



Clinton County News

June 2009

Clinton County FSA
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Plattsburg, MO 64477

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(816) 539-2136
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Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Mary Ann Barmann
Jerald Grimes
George Silvius

The COC meets the first
Thursday of each month at
9:00 a.m.

STAFF

Chris Broderick, PT
Peggy Rapp, PT
Norma Stransky, PT

Kent Allen, CED

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DCP & ACRE Sign up Deadline

Sign up for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program and ACRE enrollment have been extended until August 14, 2009. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.

FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this on-line service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov>, followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

Please see the next page for additional ACRE Program details.

Bank Account Changes

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically these days, using Direct Deposit. 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. Please contact us regarding changes in your account.

2009 Crop Acreage Reporting Deadlines

Acreage reports are required in order to be eligible for program benefits if you participate in DCP, CRP, ACRE or to apply for grain loans or LDP payments. **June 30 is the deadline to report wheat, other small grains and NAP Enrolled Crops. And July 31 is the deadline to report Spring planted crops, CRP, hay and pasture.**

Please bring a list of your planting dates with you.

Acreage reported after the deadline will be considered late filed and a measurement service fee (minimum \$46/farm) will be charged for a field visit to verify physical evidence. You must report your intended use of insured NAP crops the earlier of 15 days before normal harvest of the crop or its final reporting date. And remember that acres reported to crop insurance should match your FSA reported acres.

Want to save yourself some significant time?

Prior to visiting the FSA office to sign up for DCP, ACRE, or reporting your acres please call the office to schedule an appointment.

Since the new farm bill requires that each producer completes all new eligibility and payment limitation forms, the sign up and reporting process can take considerable time this year. Also, when scheduling your appointment, please remember to inform us of any changes or updates to your farming operation. **This will allow us to further prepare for your arrival, and greatly reduce your time spent in the county office.** Just dial 816-539-2136, ext 2 to schedule your time saving appointment!

Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program Sign Up

The ACRE program is an innovative alternative to the traditional farm safety net available through Counter Cyclical option of DCP. Many producers are uncertain of what ACRE is all about, not to mention whether or not it is a good option for their operation.

ACRE works differently than programs authorized by previous farm bills. For one thing, FSA cannot tell you what your payment will be. The calculations can appear daunting and are contingent upon six variables; three of which will not be known until after you have made your election decision. And if your decision is to participate in ACRE, you live with it through the 2012 program year. This includes a 20 percent reduction in your direct payments, a 30 percent reduction in marketing loan rates, and no counter-cyclical payments.

ACRE provides revenue protection when national average prices and/or state and farm yields cause revenue to fall below established benchmarks. It is possible that no payments will be issued to ACRE participants. However, it is also possible that ACRE payments will be issued and those payments could exceed the reductions. ACRE payments are made when both state and farm-level triggers are met. The ACRE alternative provides eligible producers a state level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield and the 2-year national average price.

It is important to make an informed decision regarding your DCP or ACRE program election. In-depth comparison information is available at this USDA website:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp>

The deadline for BOTH the 2009 ACRE enrollment and the 2009 DCP sign-up is August 14, 2009. USDA has announced there will not be a late filing period for either program after August 14. Please call 816-539-2136, ext 2 to schedule your sign-up appointment.

Filing a Notice of Loss on Failed & Prevented Planted Crops

Affected producers should file a Notice of Loss to report failed acreage and prevented planting of program crops. Failed acreage must be reported to the FSA office within 15 days of the disaster event or when losses become apparent and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

County Committee Elections “FSA Counts on You”

Since COC elections happen only once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into *local administrative areas*, or LAAs. Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency County Committee. Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. This year’s election will be in LAA II, consisting of Platte, Concord and Clinton townships. Jerald Grimes currently serves as the LAA II representative on the Committee.

Candidate nominations for the FSA county committee election will be accepted June 15 through Aug. 3, 2009. Producers who are residents in LAA II, participate in an FSA program, and are of legal voting age, may be nominated to serve on the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates. The nomination form, FSA-669A, is available at the county office or may be downloaded from <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected. The completed nomination form must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Aug. 3, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 3, 2009.

Voting

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 6, and must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Dec. 7, or postmarked by midnight Dec. 7, 2009. Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote.

