and would be paid for the percent of loss over 50%. The pasture loss is based on a producer's hay loss. If you do not have at least a 50% loss on hay, then you will not be eligible for a pasture loss. The advantages of having NAP insurance is that you have to have it to qualify for payment in the event there is a disaster.

Private insurance companies now sell Rangeland and Forage Insurance, which will also meet our insurance eligibility requirements for USDA benefits. This insurance is based on rainfall and/or the percentage of rainfall coverage that you choose. In some instances cost for coverage could be different than NAP coverage cost. For more information on this program, you will need to call a private insurance agent who sells this type of insurance. **The closing date for this type of insurance is September 30, 2010, for the 2011 crop year.**

**Remember if a drought occurs, you will need either NAP grazing or Rangeland and Forage Insurance for your pasture to qualify for the Livestock Feed Program. The deadline for purchasing NAP insurance through FSA is March 15, 2011.**

## WHO DETERMINES DATE OF DROUGHT??

The National Office personnel will monitor the U.S. Drought Monitor and will notify applicable State and County Offices on a weekly basis of those counties eligible for the Livestock Feed Program. The National Office will determine the beginning date of a qualifying drought by pasture type and will notify applicable State and County Offices of the beginning date of a D2, D3, or D4 drought intensity rating. The county committee will use the beginning date of each qualifying drought to determine the eligibility of covered livestock.

## Kids & Farm Safety

Farm safety for kids does not diminish after they have returned to school. Fall harvest and work with livestock get kids out of the house on evenings and weekends. Farm Safety 4 Just Kids recommends the following protection when dealing with grain, ATVs and livestock:

Always lock access doors to grain storage structures.

- Lock out power to all types of grain-handling equipment.
- Always use the buddy system when you are unloading or loading grain, notifying a second person where you are.
- Never permit children to ride in grain wagons or enter grain storage areas.
- Always know where ALL family members are (especially children) at all times when grain is being loaded, unloaded, moved or otherwise handled.

ATV drivers: No matter what function the ATV performs, remember that it is only as capable as the operator. Chores involving livestock care and handling are often one of the first responsibilities given to children, increasing their exposure to the dangers at an early age. When working around animals encourage your children to:

- Be calm, move slowly, and avoid loud noises.
- Wear steel-toed shoes.
- Avoid the hind legs of the animal.
- Approach large animals at the shoulder.
- Kids should avoid animals with newborns.
- Children should avoid stallions, bulls, rams, and boars.
- Always have an escape route when working with animals in close quarters.

## 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 maximum principal amount of a loan through the FSFL program is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a 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. 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. 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](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).



## 2010 County Committee Elections

The election for county committee members will be this fall. It is important that every eligible producer participate in the elections because FSA county committees (COC) are a link between the community and USDA. COC members are a critical component of FSA operations. The nomination period ended August 2, 2010. Ballots will be mailed out to eligible voters on Nov. 5, 2010. The last day to return voted ballots will be Dec. 6. The newly elected committee members will take office on January 1, 2011. Elections this year will be held in Local Administrative Area 2, which is the north east corner of the county.

## Continuous CRP

**The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is a private lands environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll environmentally sensitive**

**acres in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources. The Continuous CRP program is a voluntary enrollment program. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment. To be eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year. For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments, please contact your local FSA office.**

## Succession in Interest

**If you have made any changes that affect your interest in base acres since you signed your last Direct and Counter-cyclical Program contract, you must report these *successions-in-interest* to the county committee by Sept. 30, so that a final determination can be made on who is eligible for the program on the farm.**

**Changes that qualify as a succession-in-interest include:**

- A sale of land
- A change of operator or producer, including an increase or decrease in the number of partners
- A foreclosure, bankruptcy or involuntary loss of the farm.
- A change in producer shares to reflect changes in the producer's share of the crop(s) that were originally approved on the contract.

**If a succession-in-interest has taken place, you, as the “predecessor,” are required to refund any advance DCP payments you received for the affected base acres before a payment can be made to the “successor.” Not reporting a succession-in-interest can result in contract termination and a loss of program benefits for all producers involved.**

## SURE Sign-up Ends Sept. 30.

The deadline to submit 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) program payment applications is close of business on September 30, 2010. Applications not filed by September 30, 2010 will not receive a payment. SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred 2008 crop production or crop quality losses caused by natural disasters.

## FSA Farm Loans

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources. Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of

up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural youth loans, loans to beginning farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA. For detailed information loan eligibility or the different available loan programs, contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

## Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

### Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing agricultural project in a supervised program of work as outlined above.
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms. FSA staff can help you with questions you may have about a particular program.

## Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups 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 than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median farm size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit

[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

## ELAP Assistance Available

Aid from the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) is available to those producers who suffered losses in 2009 because of disease, adverse weather or other conditions. More than \$13 million in disaster assistance, including more than \$7 million to compensate beekeepers for 2009 losses, will be issued. Under ELAP, producers will be compensated for losses that are not covered under other Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Payment programs established by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

## 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.

## Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

LIP will compensate producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality rates due to adverse weather. Eligible ranchers and livestock producers must file a notice of loss within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent and an application for payment no later than January 30, 2011. Livestock deaths due to eligible adverse weather events must have occurred no later than 60 calendar days from the ending date of the adverse weather event. Animals born at normal full-term or near full-term shall qualify if both the death was the direct result of an eligible adverse weather event, and the birth produced a fully developed carcass that normally would have survived under normal weather conditions.

Producers who have incomplete applications currently on file in the county office are encouraged to bring in necessary pictures and third party certification in order for payments to be made.

**Producers need to contact the county FSA office ANYTIME they suffer livestock death losses.** Those losses are used for Normal Mortality.

### Important Change

If you want FSA to give aerial photos of your farm to others (appraisers, real estate agents, family, fertilizer spreaders, etc.) they will need a signed statement from you authorizing the FSA office to release aerial photos with acreages. If you need photos, come by the office. We will be glad to provide those to you.

### Preventing Fraud

The Farm Service Agency supports the Risk Management Agency in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will continue to refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA. Producers can report suspected cases to the FSA office, RMA, or the Office of the Inspector General.

#### Dates to Remember

September 6	Labor Day – FSA offices closed
September 30	NAP Application Closing Date for strawberries & fall-seeded small grains
September 30	Signup ends for 2008 SURE Program
Continuous	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program

#### Selected Interest Rates for September 2010

90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	2.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7-yr. term	2.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 10-yr. term	2.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 12-yr. term	3.125%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.250%

Visit our website at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/mo](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo)

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