



Andrew County News

August 2009

**Andrew County
Farm Service Agency**

VOTE!!

County Committee Elections "FSA Counts on You"

Andrew County FSA
105 Hwy. 71 West
Savannah, MO 64485
816-324-3196 (phone)
816-324-5879 (fax)

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Roger Scott, Chairperson
James Steeby, Vice - Ch.
Karen Strasser, Member

Staff
Bob Caldwell, CED
Charlotte Holeman, FLM
Sindy Barr, PT
Carrie Noland, PT
Allyson Wells, PT
John Wheeler, FA

Jim Nance, Dist. Director

Issue Highlight

COC Election

Emergency
Cost Share

Sodbusting

Wetlands

NAP Deadline

Farm Stored
Facility Loans

Bob's Corner

Since COC elections happen only once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into *local administrative areas*, or LAAs. 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 or re-elect the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. This year the Southeast part of the county will hold an election, which includes Rochester, Monroe and Jefferson Townships.

Karen Strasser is currently serving as the committee person from this area, and has been nominated to continue for another term of 3 years.

Voting

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 6, and must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Dec. 7, or postmarked by midnight Dec. 7, 2009. Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote. No one can be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

RAINFALL THIS SUMMER

May---5.26"	June---9.8"
July---5.22"	Aug.---4.08"(8-18)

This is as recorded at Savannah, with some parts of the county having received even more than this.

2009 Emergency Cost Share

A sign up will begin September 1 and run through October 30th for producers who suffered severe damage to terraces in early June from excessive rainfall in Andrew County. Some of the provisions are as follows:

- Must have had at least \$1000 worth of damage.
- Terraces cannot be under 10 years old if built with state cost share,
- 75% of the average cost will be cost shared on eligible practices,
- Terraces must have been maintained over the years,
- Field inspections need to be done by our office **BEFORE** the work is started.

NOTE: This is **not** a program for general terrace cleanout, rather it is an emergency program to repair systems that have blowouts with sizeable ditches and excessive new sediment from the storms in June of 2009. There is currently about \$7 million in unfunded requests around the country for various disasters such as flood, tornado, and other disasters.

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.

Sodbusting

The term “sodbusting” is used to identify the plowing up of erosion-prone grasslands for use as cropland. Sodbuster violations are unauthorized tillage practices on highly erodible lands that converted native vegetation such as rangeland or woodland, to crop production after Dec. 23, 1985. Farmers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs. Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production. If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates on a CPA-026 that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage, before bringing land into production.

In addition, producers and the producer’s affiliates have to file an AD-1026 with the staff in the administrative or control county office before any farm program payments can be made. The AD-1026 is the producer’s signed certification that HELC, as well as wetland conservation, provisions will not be violated

IMPORTANT NOTE: Be careful not to do too much tillage especially after soybeans to avoid possible violation of your conservation plan. Also, be careful to follow your approved rotation, soybeans after soybeans can be a problem unless it is in your plan to do so. If your farm is checked and you are found out of compliance, it could prove to be very costly.

Wetland Compliance

Producers renting or purchasing land that may have a converted wetland status need to check with the county office to learn if there are restrictions. The last thing FSA wants to do is to deny a producer benefits due to wetland noncompliance. The 1985 Farm Bill provides that, **unless exempt**, persons **are ineligible** for benefits under certain programs administered by USDA if they:

- plant an agricultural commodity on wetland that was converted after December 23, 1985
- convert a wetland after November 28, 1990

FSA may not approve any loan or loan guarantee to drain, dredge, fill, level or otherwise manipulate a wetland, or to engage in any activity that results in impairing or reducing the flow, circulation or reach of water except in the case of activity related to the maintenance of previously converted wetlands. The following provides permitted uses and restrictions of certain wetlands for compliance with Wetland compliance provisions:

- Wetlands can be farmed under natural conditions. However, **wetlands cannot be converted.**
- Wetlands converted before November 28, 1990, cannot be planted to an agricultural commodity and retain eligibility for benefits.

Livestock Indemnity Program

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from disaster. Using funds from the Agricultural Disaster Relief Trust Fund established under section 902 of the Trade Act of 1974, the program is administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat and extreme cold. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011.

