



NEWSLETTER



Atchison County FSA Office

302 E Hwy 136
Rock Port, MO 64482

660-744-5328 phone
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Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

March 2011

County Office Staff
Corey Leshar,
County Executive
Director

William R. Dreyer,
Farm Loan Manager

Roger Uptergrove,
Farm Loan Officer

Nancy Daugherty
Pat Lane
Marilyn Thurnau
Karen Vette,
Program Technicians

Julie Joesting
Roger Martin
Bernard Heits
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, but spring is once again almost here. As we begin thinking about the upcoming crop year, producers are reminded that signup for the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program and / or Average Crop Revenue Election Program is an annual signup. The deadline to enroll in either program is June 1, 2011.

We are also excited to announce that there will be a general CRP signup conducted from March 14, 2011 through April 15, 2011. New land and / or CRP contracts expiring during 2011 may be offered for enrollment into the program. CRP rates have increased significantly over the past couple of years which may make the program more attractive if you have land that you would like to take out of production.

Signup for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) is also underway for the 2009 crop year with a deadline to apply set as July 29, 2011.

An article on each of these programs is included in this newsletter. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or stop in. I hope everyone has a safe and wonderful spring.

Corey Leshar

CRP General Signup Begins March 14

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is offering a general signup period from March 14, 2011 through April 15, 2011. This is the second consecutive year that USDA has offered a general CRP signup.

Landowners enrolled in the CRP program receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, 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 signup period. Offered land must be physically capable of being farmed, which means trees must be cleaned up and gullies must be repaired. Whole or partial fields may be offered. Contracts awarded during this general signup will become effective October 1, 2011. For more information, please contact the Atchison County Office at (660) 744-5328 or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp>.

2009 SURE SIGNUP

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) began Jan. 10, 2011, and ends July 29, 2011. SURE provides benefits for 2008 - 2011 crop year farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. A farm enrolled in SURE may be eligible for benefits when either of the following is met:

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both. Atchison County is contiguous for 2009.
- Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production of the farm because of disaster related conditions was less than 50% of normal production of the farm.

Contact the office for details.

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, producers can contact their local FSA office.

THE ACRE OPTION

The Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. In exchange for participating in ACRE, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent. The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year. The June 1, 2011 deadline is statutory for all participants.

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. Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan. 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 \$1,119,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

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.

Selected Interest Rates for

March 2011

Commodity Loans – 1996-Present (February 2011 Rate)	1.25%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.5%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.875%
Limited Resource Loans	5.0%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.5%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7-yr. (February 2011 Rate)	2.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 10-yr (February 2011 Rate)	3.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 12-yr (February 2011 Rate)	3.625%

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 information.

EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program) Initiatives

Cost share dollars are available for various structural and management practices in these separate fund pools.

High Tunnel –Signup end date March 4, 2011

Seasonal high tunnels are structures made of plastic or metal pipe covered with plastic sheeting. Unlike greenhouses, they require no energy, relying on natural sunlight to modify the climate inside to create favorable conditions for growing vegetables and other specialty crops.

Organic—Signup end date March 4, 2011

Assist producers in planning and implementing conservation practices that address natural resource concerns in ways that are consistent with organic production. Eligible producers include those certified through USDA's National Organic Program, those transitioning to certified organic production, and those who meet organic standards but are exempt from certification because their gross annual organic sales are less than \$5,000.

Soil Quality—Signup end date March 25, 2011

Missouri NRCS plans to provide financial assistance to eligible producers who agree to implement specific suites of practices to address soil quality concerns. There are two levels in this initiative: Level 1--the applicant must complete 100% no-till and add 2 cover crops to the enrolled acres in a 3 year period. Level 2: must do the same as Level 1 and add an additional crop rotation, using a different crop type than you are already using.

IRS Form 1099-G

Producers annually receive CCC-1099-G's detailing payments received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on CCC-1099-G's 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.

2011 Food Security Act Compliance Status Reviews

The Natural Resources Conservation Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, as part of its responsibility in carrying the conservation provisions of the Food Security Act (FSA) of 1985, as amended, conducts compliance status reviews on a random selection of USDA program participants. Those that have been selected will be notified by letter early this spring. You are not required to be present during the status review, but you are certainly welcome. In order to review your farming practices the intended crop for this year needs to be planted.

Compliance reviews are conducted to ensure that farms receiving commodity payments are implementing and/or maintaining conservation practices. Status reviews are conducted on highly erodible (HEL) and wetlands (WET) designated farm tracts.

Farms with tracts found to be in non-compliance with the provisions are subject to revocation of certain USDA benefits in the crop year of the non-compliance violations, and for any future years until the USDA participant has fully applied and maintained, and/or restored the areas or tracts where the violations had been found.

USDA Weather Variance

During the 2010 growing season, many areas of Missouri received excessive rainfall amounts. Nearly every county in northern Missouri received 7" or more rainfall than normal. Farmers were forced to complete harvest under extreme wet conditions. The excessive moisture caused rutted up fields and loss of residue. Operators will have to decide how to maintain their approved conservation system during planting season. The NRCS District Conservationist can grant a temporary variance for 2011 due to excessive rainfall. This variance allows farmers to restore affected areas to pre-vent conditions prior to planting and to avoid noncompliance. All tracts granted this variance will be placed on the 2012 compliance review list. It is very important that the NRCS office is notified prior to beginning intended field work.

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.

NAP Coverage Deadline

The noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. **March 15, 2011**, is the application closing date for forage, fruits and vegetables.

These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available for the crop. NAP is not available for crops when the Risk Management Agency (RMA) offers coverage.

Production records for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the final acreage reporting date for the crop for the following year. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications. NAP Losses must be reported within 15 days of a disaster event or the date the loss becomes apparent.

Youth Loans Available

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.

Dates to Remember	
March 14	CRP General Sign Up Begins
March 15	NAP Application Closing Date For Many Crops
March 31	Final Availability for 2010 Crop Year Marketing Loans for Small Grains (wheat, oats)
April 15	CRP General Sign Up Ends
May 31	Final Availability for 2010 Year Marketing Loans for Spring Seeded Crops (corn, soybeans)
June 1	Deadline to Enroll Into 2011 DCP and / or ACRE

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

County Committee Organizes

At its January meeting, the Atchison County Committee organized for 2011. Julie Joesting was elected Chairperson, Roger Martin was elected Vice-Chairperson, and Bernard Heits will serve as the third member. Regular session meetings are open to the public and are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 8:00 a.m.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. 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).