



# NEWSLETTER



## Andrew County FSA Office

105 Hwy. 71 West  
Savannah, MO 64485

816-324-3196 ph.  
816-324-5879 fax

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

## APRIL 2011

### County Office Staff Bob Caldwell County Ex. Director

Charlotte Holeman  
Farm Loan Manager

Sindy Barr  
Allyson Wells  
Carrie Noland  
Martie Schuman, Tp.  
Program Technicians

County Committee  
Jim Steeby  
Karen Strasser  
Tommi Herbster

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of  
each month - 8:30 am  
(April meeting will be  
April 14, 2011)

John Wheeler, Field

District Director  
Jim Nance

Visit our Website at:  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/mo](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo)

April is here, and it soon will be time to plant corn. If you haven't been in to sign up for the 2011 DCP or ACRE programs, please do so before you get busy in the field. Like everyone else, we are operating under a tight budget and are looking for ways to save money. One way we can save is to send out reminders of deadlines by e-mail and/or text messages to your cell phone. If you would like to participate in this, please complete, sign and mail or drop back to us. Carrier is the cell phone company such as AT&T, Verizon, etc. *Bob Caldwell, CED*

I would like to receive messages by text or e-mail. Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_ Carrier \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

## CRP Sign up Ends April 15

Landowners enrolled in the CRP program receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term (10 year), resource conserving covers on eligible farmland. Land that is not currently enrolled in CRP can be offered during sign-up if all eligibility requirements are met. CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall can make new contract offers during the sign-up period. Contracts awarded during this general sign-up will become effective October 1, 2011.

**Attention:** CRP participants that have CRP contracts accepted in General Sign ups 26, 29, 33 and 39! Mowing was restricted during these general sign ups. Participants in these sign ups, may now request to have their conservation plan revised to allow occasional mowing to control weeds, brush and other undesirable vegetation. There are some additional restrictions that apply and this does not substitute for the mid contract management. If you are interested you need to contact our office and we will work with you to incorporate this into your CRP conservation plan.

**FOOD PLOTS & MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**  
Be sure to contact our office when all required food plots and management practices are completed.

## FSA eAlerts

Receive program information via text message and/or e-mail.

- Upcoming program sign-ups
- Upcoming program deadlines
- Disaster program information

You can choose to receive either via text message, e-mail or both. Postcard reminders will no longer be mailed.

County office newsletters will continue to be mailed. You can opt out of receiving FSA eAlerts at any time.

FSA eAlerts are provided as a service to Missouri FSA producers. Always refer to your county office newsletter for program information or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/mo](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo).

## DCP/ ACRE Signup & Advance Payments

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or ACRE has begun and will continue **through June 1, 2011**. Advance payments of 22 % on the 2011 DCP program will be available as soon as all signatures of owners and operators on the farm are obtained. The rest will be issued after October 1, 2011.

## Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.



### AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VILSACK ANNOUNCES PROCESS TO RESOLVE DISCRIMINATION CLAIMS OF HISPANIC AND WOMEN FARMERS

As part of continued efforts to close the chapter on allegations that discrimination occurred at USDA in past decades, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced the establishment of a process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who assert that they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans.

The claims process offers a streamlined alternative to litigation and provides at least \$1.33 billion in compensation, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. This announcement follows the Obama Administration's settlement of longstanding litigation brought by African American farmers and Native American farmers.

In conjunction with this announcement, USDA is launching an outreach effort to potential claimants that will include a call center for farmers and ranchers, a website, public service announcements, and in-person meetings around the country. Individuals interested in participating in the claims

process may register to receive a claims package, or may obtain more information, by visiting [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov).

Beginning February 25, 2011, individuals can register to receive a claims package by calling the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429. USDA cannot provide legal advice to potential claimants. Persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

## Farming Operation Changes

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

## Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

## Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

## Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

## Adjusted Gross Income Forms

Producers are reminded that they are annually required to certify to their Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) on form CCC-926 each year. Also, new AGI forms (CCC-927 for individuals and CCC-928 for entity's) must be submitted to IRS by every producer earning benefits in 2011. It is the producer's responsibility to submit the applicable form to IRS.

Failure to do so will result in a non compliance determination for AGI and the loss of all USDA benefits.

## Farm Storage Facility Loans

Need additional storage capacity for your row crops or hay? You may want to check into a Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) with your local FSA office. The FSFL program allows producers to obtain low-interest fixed rate financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. At present, an eligible producer could obtain up to a \$50K FSFL loan for 7years at 2.875% fixed interest. For more info on FSFL's contact the office.

## Protecting Your Privacy

If you are changing operators on your farm, you need to call our office with that information, so that when he or she comes into the office we can give them access to your records.

This also is important if you want realtors, insurance agents, or anyone else to have information about your operation. We want to provide the best service possible to everyone, but we are required by law to have your permission to give out records or even maps. If you give us a written authorization, you need to include who you want to have access and for how long of a time period.

## Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

## Report Prevented Planting and Failed Acreage

It is important to report prevented planting and failed acres within 15 days after the final planting date for corn and beans. Failure to do so will may result in eligibility issues for SURE and ACRE programs. Final reporting dates for corn and soybeans are 5/31 and 6/20, respectively.

## SURE Signup (Crop Disaster)

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) ends July 29, 2011. SURE provides benefits for 2008 - 2011 crop year farm revenue losses due to natural disasters for producers that meet the following requirements:

- At least one crop of economic significance suffers a 10% loss in revenue.
- All crops of economic significance were insured in 2009 at least at the CAT level.
- All crops, in all counties and states that a producer has an interest in are considered a farm for the SURE program.

We can download your information from RMA, just let us know if you think you may qualify.

## EMERGENCY LOANS

Producers who suffered a production loss or physical loss of at least 30% during the period of February 1, 2010 through July 15, 2010, may be eligible for an emergency loan through the farm Service Agency. The deadline to apply is 20, 2011.

Applications will be accepted at the Farm Service Agency, 502 West South Hills Drive, Suite 104, Maryville, MO 64468. Farm Loan personnel are normally at the Andrew County Office in Savannah, on Thursday mornings from 8:00 a.m. until noon.

Loans are made at an interest rate of 3.75% to eligible applicants **who are unable to obtain credit elsewhere.**

**All loan programs of the Farm Service Agency are conducted on a non-discriminatory basis.**

\$

## Conservation Loan Program

The Farm Service Agency makes and guarantees conservation loans on farms and ranches to help conserve our natural resources. The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the credit necessary to implement conservation measures on their land. The direct CL's loan limit is up to \$300,000 and guaranteed CL's up to \$1,119,000 (amount adjusted for inflation), may be available by applying with lenders working with FSA to obtain a guarantee. Conservation practices must be approved by NRCS before FSA can provide financing.

Producers who do not currently have an existing conservation plan should visit NRCS to develop one prior to requesting Conservation Loan Program assistance. Examples of conservation practices include installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; transitioning to organic production; manure management, including manure digestion systems; etc.

Dates to Remember	
April 15	General CRP Sign up ends
May 31	Last Date of obtain CCC loan on corn and soybeans
June 1	DCP / ACRE Deadline

Selected Interest Rates for March 2011	
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.50%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.875%
Limited Resource Loans	5.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7-yr.	2.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 10-yr.	3.50%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 12-yr.	3.875%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.25%

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."