



District 7 FSA Offices

Bollinger County FSA
Office Hours: 8:00-4:30
Phone: 573-238-2671

Butler County FSA
Office Hours: 8:00-4:30
Phone: 573-785-8416

Cape Girardeau County FSA
Office Hours: 8:00-4:30
Phone: 573-243-1467

Dunklin County FSA
Office Hours: 8:00-4:30
Phone: 573-888-2536

Jefferson/Washington
Office Hours: 8:00-4:30
Phone: 636-789-2441

Mississippi County
Office Hours: 8:00-4:30
Phone: 573-649-9930

New Madrid County
Office Hours: 8:00-4:30
Phone: 573-748-2557

Pemiscot County FSA
Office Hours: 7:45-4:30
Phone: 573-333-1923

Perry County FSA
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 FSA
Office Hours: 7:30-4:30
Phone: 573-545-3593

Ste. Genevieve County
Office Hours: 7:00-4:30
Phone: 573-883-2703

St. Francis/Iron County FSA
Office Hours: 7:00-4:30
Phone: 573-756-6488

Stoddard County FSA
Office Hours: 7:00-4:30
Phone: 573-624-5939

Wayne/Madison County FSA
Office Hours: 7:45-4:30
Phone: 573-224-3410

District Director
Billy Swiney
Butler County FSA
Phone: 573-785-8416

ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINE APPROACHING

JULY 2011

Producers are reminded that we need your final crop report for corn, milo, cotton, rice, soybeans (including double crop), CRP, hay & pasture, fruits and vegetables, and any other land uses by **August 1, 2011**. Crop reports, including prevented planted and failed acreage, are required for most FSA programs including SURE, CRP, DCP/ACRE, and commodity loans. Any reports after this day can be taken *with the late-file fee of \$46 per farm*. Remember, it is important that acreage and shares are consistent with USDA Farm Programs, crop insurance and crop sales receipts. Please visit your office as soon as possible to timely file your report.

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The following counties in District 7 have been approved to accept applications for the Emergency Conservation Program-Flood (ECP-F). This program is being offered as a result of damage caused by the recent flooding or tornado. Landowners from **Mississippi, Ripley, Carter, New Madrid, Stoddard, Cape Girardeau, Scott and Butler** counties that suffered damage to farmland and fences from the flooding could be eligible for cost-share assistance to remove debris, gravel and sand deposits from fields and field ditches, repair structures and rebuild or repair destroyed fences. Landowners must have a minimum cost of restoration of at least \$2500 to qualify for ECP cost share assistance.

Important: A FSA representative must visit the farm to assess the damage before beginning repair or cleanup work. Affected landowners should keep good records of all personal and hired labor, expenses and machinery hours that are used to complete work. Landowners are also encouraged to take pictures of the damage.

The signup period will end August 1, 2011. If approved, landowners will have 6 months to complete the work. Contact your county office service center for more assistance.

2010 ACRE CERTIFICATION DEADLINE

The deadline for 2010 production certification to comply with the ACRE provisions for production reports has been extended to COB September 1, 2011. Because of this extension, using a register on September 1, 2011, is **not** authorized. The extension is for completing both the farm benchmark yield (2005 through 2009) and the actual farm yield (2010). For more details contact your local FSA office.

County Committee Nominations Close August 1, 2011

Nominations for candidates to run for the Farm Service Agency county committee election representing producers in a Local Administrative Area will be accepted until Aug. 1, 2011.

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.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected, and returned to the FSA county office by the close of business on or postmarked by Aug. 1, 2011.

2009 SURE PROGRAM DEADLINE

Producers are reminded that they have until Friday, July 29, 2011, to apply for assistance for 2009 crop losses under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. The program provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or quality losses. SURE covers producers on farms in disaster counties that incurred crop production, crop-quality losses or both, but in order to qualify, you need to file in a timely manner.

The SURE program takes into consideration losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. To be eligible, producers must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance and obtained a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), for all economically significant crops.

A producer must have a farming interest physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Secretary of Agriculture under a Secretarial Disaster Designation or have actual production on the farm that was less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster. A producer interested in signing up for SURE for their 2009 crops must do so before close of business July 29, 2011, at the county FSA office servicing the producer. The sign-up for the SURE program for the 2010 crops will be announced at a later date.

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.

You will still receive your FSA newsletter, but Missouri FSA will discontinue sending postcard reminders for upcoming sign ups and deadlines. FSA eAlerts are provided as an additional service to Missouri FSA producers. Always refer to your county office newsletter for program information and bookmark www.fsa.usda.gov/mo to check back frequently for program deadlines and information.

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VILSACK ANNOUNCES PROCESS TO RESOLVE DISCRIMINATION CLAIMS OF HISPANIC AND WOMEN FARMERS

As part of continued efforts to close the chapter on allegations that discrimination occurred at USDA in past decades, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Assistant Attorney General Tony West announced the establishment of a process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who assert that they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans.

