



District 7

USDA Service Center

Website Address

www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

Bollinger County

Office Hours: 8:00-4:30

Phone: 573-238-2671

Butler County

Office Hours: 8:00-4:30

Phone: 573-785-8416

Cape Girardeau Co.

Office Hours: 8:00-4:30

Phone: 573-243-1467

Dunklin County

Office Hours: 8:00-4:30

Phone: 573-888-2536

Jefferson/Washington

Office Hours: 7:00-4:30

Phone: 636-789-2441

Mississippi County

Office Hours: 8:00-4:30

Phone: 573-649-9930

New Madrid County

Office Hours: 7:30-4:30

Phone: 573-748-2557

Pemiscot County

Office Hours: 7:45-4:30

Phone: 573-333-1923

Perry County

Office Hours: 7:30-4:30

Phone: 573-547-6531

Ripley/Carter County

Office Hours: 7:45-4:30

Phone: 573-996-7116

Scott County

Office Hours: 7:30-4:30

Phone: 573-545-3593

St. Genevieve County

Office Hours: 7:00-4:30

Phone: 573-883-2703

St. Francis/Iron Co.

Office Hours: 7:00-4:30

Phone: 573-756-6488

Stoddard County

Office Hours: 7:00-4:30

Phone: 573-624-5939

Wayne/Madison Co.

Office Hours: 7:45-4:30

Phone: 573-224-3410

District Director

Billy Swiney

Butler County FSA

Phone: 573-785-8416

DCP Signup & Advance Payments

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011. Advance payments of 22 % on the 2011 DCP program are available. The remaining 78 % of your DCP payment will be issued after October 1, 2011.

Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. DCP & ACRE contract signatures for enrollment are due by the **signup deadline of June 1, 2011**. For more information producers can contact their local FSA office.

Noninsured Crop

Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is a federally-funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. Application for coverage must be filed by **March 1, 2011** for rice and **March 15, 2011** for other crops, hay, and pasture.

Production records for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the application closing date for the crop for the following year. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications. *NAP losses must be reported within 15 days of loss.*

Power-of-Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power-of-attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. A common example is a farm owner granting power-of-attorney to the farm operator. If you are interested, please contact your Farm Service Agency office.

SURE Signup

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) began Jan. 10, 2011. SURE provides benefits for crop year farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. The application deadline is **July 29, 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).

Losses are measured with consideration to your total revenue on all farms including crop insurance indemnities and FSA payments.

Fruit and Vegetables

Fruit and vegetable (FAV) planting restrictions are unchanged. They may be planted on DCP crop base acreage when one of these exceptions apply:

- Double-cropped with a DCP commodity
- Farm has history of planting FAV (not crop specific)
- Producer has history of planting FAV (crop specific)

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

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 the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

Appeal Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree.

Generally, program participants have three choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

IRS Form 1099-G

Producers annually receive CCC-1099-Gs detailing payments producers have received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on CCC-1099-Gs is a service intended to help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producers' responsibilities to report income to IRS. FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations however we can review payments for accuracy.

Farming Operation Changes

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation 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. Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure wetland compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

Dates to Remember	
February 21	President's Day-offices closed.
March 1	NAP sales closing date for rice.
March 15	NAP sales closing date for other spring-seeded crops and forage.
March 14 – April 15	General Conservation Reserve Program Signup period.
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans

Livestock Forage Disaster (LFP)

LFP provides payments to eligible livestock producers that have suffered livestock grazing losses. Qualifying drought ratings are determined using the U.S. Drought Monitor. Eligible livestock under LFP include beef cattle, alpacas, buffalo, beefalo, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, poultry, reindeer, sheep, and swine.

To be eligible, the applicant must have purchased insurance coverage through the FCIC Rainfall Index Policy, be a socially disadvantaged, limited resource, or beginning farmer, or enroll in the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) which has a March 15th deadline. Payment limitation and adjusted gross income requirements must be met.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The LIP is a program that pays per-head for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by an adverse weather event during the calendar year. Weather events include; floods, blizzards, wildfires, lightning, tornadoes, prolonged extreme heat or cold. Filing for LIP requires very specific documentation and data from livestock producers. Producer must file a notice of loss for each and every livestock death within 30 days of the date of death. This may be filed by phone, fax or email, as well as in person. With the notice of loss, the producer must report the exact cause of death, exact date and weather event, the livestock type and weight range, and the number of livestock on hand on the date of the weather event. Livestock producers must also provide required documentation of the cause, date and number of deaths. Check with your local FSA office for documentation requirements.

Commodity Loans

Commodity loans, also referred to as Marketing Assistance Loans, are available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if you regain beneficial interest. 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. MAL loans have a 9 month maturity.

Farm Loan Programs

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 can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,119,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff. We also offer youth loans and beginning & limited resource farmers loans.

COC election results

Last fall, FSA counties held our annual elections for County Committee. We appreciate all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The County Committee system works only because of your participation. Following are the results:

<u>County</u>	<u>Elected to serve</u>
<u>Bollinger</u>	<u>Virgil R. Beel</u>
<u>Butler</u>	<u>Karen Buttrey</u>
<u>Cape Girardeau (2)</u>	<u>Gary Bock</u> <u>Stanley Propst</u>
<u>Dunklin (2)</u>	<u>Ricky Jones</u> <u>Michael Todd</u>
<u>Jefferson (2)</u>	<u>Norman Valle</u> <u>Mary Oberle</u>
<u>Mississippi</u>	<u>Orin Ambrose IV</u>
<u>New Madrid</u>	<u>Mike Pearson</u>
<u>Pemiscot</u>	<u>Stephen Reid</u>
<u>Perry</u>	<u>Curtis Kassel</u>
<u>Ripley/Carter (2)</u>	<u>Jay Godsy</u> <u>Barbara Gettings</u>
<u>Scott</u>	<u>John Felter</u>
<u>Ste. Genevieve</u>	<u>Paul Arnold</u>
<u>St. Francois/Iron (2)</u>	<u>Brian Wooten</u> <u>Leon Peterson</u>
<u>Stoddard</u>	<u>Pamela Dowdy</u>
<u>Wayne (2)</u>	<u>John Clark</u> <u>Jerry Stroup</u>

General Conservation

Reserve Program Signup Announced

USDA has announced a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) signup for March 14, 2011 through April 15, 2011. This is the second consecutive year that USDA has offered a general CRP signup.

Landowners enrolled in the CRP program receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, conserving covers on eligible farmland. Land that is not currently enrolled in CRP can be offered during the signup period if all eligibility requirements are met. Current CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall can make new offers during the signup period. Contracts awarded during this general signup will be effective October 1, 2011.

All offers will be evaluated and ranked based on environmental benefits.

Selected Interest Rates for February 2011	
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.25%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.75%
Limited Resource Loans	5.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7-yr.	2.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 10-yr.	3.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 12-yr.	3.625%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.25%

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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). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”