



July 2010

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Hours: Monday – Friday  
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

**County Committee:**

Henry Williams

Jo Anne Booth

George Phillips

Chris DeCoteau

Committee meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at 9:00 am.

**Staff:**

Kathy Barnett

Dara Conley

Ashley Brunkow

David McAfee, CED

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# JACKSON COUNTY FSA NEWS

## ACREAGE REPORTING

All cropland on your farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Marketing Loans, Loan Deficiency Payments, and the Supplemental Revenue (SURE) Assistance Program. You are also required to report annually at CRP and NAP acreage. The final day to report feed grains and CRP is **August 2nd**.

## PREVENTED PLANTED ACREAGE

Prevented Planted acreage will need to be reported no later than 15 days after the crop's final planting date to avoid a measurement service fee.

## ANNUAL CRP MAINTENANCE REMINDER

CRP participants should review their Conservation Plans and address any CRP maintenance issues that could be a violation of the CRP contract. Items to address includes: **trees, brush, noxious and non-noxious weeds, erosion problems, vehicles or implements parked on CRP**. Failure to address these concerns could result in penalties and possibly contract termination.

Please remember that unauthorized mowing, haying, and grazing are not permitted on CRP acres. Fire lanes and fuel breaks are permitted if prior approval for the County Committee is obtained.

As a reminder the CRP cover shall not be disturbed during the primary nesting this includes burning and spraying, spot treatment is permissible during the nesting season. The brood rearing season is **April 15 to July 15**.

## UNAUTHORIZED DISPOSITION OF LOAN GRAIN

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producers name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call the FSA office before any grain under loan is fed or sold.

## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION NOMINATIONS

COC Nominations are being accepted until August 2, 2010 for Local Administrative Area #1. This includes all of the following townships in Jackson County; Netawaka, Whiting, Soldier, Jefferson, Liberty, Straight Creek.

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.

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

This form can be requested and obtained by visiting or calling the Jackson County FSA Office.

## FARM RECONSTITUTIONS

Changes in land ownership should be reported to our office on a timely basis to ensure our records are up to date. When changes in ownership or an operator takes place a farm reconstitution is necessary. The deadline to request a 2010 farm reconstitution is August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

Special accommodations will be made for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. Please contact the office and we will be happy to make any arrangements you may need

### Dates to Remember

August 2	Final acreage certification date for spring-seeded crops, CRP, and NAP acreage.
August 2	Final date to request a farm reconstitution.

### **FOREIGN INVESTORS RULE**

Foreign owners of U.S. Agricultural land are required by law to report their land holdings, acquisitions, leases of 10 years or more, and land use changes within 90 days to their local FSA office. Failure to report these changes can result in a civil penalty of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of their interest in agricultural land.

### **FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS**

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, soybeans, corn, and hay.

The FSFL program is available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.

The 7, 10 or 12 year loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$500,000 for each borrower. For details, contact the county office staff.

### **SODBUSTER, SWAMPBUSTER**

Most Farm Service Agency programs require compliance with sodbuster and swampbuster provisions. These provisions require producers to follow an approved conservation system on all highly erodible land planted to an annual crop as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Be sure to have determinations made on any new land you plan to plant to annual crops. If you plan to plant a different crop on your current cropland, check with NRCS to assure the new crop will qualify under your conservation system.

Swampbuster provisions state that converting a wetland to make possible the planting of a crop will result in the loss of all USDA benefits. To avoid this possibility it is strongly recommended that producers check with NRCS before starting any kind of dirt work.

### **LOANS FOR THE SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED**

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

### **RURAL YOUTH LOANS**

FSA makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

#### **Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:**

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above

Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project