



Andrew County News

June 2010

Andrew County FSA
105 Hwy 71 West
Savannah, MO 64485

Phone:
(816) 324-3196
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(816) 324-5879

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

County Committee
Roger Scott
Jim Steeby
Karen Strasser

The COC meets the third Friday of each month at 8:30 a.m.

Staff
Sindy Barr, PT
Carrie Noland, PT
Allyson Wells, PT
Martie Schuman, Temp.
John Wheeler, Field
Charlotte Holeman, FL
Bob Caldwell, CED

District Director
Jim Nance

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2010 DCP/ACRE Signup Deadline was JUNE 1, 2010

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Countercyclical Program (DCP) ended **June 1, 2010**. **By law, late-filed applications will not be accepted.** Owners with zero share may still sign if the operator signed the contract by June 1.

New Form Must be Submitted to IRS by Every Producer

To remain eligible for certain 2009 and 2010 FSA payments, individuals and legal entities will be required to file a **2009 and / or 2010 Consent To Disclosure of Tax Information form (CCC-927 or CCC-928) with the IRS**. By filing this form, producers authorize IRS to disclose to USDA the accuracy of each producer's certifications regarding the AGI limits listed previously. IRS will report to USDA a **"Yes" or "No"** answer about each producer's eligibility, **but IRS will not provide actual tax data to USDA.**

If you receive payments from FSA, you can request the forms from your local FSA office or go online at <http://forms.sc.gov.usda.gov>.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from **extreme** adverse weather/natural disaster events. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of established normal mortality rates due to natural disasters, including losses due to floods, blizzards, wildfires, extreme heat, extreme cold, tornados, and lightning. **The natural disaster must be a direct cause of the livestock death.**

It will be the producers' responsibility to notify the county FSA office about their livestock deaths. Payments are based on 75% of the fair market value for each type and weight range of livestock as determined by FSA. Producers are reminded that LIP regulations require that they *must file a notice of loss within 30 calendar days of when the livestock died* in order to be eligible for LIP. **Please call 816-324-3196 ext 2, for complete LIP eligibility details.**

Yearly Acreage Reporting

Acreage reporting time will soon be here. 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. **Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date. Dates have changed from past years and are now as follows:**

CORN – May 25 SOYBEANS – June 15

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs.

Acreage reports are to be certified by the **June 30th deadline on small grains such as Wheat and Oats** by the **July 31st deadline on all other crops.**

Acreage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid 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.

2010 FSA County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to all farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees (COC) are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. COC members are a critical component of FSA operations. Nominations are being accepted through August 2 for Area 2 which includes **Ben-ton, Platte and Empire Townships**. Nomination forms are available in our office and must be signed by the nominee, agreeing to be a candidate. Ballots will be mailed out in November in this area.

NOMINATE & VOTE!!

Emergency Loan Designation

A final reminder that it was announced October 20, 2009, that 75 counties in Missouri, including Andrew County will have FSA disaster loans available due to excessive rain, strong winds and flooding which occurred on February 1, 2009, through July 31, 2009. Applications for assistance will be accepted at the county office of the Farm Service Agency, 502 West South Hills Drive, Suite 104, Maryville, MO 64468, for physical and production losses caused by this disaster. Applications will be accepted through June 21, 2010.

Loans for physical losses must be used to replace or repair damage to buildings, fences or to compensate the farmer for losses of basic livestock, stored crops or supplies on hand, equipment, etc., that was lost due to the disaster. Loans for production losses may also be used to buy feed, seed, fertilizer, livestock or to make payments on real estate or chattel debts. Generally, loans for production losses cannot be approved until crops have their production cycle or have been harvested.

In order to qualify, a farmer must have suffered a 30% loss in production or an actual physical loss that was essential to the successful operation of the farm. Loans for actual losses are made at an interest rate of 3.75% for emergency loans to those eligible applicants who are unable to obtain the actual credit needed from another source. All loan programs of the Farm Service Agency are conducted on a non-discriminatory basis.

Sodbuster Regulations

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 and ranchers 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 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.

CRP Management Provisions

CRP contracts with grass cover practices that were enrolled prior to the 26th Sign Up (5/5/03) were allowed to mow up to one half of each field each year between July 16 and August 15. The mowing provisions should be included in the Conservation Plan of Operation (CPO) along with other management guidance. Mowing outside of this period is prohibited without the consent of the local FSA County Committee. Producers should consult their local FSA County office if they have questions about these provisions.

For CRP contract participants whose contracts began with the 26th Sign Up or after, they are subject to the Mid Contract Management (MCM) provisions. These provisions should be included in the CPO and include options for burning, disking or spraying. Mowing is only allowed in conjunction with disking and spraying. Any mowing for generic weed control is strictly prohibited. Producers should contact their local FSA office if they have questions about their MCM requirements.

