



## 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.

## November 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

John Wheeler, Field

District Director  
Jim Nance

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

Another harvest is almost done. I am sure many of you are ready for a little rest after the long harvest with not many breaks. Overall, Andrew County had some good yields, with a few areas hit by flooding and an area of hail and some widespread wind damage to corn.

I have written many newsletters over the almost 30 years that I have been the CED here in Andrew County, and I guess this will be my last one. I have accepted an offer for early retirement and December 2, 2011 will be my last day with the Farm Service Agency. I have seen a lot of changes over the years and I am sure there are more on the way. I have enjoyed serving the farmers of Andrew County and have been blessed with excellent co-workers and County Committee persons. God bless and thanks for feeding us!! *Bob Caldwell, CED*

## FSA eAlerts

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

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.

There will be fewer County office newsletters mailed in the future. 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

Enrollment for the 2012 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or ACRE will begin on **January 23, 2012** and continue **through June 1, 2012**. Advance payments are not authorized for 2012. The entire payment will be made after October 1, 2012.

All producers with a risk and share in the crop, must be on the DCP contract for a proportionate share of the payment.

## 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 funds.



## VOTE FOR FSA COMMITTEE

Ballots should have been received by voters in LAA# 1 which includes Clay, Jackson, Lincoln and Nodaway townships. Ballots must be signed and returned by December 5, 2011.

## CRP Update

There will be several acres coming out of CRP September 30, 2012. As in 2011, there will probably be a sign up for landowners to offer the land under expiring contracts for another 10 years. To be eligible, acres to be re-enrolled must be considered capable of being farmed, which means **any existing trees must be removed by the time of the sign up period.** We do not know when the exact sign up dates will be, but this is a reminder so that you can get started now if you have a tree problem.



Payment rates have improved over the years and most all soil types are paying over \$100 per acre per year. You will probably get a letter later if you have land coming out, but if you are not sure when your contract(s) expire, give us a call or stop by and we will check it for you.

If you are considering a wind turbine or cell phone tower on CRP acres, be sure to check with our office first.

### 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.

### Emergency Cost-share (ECP)

Producers along the Nodaway or Missouri River who had damage from the flooding, can sign up for cost share by December 9, 2011. There must be at least \$2500 damage from debris, sand, or silted in drainage ditches. Be sure to check with the office before you start a project.

## 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 Change

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.

## 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 7 years at 1.5% 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.

## SURE Signup (Crop Disaster)

Signup for the 2010 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) begins November 14, 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 2010 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.

Losses for 2011 crops will be addressed during a sign up later in 2012 after average prices and yields are determined.

## EMERGENCY LOANS

Producers who suffered a production loss or physical loss of at least 30% during the period of January 31 to February 5, 2011 may be eligible for an emergency loan through the farm Service Agency. The deadline to apply is November 23, 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.**

**Dairy – MILC** Currently milk prices are high enough that there is no authorized MILC payment. If prices drop back below certain levels, payments may be made. If you produce more than the maximum pounds, you can designate what month you want to start. Call or come by the office for more details.

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# Retirement Open House

For  
**Bob Caldwell, CED**

**Thursday, December 1, 2011**

**Bob is retiring from USDA after 29 years and 9 months. You are invited to come by the office or call between 1:30 and 4:30 p.m. on December 1, to have refreshments and visit with Bob one more time in his current position. Bob plans to remain in Savannah and continue to serve the Helena and Union Star United Methodist Churches as Pastor.**

**Bob has travelled about every road in Andrew County over the years as he measured grain bins and looked at fields. He worked on the Darrel Guest farm in Northeast Andrew County for 7 years before moving to Savannah and beginning his career with ASCS in 1982. Bob graduated from Northwest Missouri State University in 1974 with a B.S. in Ag-Business. He also attended the Saint Paul United Methodist Seminary in Kansas City during his summer vacations for 10 years.**

**Bob has been married to his wife, Bertha for 38 years. She is retired from the Savannah School District after 29 years of teaching elementary grades K-4.**

**Bob and Bertha have two sons, Seth and Simon. Seth is married and lives in Lee's Summit with his wife and two sons. Simon lives at home and works at Specialty Industries in St. Joseph and is very active in Special Olympics.**

**Bob says he has enjoyed working with the farmers in Andrew County over the years, and now it is time to move on and spend more time with his family and churches.**

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**Dates to Remember**

Nov. 14	SURE Sign up for 2010 begins
Nov. 24	Office closed for Thanksgiving
Jan. 23	DCP Sign up for 2012 begins

**Selected Interest Rates for**

**November 2011**

Farm Operating Loans — Direct	1.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.7575%
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.	1.50%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 10-yr.	2.00%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 12-yr.	2.25%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%



*Bob Caldwell*

*County Executive Director  
 March 7, 1982 – Dec. 2, 2011*

***Retirement open house***

*Dec. 1, 2011 - 1:30 – 4:30*

*Home Address:*

*P.O. Box 64, Savannah, MO*

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