The claims process offers a streamlined alternative to litigation and provides at least \$1.33 billion in compensation, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. This announcement follows the Obama Administration's settlement of longstanding litigation brought by African American farmers and Native American farmers.

In conjunction with this announcement, USDA is launching an outreach effort to potential claimants that will include a call center for farmers and ranchers, a website, public service announcements, and in-person meetings around the country. Individuals interested in participating in the claims process may register to receive a claims package, or may obtain more information, by visiting www.farmerclaims.gov. Individuals can register to receive a claims package by calling the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429. USDA cannot provide legal advice to potential claimants. Persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

COMPLIANCE

Compliance and spot checks will once again be utilized during the 2011 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers is used to achieve a statistical sampling of participating producers. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc.

EMERGENCY LOAN PROGRAMS

The U. S. Department of Agriculture designated 23 Missouri counties as primary agricultural natural disaster areas making certain farmers and other agricultural producers in the counties eligible for low-interest emergency loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), in addition to other disaster programs.

The following counties were designated as primary natural disaster areas due to damages and losses caused by after historic flooding along with excessive rain and high winds occurring from April 1 and continuing. Those counties are: Bollinger, Butler, Camden, Cape Girardeau, Dunklin, Franklin, Gasconade, Hickory, Howell, Laclede, Maries, Mississippi, New Madrid, Oregon, Osage, Pemiscot, Perry, Pulaski, Reynolds, Ripley, Scott, Ste. Genevieve and Stoddard.

Producers in contiguous counties may also be eligible for programs based on this designation. The contiguous counties are: Benton, Callaway, Carter, Cole, Crawford, Dallas, Dent, Douglas, Iron, Jefferson, Madison, Miller, Montgomery, Morgan, Ozark, Phelps, Polk, Shannon, St. Charles, St. Clair, St. Francois, St. Louis, Texas, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Webster and Wright.

All counties listed above were designated natural disaster areas on June 9, 2011, making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low interest emergency (EM) loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the EM loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

USDA also has made other programs available to assist farmers, including the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), which was approved as part of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008; the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP); Federal Crop Insurance; and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.

Interested farmers may contact your local Farm Service Agency office for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

FSA Targets Funds for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers

The USDA Farm Service Agency announced the availability of farm operating and farm ownership loans for women and members of minority groups who want to purchase or operate a family-size farm.

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.

The agency can make direct loans to applicants who are unable to get commercial credit or provide loan guarantees to commercial lenders. Guaranteed loans may be made by any lending institution subject to Federal or state supervision (banks, savings and loans, and units of the Farm Credit System). FSA typically guarantees 90 or 95 percent of the loan against any loss that might be incurred if the loan fails.

Applicants can use operating loans to purchase livestock, equipment, feed, seed or pay other business related expenses. Operating loans are usually repaid in one to seven years. Ownership loans provide capital to purchase or enlarge a farm, construct or improve buildings, promote soil and water conservation and pay closing costs. Direct ownership loan terms are up to 40 years while guaranteed loan terms are established by the lender.

Qualified applicants receive information and assistance to develop sound management practices, analyze problems and utilize available resources essential for successful farming operations to cope with the changing agricultural environment.

To learn more about FSA Farm Loan programs, contact your local Farm Service Agency or visit online at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Non-Insured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

USDA's Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters.

The application and service fees must be filed by the application closing date as established by the producer's FSA state committee. The service fee is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

September 1, 2011 is the sales closing date for 2012 coverage for greens, value loss crops (aquaculture, Christmas trees, ginseng root, turfgrass sod), and controlled environment crops (mushrooms and floriculture)

September 30, 2011 is the sales closing date for strawberries and for fall seeded small grains such as annual rye grass, barley, canola, rye, triticale and wheat.

November 20, 2011 is the sales closing date for apples, apricots, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, prunes and blueberries.

December 1, 2011 is the sales closing date for honey

December 31, 2011 is the sales closing date for potatoes.

February 28, 2012 is the sales closing date for rice.

Selected Interest Rates for July 2011	
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.75%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7-year term	2.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 10-year term	3.00%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 12-year term	3.25%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.250%
Dates to Remember	
July 30, 2011	Final date to apply for ECP
July 31, 2011	Final date to report CRP, NAP and all other crops (except small grains)
August 1, 2011	Deadline for nominations to the COC
September 1, 2011	NAP Sales closing date for greens, value loss and controlled environment crops
Sept. 30, 2011	NAP Sales closing date for strawberries and small grains
Nov. 20, 2011	NAP Sales closing date for apples, apricots, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, prunes and blueberries
Dec. 1, 2011	NAP Sales closing date for honey
Dec. 31, 2011	NAP Sales closing date for potatoes
Feb. 28, 2012	NAP sales closing date for Rice
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. 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, employer and lender.