

Missouri Farm Service Agency

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Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee Elections "FSA Counts on You"

From **June 15 through Aug. 1**, farmers and ranchers can nominate eligible peers as candidates for election to your local Farm Service Agency County Committee. Since COC elections happen only once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into *local administrative areas*, or LAA's. Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee.

Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. In counties with three LAA's, one seat is up for election. In combined counties in some years, two seats may be up for election.

Any eligible person residing in an eligible township who is interested in running for the County Committee, or would like to nominate an individual to run for the County Committee, must complete a nomination form. The nomination form for County FSA Committee Election (FSA-669A) is available at your County FSA office. You may also go on-line and download the form from our Missouri FSA website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/mo. The document is located under the "I Want To" section on the right side of the screen.

This is an important time for LAA communities, because county committee members make decisions that have significant effects on you and the area's agricultural sector as a whole. For example, committee members make decisions on applications for federal farm program and disaster payments. Committee members play a vital role by helping local farmers and ranchers manage tough financial times and natural disasters.

Visit the County Committee Elections website to learn more about the County Committee Election process and read over the fact sheets at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>.

Remember, the nomination period runs **June 15 through August 3**. The completed nomination form must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Aug. 3, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 3, 2009. Voting takes place in the fall. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 6. Dec. 7 is the last day to return voted ballots to the county office. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office Jan. 1, 2010.

Final Acreage Reporting Dates Quickly Approaching

Farm Service Agency (FSA), would like to remind producers of the acreage reporting requirements that must be met prior to receiving program benefits. If producers miss the acreage reporting deadline dates, a late filing fee will be charged.

Producers are required to file an FSA-578, *Report of Acreage*, certification for the farm by the **June 30 deadline for small grains** and by **July 31 for all other crops except small grains**. To be considered timely, acreage reports on crops are due in the county office by the earlier of June 30 for small grains and July 31 for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

It is also very important that producers report crop losses, including those insured under Federal Crop Insurance (FCIC) and Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) within 15 days of the date damage occurred or 15 days from the date damage is apparent. Losses and or damages to crops must be reported after each disaster occurrence and in a timely manner to insure continued eligibility for benefits.

Producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA county office to file the required FSA-578 certification report before the deadline dates expire. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.



Selected Interest Rates for June 2009	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.250%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.250%
Farm Ownership Loans — Beginning Farmer Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	2.625%
Sugar Storage Facility Loans	4.000%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.500%

MILC Payments on Their Way to Dairy Farmers

As a result of low dairy prices, MILC payments continue to be distributed to dairy producers. Producers participating in USDA's Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program will receive payments for the month of April. USDA makes MILC payments on a monthly basis when the Boston Class I milk price falls below \$16.94 per hundredweight as adjusted for feed costs.

USDA determines the per hundredweight payment rate for the applicable month by subtracting the Boston Class I price for that month from the \$16.94 MILC payment trigger price, established in the 2008 Farm Bill, as adjusted for feed costs, and multiplying the difference by 45 percent. The monthly Boston Class I price along with final MILC payment rates are posted online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA>.

The MILC payment trigger price of \$16.94 is adjusted upward when the National Average Dairy Feed Ration Cost for a month is greater than \$7.35 per cwt. USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service recently released the data for determining the Average Dairy Feed Ration Cost for the month of April on May 29, 2009. Using this information and the formula contained in the 2008 Act, the MILC payment trigger for the month of April has been adjusted to \$17.14, for a final MILC payment rate of \$1.58628.

For more information about the MILC program, please visit your local FSA office or go online to: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA>.

Maintaining Stored Grain Quality

Since the summer heat will be here soon, producers are reminded to keep an eye on the condition and quality of the stored grain. Remember to contact your local FSA office if you notice changes in the condition and quality of the stored grain.

Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency 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;
- Live in a rural area or in a town of 50,000 people or fewer;
- Must obtain a written recommendation and consent from a parent or guardian if the applicant has not reached the age of majority under state law;
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements;
- 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 and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

To find out more about the FSA Rural Youth loan program, contact your local FSA county office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official.