Below are the Mid Contract Management (MCM) dates.

Cool Season Grass-Burning	March 15-April 30
Cool Season Grass-Spraying	March 15 - April 30 OR October 1 - December 1
Warm Season Grass-Burning	July 16 - March 15
Warm Season Grass-Spraying	July 16 - September 15
Disc- Cool Season or Warm Season	July 16 - March 15

Producers should review their CPO and/or consult with NRCS or the MDC Private Land Specialist to determine the best methods to achieve the desired results. The goals of MCM practices are to achieve stand diversity along with 25-40% bare ground. May 1 through July 15 is considered the primary nesting season, and management activities are prohibited during this timeframe.

All required food plots needed to be completed and reported to our office. Papers and maps have been sent out for you to complete and return. If you have misplaced them, you can stop by the office and report this to us.

If you have questions about what you can do and cannot do, be sure to call **before** you do anything.....

816-324-3196 ext. 2

FSA Farm Loans

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

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 \$1,112,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, loans to beginning farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For detailed information on loan eligibility, or the different available loan programs, contact the county office staff for an appointment with farm loan personnel.

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 \$5,000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- *Be a citizen of the United States 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 and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Please contact your local FSA Office for complete details.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) sign-up Continues

Sign up for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) on 2008 crops is under way. SURE is a permanent disaster program created by the 2008 Farm Bill that replaces the previous "ad hoc" crop disaster programs of the past. Unlike those disaster programs that paid for losses by unit and crop, **the SURE program is a "total farm" disaster program.** This revenue based program compares crops' expected revenue and program guarantee dollar amounts to the actual crop revenue of the entire farming operation. **Entire farming operation refers to all farms and all interests, in all counties.**

In order to be eligible for payments under SURE, you are required to have carried insurance at the CAT level or better on all insurable crops and NAP coverage on all non-insurable crops (hay for example) with an economic significance of 5% or greater, within the farming operation. In 2009 and subsequent years, RMA's Rainfall Index policy is acceptable coverage for hay acres. For the SURE program, grazing acres do not require coverage.

The SURE program is available to eligible producers if two 'triggers' are met. First, the county must have received a Secretarial Disaster Declaration due to natural disaster, or be contiguous to a county with the declaration. Andrew County had a Secretarial Disaster Declaration in 2008. Second, **at least one crop of economic significance in a producer's operation must have a 10% crop production loss.** For qualifying producers, if the total farm revenue is less than the SURE program guarantee, the SURE payment is made at 60% of the difference. The SURE guarantee is very similar to a producer's crop insurance guarantee. Depending on the coverage levels, the higher the coverage the higher the guarantee level will be. There is an online calculator that can help producers estimate probable payments. You may access the calculator at www.fsa.usda.gov/mo.

If you believe that you might be eligible for SURE, please call 816-324-3196, ext 2. We will access your RMA (crop insurance) informational downloads and discuss the applicable eligibility requirements with you prior to your office visit.

Since the SURE program is available through 2011, as a producer, you can prepare your operation for SURE eligibility by insuring all economically significant crops in all counties each year.

Civil Rights/Discrimination Process

As a participant or applicant for programs or activities operated or sponsored by USDA you have a right to be treated fairly. If you believe you have been discriminated against because of your race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, disability, or marital or familial status, you may file a discrimination complaint. The complaint should be filed with the USDA Office of Civil Rights within 180 days of the date you became aware of the alleged discrimination. To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD), USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Prevented Planting must be
 Filed within 15 days of:
 Final Planting Date, Corn – May 25
 Soybeans – June 15**

ACREAGE REPORTING

Acreage reports are to be certified by the **June 30th deadline on small grains** and a **July 31st deadline for CRP and all other crops**. For complete details on filing your 2010 acreage report, please see the article on page one of this newsletter.

Failed Acres

Must be reported to Crop insurance and FSA before destroying the initial crop.

CRP General Sign Up Expected

FSA anticipates a Conservation Reserve Program general sign up in 2010. We don't know which contract years this will involve for land that is currently in CRP. Producers are reminded that land must be physically capable of being cropped at the time of signing up for the CRP. Therefore if you have trees and brush on your CRP at the time of sign up, this acreage will not be eligible to be offered for re-enrollment.

Dates to Remember	
June 30	Crop Reporting Deadline for Small Grains
July 5	USDA Offices Closed Independence Day Observed
July 31	Crop reporting deadline for CRP and all other crops
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
Continues	Loans for grain bins and hay buildings

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

Selected Interest Rates for May 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.875%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer, Rancher or Socially Disadvantaged	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7-yr.	3.25%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 10-yr.	3.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 12-yr.	4.125%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.50%

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