



# Missouri DISTRICT 3 NEWSLETTER

JULY 2010



## In this issue

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| TIP Program        | 2 |
| SURE Program       | 2 |
| Farm Loan Program  | 3 |
| Haying/Grazing CRP | 4 |
| Check Stored Grain | 4 |

### Crop Reporting

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 FSA programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan 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 fall- and spring-seeded small grains is June 30, and the final reporting date for CRP, NAP, and all other crops is July 31 (NAP crops must be reported by the final reporting date or 15 days before harvest). You will be asked to provide the date the commodity was planted, so bring your planting dates with you.

### 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:

Prevented planting is to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

### Failed Acreage:

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.

### CRP Signup:

County Offices are preparing for a general CRP Signup to be held this summer. At the time of this writing, no signup dates have been announced. County Offices will release information as soon as it is received.

### COC Election Nominations

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committee starts with the nomination of eligible candidates.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and online at: [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/fsa0669a\\_commiteelectform.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_commiteelectform.pdf)

Nomination forms for the 2010 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 2, 2010.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed for the county committee of the office that administers a producer's farm records.



### ACRE Program Production Needed by July 31st

Producers enrolled in the ACRE program are reminded that they must submit production for the 2004-2008 base period to establish benchmark yields or accept their respective county average "plug" yields for that timeframe or applicable years. Actual production figures must also be submitted by the July 31st deadline for 2009 crops in order to maintain program eligibility. Plug yields cannot be utilized for a farm in place of actual production once enrolled in the program. A letter with the forms needed have been mailed to producers who have not certified production.

## DISTRICT 3 OFFICES

Tom Balsler · District Director  
Shelby County · 573.633.2387

A  
U  
D  
R  
A  
I  
N

Judy Stowers – CED  
4615 S. Clark  
Mexico, MO 65265  
573.581.1406  
7:30-4:30 M-F

C  
L  
A  
R  
K

Sharon E. Marks – CED  
Bill Bonine – Acting FLM  
Jnctn Hwys 81 and 136  
Kahoka, MO 63445  
660.727.3364  
7:30-4:30 M-F

K  
N  
O  
X

Mark March – CED  
Daryl Huchteman – FLM  
Hwy 6 East  
Edina, MO 63537  
660.397.2559  
7:30-5:00 M-F

L  
E  
W  
I  
S

John Wheeler – CED  
502 S. Washington  
Monticello, MO 63457  
573.767.5274  
7:45-4:30 M-F

L  
I  
N  
C  
O  
L  
N

Joe Linneman - CED  
112 Frenchman Bluff Rd  
Troy, MO 63379-9701  
636.528-4113  
7:45-4:30 M-F

M  
A  
C  
O  
N

Cheryl Fullerton – CED  
Jared Weydert – FLM  
2108 U.S. Hwy 63  
Macon, MO 63552  
660.385.2616  
8:00-4:30 M-F

M  
A  
R  
I  
O  
N

Joe Swisher – CED  
6465 Hwy 168, Suite A  
Palmyra, MO 63461  
573.769-2235  
7:45-4:30 M-F

M  
O  
N  
R  
O  
E

Tony Francis – CED  
Sheila Osbourne – FLM  
18771 Hwy 15  
Paris, MO 65275  
660.327.4137  
8:00-4:30 M-F

P  
I  
K  
E

Roger Colbert - CED  
Robert Noellsch – FLM  
1220 South Business 61  
Bowling Green, MO  
63334  
573.324.3313  
8:00-4:30 M-F

R  
A  
L  
L  
S

Brian Mulherin - CED  
17623 Hwy 19  
New London, MO 63459  
573.985.8611  
8:00-4:30 M-F

S  
H  
E  
L  
B  
Y

Beth Stiefel – CED  
210 E. Main  
Shelbyville, MO 63469  
573.633.2440  
8:00-4:30 M-F

## Transition Incentives Program

The Transition Incentives Program (TIP) was created to encourage retired or retiring owners or operators to transition their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

TIP sign up began on May 17, 2010. If all program requirements are met, TIP provides annual rental payments to the retiring farmer for up to two additional years after the date of the expiration of the CRP contract, provided the transition is not to a family member.

To be eligible, TIP requires that the retired or retiring farmer or rancher:

Have land enrolled in CRP that is in the last year of the contract.

Agree to allow the beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher make conservation and land improvements.

Agree to sell, or have a contract to sell, or agree to long-term lease (a minimum of 5 years) the land under CRP contract to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher by Oct. 1 of the year the CRP contract expires.

Generally, TIP only applies to contracts that expire on September 30, 2010, or later. However, retired or retiring owners or operators with CRP contracts that expired on September 30, 2008, and September 30, 2009, may be eligible to enroll in TIP provided all of the following apply:

- The land has not been sold or leased before signing a CRP-TIP Contract
- Producers are otherwise eligible under TIP provisions

The conservation plan is modified to require sustainable grazing or crop production methods

## SURE Program

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. However, crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10 percent of the value of the coverage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement. The following are the conditions that trigger SURE payments:

- At least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10 percent production loss due to an eligible disaster condition
- Crop of economic significance is a crop that has contributed or would have contributed at least 5 percent or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm
- Producers in counties declared disaster counties by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50 per-cent are eligible to receive SURE payments for crop producer or crop quality losses. Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

A SURE calculator is available at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=sure>. The calculator is not official, but is intended for educational use. A fact sheet and back-grounder are also available online.

