



## Spring 2012 District 2

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## Important Deadlines Approaching Soon

Several important program sign-up deadlines are approaching as well as the annual crop reporting requirement. Sign up for DCP and ACRE programs end on June 1<sup>st</sup>. The SURE program, which compensates for 2010 crop year losses, also has a June 1<sup>st</sup> sign up deadline. All wheat and small grain planted acreage must be reported by July 2<sup>nd</sup> and all other crops must be reported by July 16<sup>th</sup>. Complete details on each program can be found in this newsletter. Call your local office soon to schedule an appointment time. June is right around the corner!

## 2012 DCP/ACRE Sign-up

Here are some important reminders:

- Sign up ends on June 1st.
- All producers planting on DCP base acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.
- Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1st in DCP/ACRE must be reported to your local FSA office such as: Ownership changes, Producer changes (Individuals and Entities) or change in crop shares arrangements  
Note: Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.
- There are no advance payments available in 2012. The entire 2012 payment will be paid in October.
- Both DCP and ACRE participants must sign annual contracts to receive program benefits. All signatures of producers who will receive a share of DCP and ACRE payments must be on file by the June 1, 2012, deadline.

## Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 crop losses ends June 1, 2012. The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that were incurred in the crop year 2010. SURE is available to eligible producers on farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, except grazed crops. All Missouri counties received this designation in 2010, or were contiguous to a designated county.

The county office will use information from insurance companies to determine eligibility. To be eligible, producers must have at least one crop that suffered a 10 percent production loss. Economically-significant crops must have been insured either under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (FCIA) or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). Contact your local office to see if you may qualify.

## **COUNTY COMMITTEE (COC) NOMINATIONS**

It's that time of year again when we look for individuals willing to serve on our local county committees. The nomination period for the 2012 election begins June 15<sup>th</sup>. Since elections only come around once a year, here is an election refresher.



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.

Producers who are residents in the LAA holding the election and who participate or cooperate 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 farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates.

The nomination form, FSA-669A, is available at the county office or may be downloaded online at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov). 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 the close of business on Aug. 1, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 1, 2012.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters in November. The last day to return voted ballots back to your local FSA office is December 3, 2012.

Newly elected COC members will take office on January 1, 2013.

More information on FSA's County Committee Election process can be found at [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections).

## **2012 COC Election**

County	LAA #	Townships
Adair	1	Salt River, Clay, Wilson
Caldwell	1	Kidder, Mirabile, Rockford, Grant
Daviess	1	Benton, Jamesport, Lincoln, Salem, Washington
Grundy	3	Myers, Liberty, Marion, Wilson
Linn	3	Brookfield, Yellow Creek, Bucklin, Marceline
Livingston	1	Jackson, Sampsel, Chillicothe, Rich Hill
Mercer	2	East of Hwy 65, North of Route E
Putnam	1	Elm, Grant, Liberty, Lincoln
Schuyler	1	Coatsville, Glenwood, North Liberty, South Liberty
Scotland	1	Jefferson, Tobin, Mt Pleasant
Sullivan	2	Jackson, Polk, Pleasant Hill

## **FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM**

It's not too soon to be thinking about plans for crop storage this fall. Or perhaps you could use a place to store your hay crop this summer. 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 FSFL is \$500,000. A minimum 15 percent down payment is required, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the facility.

Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department. Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records.

A FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin. The commodities eligible for farm storage facility loans include the usual feed grains, as well as hay, renewable biomass, fruits, vegetables and honey.

## **ACREAGE CERTIFICATION**

Time is nearing to certify your 2012 acreage. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. To streamline the crop reporting process between the Risk Management Agency (RMA) and FSA, several deadlines for reporting crops have been changed.

- Fall barley, wheat and other fall seeded grains planted in fall of 2011 and spring seeded small grains (oats), report by June 30 (for 2012, reports are due by **7/2/2012** as the 30<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend).
- Corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, CRP, all other acreages not listed, report by July 15 (for 2012, reports are due by **7/16/2012** as the 15<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend).
- Fall barley, wheat and other fall seeded small grains planted in fall of 2012, report by December 15 (for 2012, reports are due by **12/17/2012** as the 15<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend).

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

## **HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND AND WETLAND 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. Contact should be made to the USDA Service Center prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance, which is recorded on form AD-1026.

## **ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME**

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service have established an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent is required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

This ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-931- "Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information" to your local county office by June 15 to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained at your USDA Service Center or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/eForms/CCC931.PDF>.

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
May 28	Memorial Day holiday. FSA offices closed.
May 31	Final date to obtain a loan or LDP on feed grains, soybeans & minor oilseeds.
June 1	2012 DCP/ ACRE sign up ends. SURE sign up ends for 2010 crop losses.
June 15	COC nomination period begins.
July 2	Final date to report fall and spring-seeded small grains.
July 4	Independence Day. FSA offices closed.
July 16	Final date to report CRP, corn, soybeans, grain sorghum, hay & pasture.

Missouri District 2  
3415 Oklahoma Ave.  
Trenton, MO 64683



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## **FSA eALERTS**

Missouri FSA introduces FSA eAlerts—a new way to receive FSA program reminders via e-mail or text. You can sign up for eAlerts at your County Office and choose whether you would like to receive information via e-mail, text or both. If you elect to receive information by text, remember standard text messaging rates apply. Consult with your cellular carrier to discuss your text plan details. You can opt out of receiving FSA eAlerts at any time.

FSA offices are moving toward a paperless operation. Producers are asked to enroll in eAlerts which will provide newsletters and electronic reminders instead of hard copy through the mail. FSA, like many organizations, is trying to work smarter to be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email and text will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers.

Bookmark [www.fsa.usda.gov/mo](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo) to check back frequently for program deadlines and information.

## **Schuyler County Hires New CED**

Tony Thompson is the new CED in Schuyler County. He previously worked as the County Executive Director of the Harrison County FSA office in Bethany 2004-2012. Mr. Thompson began his duties in Schuyler County in April.

## **DIRECT AND GUARANTEED LOANS**

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000. This makes the maximum combination of direct and guaranteed loan indebtedness \$1,514,000.

The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

## **Linn County Hires New CED**

Blake Conrad is the new CED in Linn County. He recently completed the Agency's County Operations Trainee program. Mr. Conrad began his duties in Linn County in March.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. 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).