

June 2010

Bates County  
USDA Service Center

**Bates County FSA**  
625 west Nursery  
Butler, MO 64730  
660-679-6112  
660-679-5932 (fax)  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/mo](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo)

**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**County Committee**  
Paul Cumpton  
A F Yarick  
Michael Cameron  
Tina Rapp

County Committee  
meets second Tuesday  
of each month  
at 8:30 AM

**Office Staff**  
Sara Abraham  
Linda Fritts  
Anne Davis  
Brenda Steiner  
Michael Finley

& Field reporter  
Jeff Droz



## Crop Reporting Requirement

Your local Farm Service Agency would like to encourage producers to report their planted acres to stay eligible for benefits. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of FSA programs. A report of acreage must account for all cropland whether, row crop, grass, CRP, idle or failed. The deadline to report for small grains is June 30<sup>th</sup> and all other crops by July 31. Best advice is after you put the planter in the barn, come on by the local FSA office and make your crop report. Please bring your planting dates with you. Beat the lines and come in early.

### Failed Acreage:

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions. Failed acreage can be reported after it been planted to another crop if insurance verification is received before the crop reporting deadline.

**Prevented planting** is to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date. For Bates County the final planting date for Corn is May 25, Soybeans is June 25, Sorghum is June 20 and Wheat is November 15.

## Banking Changes?

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This innovation has cut down on the number of missing and late payments and reduced the time required to move funds. It has been calculated that having a problem with a payment is 20 times greater with checks than with Direct Deposit. Another benefit is that Direct Deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours. To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions. If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

## Sod busting

The term "sodbusting" is used to identify the plowing up of erosion-prone grasslands for use as cropland. Sodbuster violations are unauthorized tillage practices on highly erodible lands that converted native vegetation such as rangeland or woodland, to crop production after Dec. 23, 1985. Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs. Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production and request a wetland and HELC determination from NRCS. If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage, before bringing land into production. In addition, producers and the producer's affiliates have to file an AD-1026 with the staff in the administrative or control county office before any farm program payments can be made. The AD-1026 is the producer's signed certification that HELC, as well as wetland conservation, provisions will not be violated.

Before you bring that grass field into production, be safe and stop by your local FSA office. Even if it just a corner of a field, that could be enough to make you ineligible for payments. My advice to you would be even if you are considering in the future cropping a field for a year or two go ahead and get a field determination.

## Common office Questions

If I am renting new ground what do I need to do to be on government records as being associated with that parcel? We will need a written document signed and dated by the owner stating you will be operating, renting a portion or all the described farm or parcel of ground.

I purchased some ground-What do I need to do to change ownership on office records? A copy of the filed deed from the court house works best. That way our ownership records match the court house.

I changed my land ownership over to a TRUST do I need to tell you? Yes in the government eyes the land has changed ownership and records must be updated.

I am doing some work for Joe Farmer. Can you give me map of Joe Farmer's land? Can Joe call in? NO - We must have it in writing from the owner of the land signed, dated listing what information to give out, to whom and there also must be an expiration date.

I am thinking about renting or buying some ground. What information can you give me?

Very little. Once again we must have it in writing from the owner of the land signed dated listing what information to give out, to whom and there also must be an expiration date.

Theses field boundaries on your maps have been incorrect for years are you ever going to fix your maps? We try to catch these changes but we depend on your help. Don't be afraid to ask us to update a map in fact in most cases we appreciate it.

Can FSA maps establish official property lines? FSA maps are an estimation tool used by the government to administered government programs only. The lines are not intended to settle disputes outside the agency.

Can 2 tracts of land that our owned and operated by the same people be combined to make one map? Yes if all owners sign our FSA 155 form and the ground is physically contiguous (touching at some point).

Is there a CRP general signup any time soon? We have been told yes. Rumors have been the summer of 2010. So keep your eyes and ears open.

Will my ground that is coming out of CRP this fall be eligible for signup? We have been told yes but it must be cropable. By cropable we mean no trees or ditches or structures a typical tractor cannot get across.

Will I have to change grass cover on my CRP ground? If it is not warm season grass then the answer looks to be yes.