## FARM SERVICE AGENCY FARM LOAN PROGRAM

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides direct and guaranteed loans to beginning farmers and ranchers who are unable to obtain financing from commercial credit sources. Each fiscal year, the Agency targets a portion of its direct and guaranteed farm ownership (FO) and operating loan (OL) funds to beginning farmers and ranchers.

A beginning farmer or rancher is an individual or entity who

- has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years;
- meets the loan eligibility requirements of the program to which he/she is applying;
- substantially participates in the operation; and,
- for FO loan purposes, does not own a farm greater than 30 percent of the median size farm in the county. (Note: all applicants for direct FO loans must have participated in business operation of a farm for at least 3 years.) If the applicant is an entity, all members must be related by blood or marriage, and all stockholders in a corporation must be eligible beginning farmers.

### Down Payment Farm Ownership Loan Program

FSA has a special down payment FO loan program to assist beginning farmers and ranchers to purchase a farm or ranch. This program is also available to socially disadvantaged (SDA) applicants. Additionally, this program provides a means for retiring farmers and ranchers to transfer their land to a future generation.

To qualify:

An applicant must make a cash down payment of at least 5 percent of the purchase price.

- FSA may provide a maximum loan amount not exceeding 45 percent of the least of
  - the purchase price of the farm or ranch acquired;
  - the appraised value of the farm or ranch acquired; or
  - \$500,000 (Note: This results in a maximum loan of \$225,000).

The term of the loan is 20 years. The interest rate is 4 percent below the direct FO rate but not lower than 1.5 percent.

The remaining balance may be obtained from a commercial lender or private party. FSA can provide up to a 95 percent guarantee if financing is obtained from a commercial lender. Participating lenders do not have to pay a guarantee fee.

### Socially Disadvantaged Applicant

Each year, the Farm Service Agency earmarks a portion of its farm loan funding for socially disadvantaged applicants, people who have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender inequality without regard to their individual qualities.

Socially disadvantaged applicants may be women, African Americans, American Indians, Hispanics, Asian and Pacific Islanders and Alaskan Natives. While funding is earmarked for loans to socially disadvantaged applicants, loan approval is neither automatic nor guaranteed.

Socially disadvantaged applicants must meet the same eligibility criteria as other applicants. Applicants must be U.S citizens; have a satisfactory history of meeting credit obligations; have sufficient education, training or experience managing or operating a farm; possess legal capacity to incur debt; and, be unable to obtain credit elsewhere.

### Maximum Loan Amounts

Maximum amounts of indebtedness are:

Direct FO or OL: \$300,000;

Guaranteed FO or OL: \$1,112,000 (Amount varies annually based on inflation).

### Joint Financing

Beginning farmer or rancher applicants may choose to participate in a joint financing plan that is also available to other applicants. In this program, FSA lends up to 50 percent of the amount financed, and another lender provides 50 percent or more. FSA will charge a reduced interest rate on the loan.



### Rural Youth Loans ▲

FSA makes loans to individual rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, Future Farmers of America, and similar organizations. Each project must be part of an organized and supervised program of work. The project must be planned and operated with the help of the organization adviser, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

### WHERE TO APPLY

Applications for direct loan assistance may be submitted to the FSA local office serving the area where the operation is located. For guaranteed loans, you must apply to a participating commercial lender. Contact FSA office for list of participating lenders.

---

## Civil Rights

As a participant or applicant for programs or activities operated or sponsored by USDA you have a right to be treated fairly. If you believe you have been discriminated against because of your race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, disability, or marital or familial status, you may file a discrimination complaint. The complaint should be filed with the USDA Office of Civil Rights within 180 days of the date you became aware of the alleged discrimination. To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD), USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication 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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

---

## Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact their FSA office in person or by phone.

---

## Spousal Signature

Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the FSA from either spouse. Claim settlements and lien filings are excluded.

---

## Managed Haying & Grazing of CRP Acreage

If your CRP cover is considered to have been established for 12 full months, you may make your request with FSA to hay or graze CRP.

This regulation permits the CRP participant hay or graze CRP acres no more than 1 out of every 3 years. The participant agrees to a payment reduction based on the number of acres actually hayed or grazed times 25 percent of the per acre rental rate. Participants also agree to stay within the 90 day designated haying period of July 16 through October 13, or the 120 day grazing period of July 16 through November 13th. Hay and livestock must be removed no later than November 13th.

Acreage eligible for managed haying or grazing include acres devoted to the following practices: CP-1, CP-2, CP-4B, CP-4D, CP-10, CP-18B and CP-18C. Acreage devoted to useful life easements of land within 120 feet of a stream or other permanent water body is ineligible.

---

## Have You Checked Your Stored Grain Lately?

Producers with farm stored grain are reminded to check it often. There have been numerous reports of grain going/have gone bad.