



NEWSLETTER



September 2013

Union County FSA Office

County Committee
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Director
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Hours
Monday - Friday
7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Farm Loan Manager
Kevin Jordan
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Program Technicians
Tim Hines
Tara Hett

CoC Meeting:
September 17th
9:00 a.m.

2013 County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to all farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the diversity of producers and represent all constituents. This means that minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for underrepresented groups.

County Committee election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 4, 2013. The last day to return completed ballots to the USDA Service Center is Dec. 2, 2013.

DCP Deadline Reminders

Producers who have not yet enrolled in DCP or have not yet signed their DCP contracts must do so by close of business **Monday, Sept. 16, 2013.**

Also, producers with succession-in-interest changes on their operation that affect interest in base acres since the current DCP contract on file was signed, must report those changes to the local FSA office by close of business **Monday, Sept. 30, 2013. (See story page 2.)**

Failure to report a succession-in-interest can result in contract termination and a loss of program benefits for all producers involved.

The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, enacted on Jan. 2, 2013, amends the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 and provides for a one-year extension of the Direct and Counter-Cyclical (DCP) program.

Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest until 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 maintaining 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.

To maintain eligibility for commodity loans producers must comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest and acreage reporting requirements and ensure 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 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. 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.

Disaster Assistance: Emergency Farm Loans

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding and other natural disasters or quarantine.

Emergency loan funds may be used to:

- Restore or replace essential property;
- Pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year;
- Pay essential family living expenses;
- Reorganize the farming operation; and
- Refinance certain debts.

Further information and applications for the loan programs described are available at local FSA county offices.

Dates to Remember	
Sept. 16	DCP Enrollment Deadline
Sept. 30	Successor in Interest Report Deadline
Oct. 14	Columbus Day, Office Closed
Nov. 4	COC Ballots Mailed to Eligible Voters
Dec. 2	Last Day to Return COC Ballots

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