I have thought about farming a piece of ground that is grass. If I come in to get a HEL determination on the field and I don't break it out will that be a problem? No- We strongly encourage producers to get determination on any ground they have any thoughts of cropping.

What is the status of SURE disaster payments for 2008? We are still having issues with RMA download information and we are hoping correction are forth coming soon.

## FSA Seeks Nominations for County Committee

Bates County is broken up into 3 regions for member seats for the FSA committee. Each year a different seat is open. For 2010 local administrative area #2 consisting of the following Townships in Bates County of Deer Creek, Mound, Grand, Shawnee, Summit, Deep Water, Spruce, Mingo.

FSA county committees make decisions on commodity price support loans, conservation programs, disaster programs, employing county executive directors and other significant agricultural issues.

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the local administrative area in which the person is a candidate. A complete list of eligibility requirements is posted online at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Additionally, organizations representing minorities and women may nominate candidates. All nominees must sign nomination form FSA-669A, which includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. Form FSA-669A is available at USDA Service Centers and online at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections). All nomination forms for the 2010 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 2, 2010.

The county committee nomination period begins June 15. Voting takes place in the fall. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by Nov. 5. The final day to return voted ballots to the local USDA Service Center is Dec. 6. Newly elected county committee members take office Jan. 1, 2011.

If you might even be a little bit interested in serving please contact your local office.

For more information about FSA county committees, visit a local USDA Service Center or online at: [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/fsa0669a\\_commiteelectform.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_commiteelectform.pdf), then select the County Committee Election Page.



## 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.

Generally, TIP only applies to contracts that expire on September 30, 2010, or later. However, retired or retiring owners or operators with CRP contracts that expired on September 30, 2008, and September 30, 2009, may be eligible to enroll in TIP provided all of the following apply:

- The land has not been sold or leased before signing a CRP-TIP Contract
- Producers are otherwise eligible under TIP provisions
- The conservation plan is modified to require sustainable grazing or crop production methods.

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](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

Additional information on payment limitations is available at FSA county offices or on line at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

## Online Services

Producers, if you have Internet access you can electronically log on, fill out and print a variety of FSA paper forms in the comfort of your home as your schedule allows. You can also register for secure electronic access that will allow you to electronically sign and transmit some forms directly to the county office staff. If you are new to the website, first you will want to obtain a Level 2 USDA Service Center Customer ID and password at: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> and then click on "Create an Account Page" link. USDA eAuthentication is the system used by USDA agencies to enable customers to

obtain accounts that will allow them to access USDA Web applications and services via the Internet. This includes things such as submitting forms electronically, filing eLDPs, completing DCP contracts, filling out surveys online, and checking the status of your USDA accounts. Submitting an e-Form is convenient. You can access information anytime day or night seven days a week. Forms along with applications can be submitted and received in the county office in a matter of minutes, not days or weeks. To access Online Services with an e-Authentication Level 2 account, go to [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) and click on Online Services.

## Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources. 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 \$1,112,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA. For details, just contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

## CRP Management Provisions

For CRP contract participants whose contracts began with the 26<sup>th</sup> Sign Up or after, they are subject to the Mid Contract Management provisions. These provisions should be included in the CRP plan and include options for burning, disking or spraying. Mowing is only allowed in conjunction with disking and spraying. Producers should contact their local FSA office if they have any questions about their CRP contracts. The primary nesting season is from April 15 thru July 16.

Warm Season Grass-Burning	July 16 - March 15
Warm Season Grass-Spraying	July 16 - September 15
Disking- Cool Season or Warm Season	July 16 - March 15

[Name] County FSA Office  
 Address Line 2  
 Address Line 3



**PRESORTED STANDARD  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID**

**Selected Interest Rates for  
 June 2010**

90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.125%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.125%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer, Rancher or Socially Disadvantaged	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7-yr.	3.00%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 10-yr.	3.625%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 12-yr.	3.875%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.375%

**Dates to Remember**

June 30	Final reporting date for Fall- and Spring-seeded Small Grains
July 5	Fourth of July Holiday observed – County Offices closed
July 31	Final Reporting Date for CRP, NAP, and all other crops (NAP crops must be reported by final reporting date or 15 days before harvest)
Continues	Continuous Conservation Re- serve Program

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

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