2009 Compliance and Spot-Check Review

Compliance and spot checks will once again be utilized during the 2009 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, marketing assistance loans, etc., for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers is used to achieve a statistical sampling of participating producers. A statistical sample of FSA employees, County Committee (COC) and State Committee (STC) members have also been selected for review using this same process. 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.

FSA may review a producer's operations in multiple states and counties, depending on the scope of the producer's operations. FSA will review both the accuracy of the representations made by the selected producers in connection with participation in FSA programs as well as the producer's compliance with applicable program requirements. The reviews may need to be conducted at various times throughout the year depending on the FSA programs in which the producer is participating. If an entity is selected from the national database that is no longer farming or participating in the 2009 crop year, a notation shall be made on the spot check list.

FSA appreciates the cooperation of its customers as the agency continues to enhance its operations. FSA's goal is to ensure that program dollars are delivered effectively and efficiently so America's farmers and ranchers can provide safe and abundant food, fiber and fuel for consumers at home and abroad. For more information about the new spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local FSA office for additional clarification.

Special Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

Foreign Investors Who Hold Agricultural Land

Foreign investors, who buy, sell or hold a direct or indirect interest in U.S. agricultural land must report their holdings and transactions to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Failure to timely file an accurate report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land. Foreign persons who are buying or selling land must report the transaction **within 90 days of the date of the transaction.**

Who Must Report:

- Individuals who are not U.S. citizens or citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands or the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands;
- Individuals who are not lawfully admitted to the U.S. for permanent residence or who are not paroled into the U.S. under the Immigration and Nationality Act;
- Any organization created under laws of a foreign government or which has located its principle place of business outside the U.S.;
- Any U.S. organization in which a significant interest or substantial control is directly or indirectly held by foreign individuals, organizations or governments; and
- Any foreign governments.

What to Report:

- Each tract of agricultural land in the U.S., its territories, the Northern Mariana Islands and the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands owned by persons required to report; and
- Leaseholds of 10 years or more.

USDA designated the FSA to collect the AFIDA report forms. Individuals wanting to obtain an AFIDA report form (FSA-153) may do so from any FSA county office. The (FSA-153) is available in both English and Spanish translations. You can also go on-line and download the form at: http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/Forms/FSA0153_010524V02.pdf.

Although interested parties may obtain a report form from any FSA county office, the completed form must be returned to the FSA county office where the land or where the programs are administered.

Foreign investors should contact your local FSA if this pertains to you. To locate the FSA county office, you can look in the telephone book white pages or go on-line to: www.fsa.usda.gov/mo and then click on the "County Offices" link. Then click on the county where the land is located.

DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until August 14, 2009. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. Signup in the ACRE option is also available through August 14, 2009. FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this on-line service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

Missouri FSA Changes NAP Sales Closing Dates for Strawberries & Blueberries

Missouri announced the deadline to purchase coverage under FSA's Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) has changed for strawberries and blueberries effective for the 2010 and subsequent crop years.

The sales closing date for blueberries and strawberries was previously March 15 of the year prior to the growing season. For strawberries, the new closing date for Missouri will be September 30 and for blueberries the new date is November 20. For coverage for the 2010 crop year, producers must purchase a NAP policy by September 30, 2009, or November 20, 2009, respectively.

The NAP program allows producers to have protection on crops in which catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. NAP coverage can provide financial assistance in cases where there is a crop loss or prevented planting due to a natural disaster. To apply for coverage, producers must complete a form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, and pay the applicable service fees at their local FSA office by the applicable sales closing date. 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. There are special provisions for limited resource producers for a waiver of fees.

To apply for NAP coverage or to learn more about the program, visit your local FSA county office. Information is also available online at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Dates to Remember	
June 15	County Committee Nomination period begins.
June 30	Final certification date for small grains.
July 3	Independence Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
July 31	Final certification date for all crops except small grains.
Aug. 1	Final date to request farm reconstitution for current fiscal year.
Aug. 3	Last day to file County Committee Nomination forms.
Aug. 14	Sign-up Deadline for DCP and ACRE Programs.
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.
Continues	Continuous CRP.

Visit our website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/mo