



NEWSLETTER



Atchison County FSA Office

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660-744-5328 phone
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Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

January 2011

County Office Staff

Corey Leshner,
County Executive
Director

William R. Dreyer,
Farm Loan Manager

Roger Uptergrove,
Farm Loan Officer

Nancy Daugherty
Pat Lane
Marilyn Thurnau
Karen Vette,
Program Technicians

Bernard Heits
Julie Joesting
Roger Martin,
County Committee

County Committee
Meets 2nd Wednesday
of Every Month at 8:00
a.m.

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

Hard to believe it, but another year has again come and gone. As we start the new year, we look forward to working with the producers of Atchison County once again. In addition to the detailed articles in this newsletter, I would like producers to be aware of the following items:

- The votes from the 2010 County Committee Election have been tabulated and Bernard Heits has been elected for a three year term to represent producers in the townships of Clay, Templeton, Benton and Clark. Bernard received 76 votes followed by candidates Jeremy Peeler and Todd Herron who received 23 votes and 14 votes respectively. I want to thank all three for agreeing to be on the ballot for the County Committee election.
- The Atchison and Holt County FSA and NRCS offices will be holding a joint informational meeting for producers on Thursday, February 3, 2011 at the Klub restaurant located in Mound City. The meeting will begin at 9:00 am and end at approximately 12:30 pm. All producers are invited to attend.
- The Supplemental Revenue Election Program (SURE) requires producers to obtain at least a CAT level of coverage on all crops of economic significance. This may also include hay crops which could require NAP coverage through the FSA office. The last date to purchase 2011 crop insurance and / or NAP coverage for most crops grown in this county is March 15, 2011. It is very important to know when the purchase deadlines are for the crops that you grow if you want to be eligible for this program.
- Sign up for the 2011 Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) has begun. Both programs require the filing of an annual contract by June 1, 2011 to be eligible. This time of year is a good time to complete the paperwork for these programs before field work begins in the spring. Appointments are not required; however, if you call ahead we can have most of the paperwork prepared prior to your arrival.
- Producers are reminded that if you have a farm enrolled in the ACRE program, you are required to annually provide actual production evidence and sign an FSA-658 for crops grown on the farm. The deadline to provide evidence for 2010 crops is July 15, 2011. RMA (crop insurance) records showing actual production evidence are acceptable as long as the yield is considered an actual yield which would be notated with an "A". Failure to provide this evidence will result in no payments being made on the farm, including the direct payment.
- The NW MO Corn / Soybean Growers meeting will be January 24, 2011 at 8:30 am in St. Joseph, MO at the Ramada Inn. See the article on page 2 for full details.

There is much more information in this newsletter and as you review it, please don't hesitate to contact the office if you have any questions. Hope everyone has a prosperous 2011.

Corey Leshner

IRS Form 1099-G

Producers annually receive CCC-1099-Gs detailing payments received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on CCC-1099-Gs is a service intended to help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producers' responsibilities to report income to IRS. FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy.

Commodity Loans

Commodity loans, also referred to as Marketing Assistance Loans, are available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if you regain beneficial interest. 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.

Northwest Corn / Soybean Grower Meeting – January 24, 2011

The winter grower meeting for Northwest Missouri corn and soybean producers will be held at the Ramada Inn in St. Joseph on Monday, January 24, 2011. Registration will begin at 8:30 am. An interesting collection of speakers will address timely production issues. Lunch will be provided along with valuable door prizes.

Paper Check Conversion (PCC)

Over the next year, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) are moving toward an electronic method for processing producers' checks. This will allow FSA/CCC to process collections faster. When producers present checks, either in person or through the mail, the checks will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt. Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information:

<https://www.pccotc.gov/pccotc/pcc/usingpcc/Legal%20Notices/legalnotices.htm>

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse. There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents. For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact your local FSA office.

Continuous CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program allows participants to enroll acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources. Continuous CRP program participation is voluntary. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment. Please contact the office for more information.

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.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and / or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 % of the county's average size.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov

Maintaining the Quality of Loaned Grain

This year's large grain crop has its obvious upside, but there is a downside too. Many producers are hard pressed to find adequate storage for every bushel harvested. Overfilled grain storage bins can lead to grain quality problems. Be sure to monitor your stored grain carefully.

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or to purchase or improve farms or ranches. While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants. A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a member of a group. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Conservation Loan Program

The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the funding necessary to implement conservation measures on their land. The available limit for a direct CL is \$300,000, and the limit for a guaranteed CL is \$1,119,000. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will work with applicants to develop a conservation plan containing approved conservation practices. Examples of some conservation practices are: water conservation structures, forest cover, permanent pastures, manure digesters, and other installations. For more information on a potential Conservation Loan, call the local FSA office and make an appointment with a loan officer.

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.

DCP Signup & Advance Payments

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011. Advance payments of 22 % on the 2011 DCP program will be available starting December 1, 2010. The remaining 78 % of your DCP payment will be issued after October 1, 2011.

Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. DCP contract signatures for enrollment are due by the signup deadline of June 1, 2011. For more information please contact the FSA office.

2009 SURE

Producers should be aware that there will be a SURE program for the 2009 crop administered over the next several months. It is anticipated the start date will be in January. Reminder – only producers who have every economically significant crop covered by CAT or better insurance or NAP policy are eligible for the SURE program.

Dates to Remember	
Jan. 17	Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday – USDA Service Center Closed
Jan. 24	NW MO Corn / Soybean Growers Mtg. Ramada Inn, St. Joe, 8:30 am
Feb. 3	FSA / NRCS Joint Mtg. – Mound City, 9:00 AM at the Klub
Feb. 21	President’s Day – USDA Service Center Closed
March 15	Crop Insurance Purchase Deadline
June 1	DCP / ACRE Deadline

Selected Interest Rates for January 2011	
Farm Operating Loans - Direct	1.75%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct	4.5%
Farm Ownership Loans – Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.5%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7-yr	2.5%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 10-yr	3.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 12-yr	3.375%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.25%

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