



NEWSLETTER



DCP SIGNUP & ADVANCE PAYMENTS

March 2011

Clinton County FSA

1800 W HWY 116

Plattsburg, MO 64477

Phone:(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

Craig Evans

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

STAFF

Chris Broderick, PT

Peggy Rapp, PT

Norma Stransky, PT

Annette Brandt, FLM

Kent Allen, CED

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

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 were 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. Please call 816-539-2136, ext 2, to schedule your appointment to enroll.**

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 has 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.

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. CRP acreage expiring 9/30/2011 is eligible to be re-offered, as well as land being enrolled for the first time.

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. Contracts awarded during this general signup will become effective October 1, 2011. For more information, please contact the Clinton County Office at 816-539-2136, ext 2, or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp>.

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.



2009 CROP YEAR SURE SIGNUP

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

- Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and **include all crops grown by a producer nationwide, except grazed crops.**
- Any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production of the farm because of disaster related conditions is less than 50% or less than normal production of the farm.

If you believe that you might be eligible for SURE, please call 816-539-2136, ext 2. We will access your RMA (crop insurance) informational downloads and discuss the applicable eligibility requirements with you prior to your office visit.

LIVESTOCK PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

FSA administers several programs that may be available to assist livestock producers who are dealing with problems caused by **severely adverse weather**. Producers need to document the number and kind of livestock that have died as a direct result of an **eligible disaster condition**. Among the key programs are the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). For livestock death losses to be eligible under LIP, producers must file a notice of loss with their local FSA office within 30 calendar days from when the loss is apparent to the producer. Contact your local FSA office for additional information.

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. March 15, 2011, is the application closing date for forages, 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 for the crop in the county.** 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.*

Conservation Plan Weather Variance

During the 2010 growing season, many areas of Missouri received excessive rainfall amounts. Farmers were forced to complete harvest under extreme wet conditions. The excessive moisture caused rutted up fields and loss of residue. As a result, operators will have to decide how to maintain their approved conservation system during this planting season.

This year NRCS can grant a temporary variance for 2011 due to excessive rainfall. This variance allows farmers to restore affected areas to pre-event conditions prior to planting and 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.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GREATLY REDUCE YOUR TIME SPENT IN THE FSA OFFICE?

If so, please call 816-539-2136, ext 2 to schedule your appointment prior to visiting us! Scheduling appointments allows us to prepare for your arrival and **greatly** reduces your waiting time.

ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME

USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA. The agreement ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs. Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service by June 15 to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at:

<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet>.

MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available to producers who share in the risk of producing a crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest. Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan. Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE programs to be eligible for commodity loans. 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.

FINAL AVAILABILITY DATES FOR 2010 CROP YEAR MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS

- March 31-Honey, Oats, Wheat
- May 31-Corn, Cotton, Grain Sorghum, Rice, Soybeans

HONEY LOANS

Honey loans are a type of marketing assistance loan, and they are available until March 31, 2011. The national loan rate for honey is \$0.69 per pound. Market prices currently exceed the loan rate, so LDPs are not available at this time. To be eligible for a loan, the producer must have produced honey in the United States during the calendar year for which the loan is requested, and extracted the honey on or before Dec. 31 of the applicable crop year; have continuous beneficial interest in the honey through date of repayment of the loan; and been responsible for the financial risk of keeping. Producers are responsible for maintaining the quality of farm-stored honey during the term of the loan. The containers must be marked with the producer's name, type of honey, number of container and net weight. Pre-loan inspections are required before the loans can be disbursed. Honey used as collateral may not be disposed of without approval of the county office staff.

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.

IRS FORM 1099-G

Producers annually receive CCC-1099-Gs detailing payments producers have *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.

FSA County Committee Election

Recently the producers in the FSA Local Administrative Area Three, "LAA III", consisting of Shoal, Lathrop and Jackson townships conducted an election to determine their representative to the COC. The ballots were counted and **Craig Evans** was elected to represent LAA III for the next three years. Mr. Evans will serve on the COC with Mary Ann Barmann representing LAA I, and Jerald Grimes representing LAA II.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The County Committee system works only because of your participation.

Thank You, George!

Mr. George Silvius has served as the LAA III County Committee representative for the past **nine** years. He has served three consecutive terms on the COC and, due to term limits, he was not eligible for re-election. The Committee and the entire office staff would like to thank George for the outstanding service he has given to the producers of Clinton County and the USDA!

Dates to Remember	
March 15	NAP sales closing date for many crops
March 31	Final loan availability date for 2010 crop year MAL/LDP for small grains and honey
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program
Selected Interest Rates for March 2011	
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.500%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.875%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7-year term	2.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 10-year term	3.500%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 12-year term	3.875%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.250%

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).