



NEWSLETTER



Atchison County FSA Office

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Rock Port, MO 64482

660-744-5328 phone
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Hours

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

May 2011

County Office Staff

Corey Leshner,
County Executive
Director

William R. Dreyer,
Farm Loan Manager

Roger Uptergrove,
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Bernard Heits
Julie Joesting
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County Committee

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

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

It seems that Mother Nature is taking a long time to warm up this year. I know everyone would like to have some warmer and drier weather so the spring planting can be completed. We'll all hope for some fairer weather in the weeks to come. With spring come some immediate deadlines. First, the last day to enroll into the Direct & Counter Cyclical (DCP) or the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) programs is June 1, 2011. If you have not signed up yet, please contact the office and we can prepare your paperwork ahead of your arrival. Second, the final date to take out a Marketing Assistance Loan on 2010 corn and soybeans is May 31, 2011.

We at Missouri FSA are also offering something new this spring called FSA eAlerts. This is a new way to receive FSA program reminders via e-mail or text. You can sign up for FSA eAlerts by contacting the office and indicating whether you would like to receive information via e-mail, text or both. We will need to know your e-mail address, cell phone number and cell phone carrier. If you elect to receive information by text, remember standard text messaging rates may apply. You can opt out of receiving FSA eAlerts at any time.

Finally, when you do get done planting this year, please remember that it is a requirement to report your acres to this office. Have a great spring!

Corey Leshner

Hay Net

Producers are encouraged to use Hay Net on the FSA website (<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet>). This online service allows producers with hay and those who need hay to post ads so they can make connections. Hay Net is a popular site for farmers and ranchers who have an emergency need, such as a hard, long winter. Individual ads can be posted free of charge by producers who complete a simple online registration form the first time they use the site.

Tip Net

The Transition Incentive Program (TIP) is a popular program among CRP participants which allows retiring CRP owners to be paired up with a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer to give them the opportunity to farm. To help the two parties come together, Tip Net on the FSA website (<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/tipnet>) has been developed to allow retiring CRP owners and beginning and/or socially disadvantaged farmers a place to locate each other. The process is free and easy and only requires creating a user ID and password and confirming your e-mail address. For more information on the TIP program see the article on page 2.

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.

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 and Assistant Attorney General Tony West today 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. 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.

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 for the farm.

Contact the office for full details.

Transition Incentives Program

The Transition Incentives Program (TIP) was created to encourage retired or retiring owners or operators to transition their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

TIP sign up began on May 17, 2010. If all program requirements are met, TIP provides annual rental payments to the retiring farmer for up to two additional years after the date of the expiration of the CRP contract, provided the transition is not to a family member.

To be eligible, TIP requires that the retired or retiring farmer or rancher:

- Have land enrolled in CRP that is in the last year of the contract.
- Agree to allow the beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher make conservation and land improvements.
- Agree to sell, or have a contract to sell, or agree to long-term lease (a minimum of 5 years) the land under CRP contract to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher by Oct. 1 of the year the CRP contract expires.

To learn more about this program, producers interested in applying and participating in TIP should visit their USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

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.



USDA Announces May Deadline for Biomass Crop Assistance Program Proposals

USDA Farm Service Agency Acting Administrator Val Dolcini has announced the deadline for project area proposals for the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP). To be considered, proposals must be submitted to the applicable state office by close of business, May 27, 2011.

BCAP was authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill and provides incentives to eligible farmers, ranchers and forest landowners for the establishment and production of biomass crops for heat, power, bio-based products and biofuels. BCAP project areas are specific geographic areas where producers grow eligible biomass crops. Producers then receive annual payments for growing those crops.

For more information, visit the USDA Farm Service Agency's website at www.fsa.usda.gov/bcap. The BCAP project area proposal submission form is available online at BCAP Form 20 (PDF), http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/bcap_form_20.pdf.

Actively Engaged

USDA has amended the rules that govern the requirements to be 'actively engaged' in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by FSA. Normally the stockholder or a member of a legal entity **must** make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management for the farming operation. The contributions are to be performed on a regular basis, must be identifiable, and separate from the contributions of others. The exception to this rule for a stockholder or member of a legal entity only occurs when both of the following apply:

- At least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management; and
- The total direct payments received by the legal entity and each of the members can't exceed \$40,000.

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 (ACRE) program 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.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

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. If you have crops that have been affected by drought, flooding, or other adverse weather conditions, file a notice of loss **NOW**. Do not wait until it is too late to receive assistance. 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.***

Dates to Remember	
May 30	USDA Service Center Closed – Memorial Day
May 31	Final Marketing Loan Availability Date for 2010 corn and soybeans
June 1	Deadline to enroll into 2011 DCP and / or ACRE
June 30	Final Date to Report Small Grains (Wheat, Oats, Etc.)
July 29	Final Date to Apply for 2009 SURE
July 31	Final Date to Report all Spring Seeded Crops and CRP
May 1 – July 16	Primary Nesting Season – No mowing or maintenance on CRP

Selected Interest Rates for May 2011	
Commodity Loans – 1996-Present (April 2011 Rate)	1.25%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.625%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.0%
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. (April 2011 Rate)	2.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 10-yr (April 2011 Rate)	3.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 12-yr (April 2011 Rate)	3.625%

Continuous CRP Practices Available

In addition to the CRP general sign up that just ended at FSA offices, producers can also take advantage of the Continuous CRP Program. Environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for enrollment through the Continuous CRP program may be offered anytime during the year. These environmentally-targeted programs remain funded, and continue to provide heightened environmental benefits for selected areas. Contact your FSA office for details

Visit Our Website

www.fsa.usda.gov

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).