



County FSA Office

Grundy Co FSA Office
3415 Oklahoma Ave
Trenton, Mo 64683
660-359-2006

Mercer Co FSA Office
Route 2 Box 317
Hwy 65 N.
Princeton, MO 64673
660-748-4385

Putnam Co FSA Office
28988 US Hwy 136
Unionville, MO 63565
660-947-2439

Schuyler Co FSA Office
200 Green
P.O. Box 249
Lancaster, MO 63548
660-457-3715

Scotland Co FSA Office
Hwy 136 E
Route 1 Box 73H
Memphis, MO 63555
660-465-8517

Sullivan Co FSA Office
23487 Eclipse Dr.
Milan, MO 63556
660-265-3440

CRP GENERAL SIGNUP BEGINS MARCH 14

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is offering a general signup period from 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, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland. Land that is not currently enrolled in CRP can be offered during sign-up if all eligibility requirements are met. CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall can make new contract offers during the signup period. Contracts awarded during this general signup will become effective October 1, 2011. For more information, please contact your local County FSA Office or stop by for a visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp>.

CONSERVATION LOAN PROGRAM The Farm Service Agency makes and guarantees conservation loans on farms and ranches to help conserve our natural resources. The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the credit necessary to implement conservation measures on their land. The direct CLs loan limit is up to \$300,000 and guaranteed CLs up to \$1,119,000 (amount adjusted for inflation), may be available by applying with lenders working with FSA to obtain a guarantee. Conservation practices must be approved by NRCS before FSA can provide financing. Producers who do not currently have an existing conservation plan should visit NRCS to develop one prior to requesting Conservation Loan Program assistance. Examples of conservation practices include installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; transitioning to organic production; manure management, including manure digestion systems; etc.

SURE SIGNUP Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) began Jan. 10, 2011, and ends July 29, 2011. SURE provides benefits for 2008 - 2011 crop year farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. A farm enrolled in SURE may be eligible for benefits when either:

- 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.

- any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production of the farm because of disaster related conditions is less than 50% or less than normal production of the farm.

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 will be available starting December 1, 2010. 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 contract signatures for enrollment are due by the signup deadline of June 1, 2011. For more information, producers can contact their local FSA office.

THE ACRE OPTION The Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year



average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. In exchange for participating in ACRE, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent. The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year. The June 1, 2011 deadline is statutory for all participants.

CCC-927 OR CCC-928 MUST BE SENT TO IRS

Producers who participated in 2009 or 2010 programs subject to adjusted gross income limitations (AGI) had to certify compliance with AGI rules. The average AGI verification process for 2009 and 2010 payment eligibility requires all program participants to provide written consent to IRS for the disclosure of certain information to FSA. On October 6, 2010, a letter was mailed to producers who have not submitted:

CCC-927: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Individual Form" and CCC-928: "Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Legal Entity"

Individuals and legal entities, including members of legal entities, that certified to average AGI compliance for 2009 and/or 2010 payment eligibility must submit a completed CCC-927 or CCC-928 to IRS regardless of whether they received program benefits directly or as a member of a joint operation or entity. These forms must be submitted to IRS in order to avoid a demand for refund of program payments and benefits received.

BCAP The Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) provides financial assistance to producers or entities that deliver eligible biomass material to approved biomass conversion facilities (BCF) for conversion to heat, power, bio-based products or bio-fuels. Initial assistance is targeted to providing direct payments to eligible material owners to mitigate the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) costs associated with the delivery of eligible materials. Producers (eligible material owners) who sell these materials can apply for FSA matching payments under the matching payment

provisions of BCAP CHST. An application and supporting eligibility documentation must be submitted before the eligible material is sold and delivered to a BCF to qualify for potential benefits. After the eligible materials are delivered, the eligible producer must provide FSA with documentation from the BCF reflecting the producer, product quantity, payment rate and date of transaction. County offices will validate submitted payment requests and if other eligibility requirements are met continue to complete the process for the producer. BCAP also allows the submission of area wide project proposals for review as a means of obtaining longer term approval as well as additional benefits through authorized cost share for establishment costs and an annual contract payment to support the development of the eligible biomass production in the area. Interested producers are encouraged to review the information available on the FSA website. www.fsa.usda.gov/bcap and contact their local office for additional assistance.

SORGHUM CHECKOFF REFERENDUM SCHEDULED

USDA will conduct a referendum on the Sorghum Checkoff Program Feb. 1-28, 2011, at local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices. Ballots may be obtained in person, by mail or facsimile at county FSA offices, or via the Internet at www.ams.usda.gov/sorghumpage.

Any eligible person engaged in the production or importation of sorghum from July 1, 2008, to December 31, 2010, is eligible to participate. Individuals must prove they sold grain sorghum during the eligible period. Individuals are required to provide documentation such as a sales receipt or remittance form that shows they engaged in the production or importation of sorghum. Sorghum Checkoff is a national, coordinated, self-help marketing program designed to strengthen the position of sorghum in the market place, maintain and expand existing domestic and foreign markets and uses for sorghum, and develop new markets and uses for sorghum.

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.

MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available to producers who share in the risk of producing a crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest. Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan. Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans. 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.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to all committee members who was elected or re-elected to represent farmers on the local county committees.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation. The committee members held their organizational meeting in January to determine who will serve as the county committee chairman and vice-chairman.

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 FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a minimum 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. If a participant provides 20% or greater down payment, then the requirement for a severance agreement for loans under \$50,000 will be waived. 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 not to exceed \$250,000. 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.

Selected Interest Rates for	
February 2011	
Commodity Loans – 1996-Present	1.250%
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.	2.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 10-yr	3.375%

Farm Storage Facility Loan 12-yr	3.625%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.25%

Dates to Remember	
January 17	Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday observed – FSA offices closed
January 31	Final availability date for 2010 crop year MAL & LDP for wool, mohair and pelts
February 21	George Washington’s Birthday observed – FSA offices closed
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program

Dates to Remember	
February 21	Washington’s Birthday observed – FSA offices closed
March 15	NAP application sales closing date for many crops
March 31	Final availability for 2010 crop year MAL & LDP for small grains and honey
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program

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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.”