No one can be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

Candidate Eligibility

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate
- Not have been:
 - Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
 - Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
 - Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

For additional clarification about county committee elections, contact your local county office staff.

Missouri FSA Changes NAP Sales Closing Dates for Strawberries & Blueberries

Missouri announced the deadline to purchase coverage under FSA's Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) has changed for strawberries and blueberries effective for the 2010 and subsequent crop years.

The sales closing date for blueberries and strawberries was previously March 15 of the year prior to the growing season. For strawberries, the new closing date for Missouri will be September 30 and for blueberries the new date is November 20. For coverage for the 2010 crop year, producers must purchase a NAP policy by September 30, 2009, or November 20, 2009, respectively.

The NAP program allows producers to have protection on crops in which catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. NAP coverage can provide financial assistance in cases where there is a crop loss or prevented planting due to a natural disaster. To apply for coverage, producers must complete a form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, and pay the applicable service fees at their local FSA office by the applicable sales closing date. The service fee is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. There are special provisions for limited resource producers for a waiver of fees. To apply for NAP coverage or to learn more about the program, visit your local FSA county office. Information is also available online at www.fsa.usda.gov

Sodbusting

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. If the 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.

Wetland Compliance

Producers renting or purchasing land that may have a converted wetland status need to check with the county office to learn if there are restrictions. The last thing FSA wants to do is to deny a producer benefits due to wetland noncompliance. The 1985 Farm Bill provides that, **unless exempt**, persons **are ineligible** for benefits under certain programs administered by USDA if they:

- plant an agricultural commodity on wetland that was converted after December 23, 1985
- convert a wetland after November 28, 1990

FSA may not approve any loan or loan guarantee to drain, dredge, fill, level or otherwise manipulate a wetland, or to engage in any activity that results in impairing or reducing the flow, circulation or reach of water except in the case of activity related to the maintenance of previously converted wetlands. The following provides permitted uses and restrictions of certain wetlands for compliance with Wetland compliance provisions:

- Wetlands can be farmed under natural conditions. However, **wetlands cannot be converted**.
- Wetlands converted before November 28, 1990, cannot be planted to an agricultural commodity and retain eligibility for benefits.
- Wetlands converted after Nov. 28, 1990, must either be restored to wetland status or mitigated to regain eligibility for program benefits.
- **Wetlands that can be farmed under natural conditions cannot be manipulated in any way**, unless the Natural Resources Conservation Service determines the work would have a minimal effect on wetland values.
- Wetlands converted before December 23, 1985, can be farmed and maintained.

Additional information about wetland compliance is available at USDA Service Centers.

2009 FSA Farm Compliance Spot Checks

Compliance spot checks will once again be utilized during the 2009 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, loans, etc., for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers is used to achieve a statistical sampling of participating producers. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Marketing Assistance Loans, Loan Deficiency Payment Program, etc.

State and county offices obtain the spot check lists as posted on the national designated database website. For more information about the new spot check selection procedure, feel free to contact your local office for additional clarification.

CRP Management Reminders

CRP Producers are reminded that the non-disturbance period to protect the habitat of ground nesting birds begins May 1 and extends through July 15. **This means that no activity can be conducted on CRP during this time period including mowing, weed control, and management practices.** If there is a severe noxious weed problem in the field, producers can request approval from the County Committee to spot treat. As of July 16, permitted activity may resume.

Certain CRP acreages can be hayed or grazed every third year by filing a request at the FSA office prior to haying or grazing and paying 25% of the CRP rental rate fee.

If you participated in the Critical Use Feed Program in 2008, you are restricted from haying or grazing any acreage in that field or at a minimum twice the acreage actually hayed or grazed for the standard three year period.

CRP Mid-Contact Management Practices that may begin on July 16 are disking, burning warm season grass, and spraying warm season grass.

Please contact the office if you have any questions concerning management and operation of your CRP acreage.

Selected Interest Rates for June 2009	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.25%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.25%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	2.625%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.625%

Dates to Remember	
June 30	Small Grains and NAP enrolled crops acreage reporting deadline
July 31	All Spring planted crops, CRP, pasture and hay acreage reporting deadline
August 14	ACRE enrollment deadline
August 14	DCP sign-up deadline
Continues	Continuous Conservation Re- serve program

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

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