The following table provides the final dates to file a notice of loss and/or application for payment for either 2008 or 2009 livestock losses

Date of Livestock Death	Final Date to File a Notice of Loss	Final Date to Submit an Application for Payment
Calendar Year 2008	Sept. 13, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009
Jan. 1, 2009 to July 12, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009	Jan. 30, 2010
July 13, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2009	30 days after death is apparent	Jan. 30, 2010

For more information on available supplemental disaster assistance programs, please visit your FSA county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a “Notice of Loss” within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

For more information on NAP coverage please contact your nearest Farm Service Agency office.

Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans. ACRE participants will have a 30 percent lower loan rate on production from ACRE farms.

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.

Farm Stored Facility Loans

There have been several changes brought about for the Farm Stored Facility Loan Program. Loans are now available for not only grain bins, but also hay storage and fruit and vegetable cold storage. Other changes include:

- Application fee increased to \$100
- Adds terms of 10 and 12 years
- Increases maximum to \$500,000
- Down payment of 15 or 20%.

More information and training will be provided to our offices soon. As before, you must be approved for a loan BEFORE you begin site preparation or take delivery of any building materials. A site visit is required by a FSA employee. Financial records, including a financial statement and cash flow must be provided. This information will be viewed only by the farm loan manager, and then a recommendation will be made to the FSA County Committee for approval.

The applicant must show that their current storage facilities are not large enough to store two years of production, based on previous crop history.

The fixed interest rate will be whatever the rate is the month the application is approved.

Producers thinking of requesting a loan, need to start the process early to allow time for the required farm visit, lien searches and other tasks that must be completed.

Continuous CRP Available

USDA has indicated there will not be general signups scheduled for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in 2009. The budget has no available funding for CRP general signups, and instead advocates enrollment in Continuous CRP.

2009 Compliance

Compliance and spot checks will once again be utilized during the 2009 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, 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, Marketing Assistance Loans, Loan Deficiency Payment Program, etc.

Bob's Corner

Managed haying and grazing of CRP is available on certain contracts, but be sure to check with our office before you make any plans for haying or grazing. Certain acres that were hayed or grazed last year cannot be hayed this year.

Emergency haying of CRP is available in Andrew County due to the excessive rainfall received this spring. There is a 25% reduction in payment for either program. The only advantage of the Emergency haying over the managed program, is that you can hay the same acres that you did in the 2 previous years. 50% of each field must be left un-hayed, and haying must be completed by August 31, 2009. Under the managed program haying is allowed through September.

Be sure to check with the office before any haying or grazing is done!!

We made it through another sign up period for ACRE and DCP as well as crop reporting. Thanks for all of your patience and cooperation as we worked together to complete this task.

A sign up for SURE, will begin later this fall. The SURE program replaced ad-hoc disaster programs and losses are based on total revenue of your operation. Remember this will be for the **2008** crop year, as the national average prices had to be determined. More information will be provided later as it becomes available.

Bob Caldwell, CED

Notes from NRCS:

****** Conservation Compliance ******

Conservation Compliance is still a requirement for USDA participation. In recent years, there has been an apparent decline in no-till planting. Prior to 2009, we were able to use a five year tillage and crop rotation for compliance calls. In passing of the 2008 Farm Bill, we are now required to look at: 1) last years residue 2) this years crop. Needless to say, tillage and no terraces make for a bad combination.

When harvest comes to conclusion this fall, consider the value of USDA programs.

*****Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)*****

The USDA-NRCS is administering the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). The new and improved CSP is a nationwide, continuous sign-up with periodic cut-offs for ranking. Eligible participants must meet the minimum criteria to protect at least one resource concern (soil, water, plant, and/or animals) and address an additional resource concern by the end of the contract.

The lifespan of a contract is five years and will pay approximately \$18 per acre. For more information on CSP contact the Andrew County NRCS office by calling 816-324-3196, ext. 3 or visit the staff at the USDA Service Center in Savannah, Missouri.

Selected Interest Rates for August 2009	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.125%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.0%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.125%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.50%

Dates to Remember	
Sept. 7	USDA Offices closed for Labor Day
Oct. 12	USDA Offices closed for Columbus Day
Nov. 11	USDA Offices closed for Veterans Day
Continues	Farm Stored Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

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