



May 2010

Harrison County Newsletter

Harrison County
USDA Service Center

Harrison County FSA
1400 N. 41st Street
Bethany, MO 64424
(660) 425-7635 – phone
(660) 425-3536 – fax

Hours:
Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee:
Glenn Dale Cox - Chair
Teresa Johnson -Vice
Mike Folgate – Member

Farm Program Staff:
Tony Thompson – CED
Kim Hulett – PT
Bettie Lee – PT
Korissa Robertson – PT
Paula Rinehart - PT
Linda Vandivert –PT

Farm Loan Staff
Charles Meissen, Manager
Teresa Akers, Officer
Pat Barnett – PT

The County Committee meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 8:00 AM – 12:00PM.



DCP Sign-Up DEADLINE

FINAL DEADLINE—June 1, 2010

Producers must sign a new DCP/ACRE contract (CCC-509) each year on every participating farm they own or operate prior to receiving any payment. Advanced payments are available.

June 1, 2010 will be your last opportunity to enroll in this year’s Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program. The June 1, 2010 deadline is mandatory for all participants. Late filed applications will not be available. Producers eligible for DCP are also eligible to enroll into the ACRE program as an alternative to the counter-cyclical portion of DCP. The enrollment period for ACRE began last fall.

SURE Sign Up Continues

Signup for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) on 2008 crops is under way. SURE is a permanent disaster program created by the 2008 Farm Bill that replaces the previous “ad-hoc” crop disaster programs of the past. Unlike those disaster programs that paid for losses by unit and crop, the SURE program is a “**Total Farm**” disaster program. This revenue based program compares crops expected revenue and program guarantee dollar amounts to the actual crop revenue of the entire farming operation. Entire farming operation refers to **ALL** farms and **ALL** interests, in **ALL** counties. In order to be eligible for payments under SURE, you are required to have carried insurance at the CAT level or better on all insurable crops and NAP coverage on all non-insurable crops (hay for example) with

an economic significance of 5% or greater, within the farming operation. In 2009 and subsequent years, RMA’s Rainfall Index policy is acceptable coverage for hay acres. For the SURE program, grazing acres do not require coverage.

ACRE Program Production Needed by July 31st

Producers who are enrolled in the ACRE program are reminded that they must submit production for the 2004-2008 base period to establish benchmark yields or accept their respective county average “plug” yields for that timeframe or applicable years. Actual production figures must also be submitted by the July 31st deadline for 2009 in order to maintain program eligibility. Plug yields cannot be utilized for a farm in place of actual production once enrolled in the program.

Missouri CRP Management Provisions

CRP contracts with grass cover practices that were enrolled prior to the 26th Sign Up (5/5/03) were allowed to mow up to one half of each field each year between July 16 and August 15. The mowing provisions should be included in the Conservation Plan of Operation (CPO) along with other management guidance. Mowing outside of this period is prohibited without the consent of the local FSA County Committee. Producers should consult their local FSA County office if they have questions about these provisions.

For CRP contract participants whose contracts began with the 26th Sign Up or after, they are subject to the Mid Contract Management (MCM) provisions. These



provisions should be included in the CPO and include options for burning, disking or spraying. Mowing is only allowed in conjunction with disking and spraying. Any mowing for generic weed control is strictly prohibited. Producers should contact their local FSA office if they have questions about their MCM requirements.

Below are the Mid Contract Management (MCM) dates.

Cool Season Grass-Burning	March 15-April 30
Cool Season Grass-Spraying	March 15 - April 30 OR October 1 - December 1
Warm Season Grass-Burning	July 16 - March 15
Warm Season Grass-Spraying	July 16 - September 15
Disc- Cool Season or Warm Season	July 16 - March 15

Producers should review their CPO and/or consult with NRCS or the MDC Private Land Specialist to determine the best methods to achieve the desired results. The goals of MCM practices are to achieve stand diversity along with 25-40% bare ground. May 1 through July 15 is considered the primary nesting season, and management activities are prohibited during this timeframe.

FSA Announces New Payment Limits for Disaster Assistance

The 2008 Farm Bill provides disaster assistance programs for crop and livestock losses experienced by producers in 2008 and subsequent years. These disaster programs include: Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish ELAP, Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), and Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE). Disaster payments issued under these programs are

collectively limited to \$100,000 annually. The Farm Service Agency wants to alert producers about this disaster payment limitation. Additional limitation information about FSA program payment limitations is available at local FSA offices or online at www.fsa.usda.gov.

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.

Crop Reporting

The annual, timely and accurate reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments. For SURE, all crops in all counties must be reported. For ACRE,



all cropland on the farm must be reported. All grazing land must be reported for LFP, and all crops on all farms must be reported for ELAP, including aquaculture and honeybees. Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. And, crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported.

Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers need to file their acreage reports accordingly: fall- and spring-seeded small grains by June 30, all other crops by July 31, and NAP by the applicable dates or 15 days before harvest.

Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting needs be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date.

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.

Sodbuster Regulations

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. If Natural Resources

Conservation Service indicates on a CPA-026 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 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.

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 \$1,112,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner. Contact Charles Meissen or Teresa Akers for more information.

2010 COC Election Period

June 15, 2010 – The nomination period begins.

Aug. 2, 2010 - Last day to file nomination forms (FSA-669A) at the local USDA Service Center

Nov. 5, 2010 - Ballots mailed to eligible voters

Dec. 6, 2010 - Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center

Jan. 1, 2010 - Newly elected county committee members take office



Dates to Remember	
May 31	Memorial Day observed – FSA Offices closed
June 1	DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline
June 30	Crop Reporting Deadline for Small Grains
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
Selected Interest Rates for May 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.875%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer, Rancher or Socially Disadvantaged	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7-yr.	3.25%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 10-yr.	3.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 12-yr.	4.125%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.50%

County Committee Election

County Committees are a critical part of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. From June 15 through August 2, 2010, Harrison County FSA will begin accepting nominations for candidates from the Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2 which includes Dallas, Jefferson, White Oak, Bethany, Butler, and Cypress townships. USDA and FSA is committed to increasing the participation of all farmers including women, minorities, and beginning farmers. Candidates must be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch. Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate and participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA. Committee persons can serve three 3-year consecutive terms. Glenn Dale Cox currently represents LLA2 and is Chairman of the County Committee.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.