



NEWSLETTER



DeKalb County FSA Office

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

February-March 2012

County Office Staff

**County Executive
Director**
Mandi Scheulen

Farm Loan Manager
Charles Meissen

Program Technician
Kristy Gray

Program Technician
Cindy Barker

County Committee
Jim Carlson
Harold Zimmerman
Gabe DeShon
Ruth Owen

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

Greetings! From a New Member of the FSA Crew!

I'd like to take this opportunity to send out a county-wide greeting and introduce myself. My name is Mandi Scheulen and I'm the new County Executive Director for the DeKalb County FSA. I grew up in Osage County, in the small town of Linn, MO on my family's hog and cattle farm. I attended college at the University of Missouri where I obtained a degree in Agribusiness Management. Prior to working for the Farm Service Agency, I obtained work experience and internships with the Missouri Department of Agriculture, Missouri Pork Association, MU Extension and was a legislative assistant at the Missouri State Capitol. I am engaged to be wed to Dillon Bird, of Gallatin, this coming fall.

I am very excited to begin my career here in Dekalb County! I am looking forward to meeting each and every one of you as you come in our office and becoming more familiar with this diversified agriculture county. If you have any questions about any USDA or FSA programs feel free to contact me or any of the office staff for more information. Hope to see you soon!

Sincerely,

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Gabe DeShon! Gabe was elected to the FSA Committee in DeKalb County to represent local farmers and ranchers in LAA-3 which consist of the Washington, Colefax and Grand River Townships.

At the County organizational meeting Jim Carlson was elected Chairperson of the DeKalb County Committee. Vice Chairperson is Harold Zimmerman, new Member is Gabe DeShon, and Ruth Owen serves as the Advisor.

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot and participate in the election process. The county committee system works only because of your participation. Thank you for helping us serve you better!

2012 DCP/ACRE Sign-up

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), commonly referred to as the annual farm program, enrollment started Jan. 23, 2012, and will end June 1, 2012. Here are some IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- All producers with an interest in DCP base acres must be included on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.
- All producers receiving a share greater than zero on the DCP/ACRE contract must sign the contract no later than June 1, 2012.
- Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1st in DCP/ACRE must be reported to your local FSA office such as:
 - Ownership changes
 - Producer changes (Individuals and Entities)
 - Change in crop shares arrangements

Note: Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

The CRP Page

Announcements and Requirements

CRP Signup Announced

FSA will hold a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general sign-up from **March 12 through April 6, 2012**. Land not currently enrolled in CRP and acreage under contracts expiring on September 30, 2012 may be offered during this sign-up period. To submit CRP offers, producers must visit their local FSA office. **FSA will accept offers only during the sign-up period.**



In most instances to be eligible a producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to the sign-up period and the land must have been enrolled in CRP or planted to an agricultural commodity four of the six crop years from 2002 to 2007 and be physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity.

In return for establishing long-term resource conserving covers, FSA provides rental payments to participants. Rental rates for the signup will remain the same as last year and are based on the relative productivity of the soils with the county and average cash rental rates in the county. Cost-share assistance will be provided to producers to help establish the approved cover that they agree to during the sign-up process.

During the last two general sign-up periods we have found many expiring CRP contract acreages with tree and gully issues. For CRP acreage to be eligible to be re-offered it must meet all CRP eligibility criteria at the time of the signup period. **Acreage that is covered by trees or that is part of a gully is not eligible for re-enrollment.** CRP regulations state that for land to be considered eligible to be offered into CRP it must “be physically capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity.”

Also, if you have an expiring contract that you do not wish to renew please let us know.

REQUIRED CRP Mid-Contract Management Practices and Required Food Plots

Producers who enrolled acreage in CRP in 2003 or after are required to complete a round of Mid-Contract Management Practices (MCM) following the guidelines of the Conservation Plan of Operations that was developed by NRCS and agreed to by the CRP participant at the time the acreage was enrolled in CRP. These practices are generally completed in years 3 through 6 of the contract period. Types of MCM include: strip disking, chemical application or burning. Cost-shares are available once the practice has been completed and bills are submitted to your local FSA Office.

Be advised, in the past this office has contacted producers by letter to inform them they have MCM to complete during the year. Due to budgetary constraints we will no longer follow that policy. Producers should take care to ensure they don't miss any required MCM on their contract as penalties are quite steep, ranging from \$40 to \$64 per acre. If you have questions about your contract and its required mid-contract management please contact the office.

Seeding reminder for CRP 41 signup

A reminder to producers who enrolled acreage in the 41st signup last spring: If your contract required enhancement to a current grass establishment or a completely new establishment, **these need to be seeded within one year of the beginning contract date**, which was October 1, 2011.

For those with warm season grasses, you need to have your ground seeded between now and June 30th 2012.

For those with cool season grasses, you can seed between March 16th and May 31st **OR** August 1st to October 15st 2012.

CRP Transition Incentives

The Transition Incentives Program (TIP) sign-up is underway. Through TIP, retired or retiring owners or operators are encouraged to transition their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

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

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 losses runs through June 1, 2012. The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that occurred during the 2010 crop year. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

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

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 have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000. This makes the maximum combination of direct and guaranteed loan indebtedness \$1,514,000. The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

Dates to Remember	
February 20	Washington's Birthday (observed) Holiday – FSA offices closed
March 12	CRP General Signup 43 Begins
March 15	NAP Closing Date for Spring Seeded Crops
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

Selected Interest Rates for February 2012	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	1.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	3.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7-yr.	1.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 10-yr.	2.00%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 12-yr.	2.250%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

Tips for Faster Service

In order to receive information and payments quickly, it is important for producers to keep their information up-to-date. Below are a few tips that could save you time in the future.

1. Provide your local FSA office with your current contact information, including mailing address, email, and phone number, as it changes.
2. Turn in all required forms and documentation in order to remain eligible for program benefits.
3. Report deceased producers, who earn FSA payments directly or indirectly, in order to receive a proper and timely payment to the estate.

FSA Adopting Electronic Notifications

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a more efficient and cost effective way of notifying producers of changes to farm programs, approaching deadlines and other important information. Producers are asked to contact their local office about options for electronic delivery of notices, newsletters and reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email and text messages will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars and can actually speed up the process of putting information and paperwork in your hands. **Ask the office staff about e-alerts the next time you are in the office.** You may find that it is a great help in keeping you timely informed about changes affecting your farming operation.

Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

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 your local office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.