



KNOX County FSA Office

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

November 2010

County Office Staff
Mark March
County Executive
Director

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Program Technicians:
Jane Bohon
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Visit our Website at:
www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

Voting for County Committee Begins

Ballots for this year's county committee election were mailed to eligible voters on November 5, 2010. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on December 6, 2010. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight December 6.

This year's election is for LAA 1, which consists of Townships Greensburg, Lyon, Shelton and Salt River in Knox County. Candidates on the ballot are Mike Franke and Randy James.

Eligible voters in a local administrative area LAA # 1 who have not received a ballot should contact the FSA county office staff.

Voter Requirements Persons meeting requirements in **1 or 2, plus 3**, below, is eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as either of the following: an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper, *or* a partner in a general partnership or member of a joint venture that has an interest in a farm as an owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper; *or*
2. Not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm; *and*
3. Eligible to participate in any FSA program that is provided by law, regardless of the status of funding.

Discrimination Prohibited No person shall 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.

NAP Deadline

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to FCIC catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT insurance is not available.

The application and service fee deadline for the 2011 NAP coverage on apples, apricots, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears and blueberries **is Nov. 20, 2010** in Missouri.

Producers who already have coverage on 2010 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2011, if the applicable service fee is submitted by Nov. 20, 2010. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee. The service fee is \$250 per crop per county or \$750 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$1875 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties.

NAP coverage is only available for crops not covered under the Federal Crop Insurance program. Producers are reminded about the need for insurance coverage on crops in order to remain eligible for the agency's Disaster Assistance Programs such as SURE, LFP, TAP, and ELAP.

Producers must purchase at least catastrophic (CAT) level of insurance for all insurable crops and producers must apply for coverage before a disaster strikes.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to remain eligible

for NAP benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a “Notice of Loss” within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, so the loss can be appraised and production counted before the crop is put to another use, abandoned or destroyed.



For more information on NAP coverage, please contact your local FSA office.

CCC-927 or CCC-928 Must Be Sent To IRS

Producers who participated in 2009 or 2010 programs subject to adjusted gross income limitations (AGI) had to certify compliance with AGI rules. The average AGI verification process for 2009 and 2010 payment eligibility requires all program participants to provide written consent to IRS for the disclosure of certain information to FSA.

On October 6, 2010, a letter was mailed to producers who have not submitted:

- CCC-927: “Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Individual Form”
- CCC-928: “Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information-Legal Entity form”

Individuals and legal entities, including members of legal entities, that certified to average AGI compliance for 2009 and/or 2010 payment eligibility must submit a completed CCC-927 or CCC-928 to IRS regardless of whether they received program benefits directly or as a member of a joint operation or entity. These forms must be submitted to IRS in order to avoid a demand for refund of program payments and benefits received.

Unauthorized Disposition of Loaned Grain

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial

penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe. Additionally, producer could be subject to criminal prosecution under federal law. Always call the office before any grain under loan is fed or sold.

Changing Banks

If you have changed banks and not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in producer’s account such as type account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

FSA Conservation Loan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes and guarantees conservation loans on farms to help conserve our natural resources. The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the credit necessary to implement conservation measures on their land.

The direct CLs loan limit is up to \$300,000 and guaranteed CLs up to \$1,119,000 (amount adjusted for inflation), may be available by applying with lenders working with FSA to obtain a guarantee.

Applicants will work with Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) Staff to develop a conservation plan. Conservation practices must be approved by NRCS before FSA can provide financing. Examples of conservation practices include installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; transitioning to organic production; manure management, including manure digestion systems; etc.

For more information on the Conservation Loan program, contact your local FSA office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official. Or visit the Missouri FSA website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/mo and select the “County Offices” link to locate the nearest FSA office.

Crop Assistance Program

Sign-up for the Crop Assistance Program (CAP) began October 25, 2010, and will continue through December 9, 2010. Up to \$550 million in disaster assistance will be issued to producers of rice, upland cotton, soybeans and sweet potatoes that suffered losses because of

excessive moisture or related conditions in 2009. Missouri producers with land physically located in Knox County that suffered losses in 2009 because of excessive moisture or related conditions are eligible. **The deadline to sign-up for CAP is December 9, 2010.**

CAP will provide financial assistance to producers in the qualifying Missouri counties who are still feeling the effects of the quality and quantity losses to soybean and sweet potatoes caused by excess moisture and related conditions in 2009.

Producers of eligible crops in disaster counties who certify to a five percent or greater crop loss in 2009 due to excessive moisture or related conditions will receive a payment based on a predetermined payment rate times the planted acres of the crop. FSA will not consider acres in late-filed acreage reports on or after Monday Oct. 25, 2010 to be eligible acres for CAP. Per acre payment rates will be prorated by FSA in order to keep payments within available funds for the program. Producers will initially receive 75 percent of their CAP payment and once sign-up is complete they may receive up to an additional 25 percent.

The predetermined per-acre payment rates for the eligible crops are: Long grain rice - \$31.93; Medium/short grain rice - \$52.46; Upland cotton - \$17.70; Soybeans - \$15.62; Sweet potatoes - \$155.41.

The general eligibility provisions, payment limits and adjusted gross income limits that apply to FSA programs apply to CAP. No person or legal entity (excluding a joint venture or general partnership), may receive, directly or indirectly, more than \$100,000 in CAP benefits. Additionally, CAP payments will be treated as 2009 revenue under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program.

For more information about the CAP or any other disaster assistance programs, visit your local FSA county office or to view the CAP factsheet go to: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/cap10pfs.pdf.

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM:

Knox County has been approved to implement the Emergency Conservation Program Flood (ECPF) to restore conservation structures and repair damage to crop fields that were damaged from flooding this past summer. Approved practices are Grading and Shaping (EC-2) and Structure repair (EC-4).

Producers need to sign-up at the Knox County FSA office.

A farm inspection by a FSA and NRCS representative will need to be completed prior to any repair work starting. Sign-up will run from November 15, 2010 to January 14, 2011.

Selected Interest Rates for November 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.000%
Farm Ownership and Conservation Loans — Direct	4.125%
Limited Resource Loans	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans —Beginning Farmer Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 7 year	1.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 10 year	2.500%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 12 year	2.750%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.250%

New Financial Management Webpage

Producers who have level 2 e-authentication access can use the new Public Financial Management Information web page. The website allows producers to generate reports that show both current and historical financial information. This resource will allow users to view details on payments, collections and outstanding debt. The website is a great tool for producers to conveniently access financial information at any time. To view the Financial Management Information web page, visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/fmi>. Please contact your county office if you have any questions regarding the web page. ***Note: Website use requires level 2 e-authentication access. Follow the steps below to obtain level 2 access...***

1. Go to www.eauth.egov.usda.gov, complete a customer profile and submit it online.
2. After submitting your customer profile, you will receive a confirmation email, and you must respond to it within 7 days to activate your account
3. Then you must complete the “Identity Proofing” process by visiting a local USDA Service Center and presenting a photo ID, such as your driver’s license

2011 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical program (DCP) has begun and will run through June 1, 2011. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) urges producers to make use of the eDCP website to sign up, or contact the Knox County Farm Service office to complete their DCP contract

Transition Incentives

Remember the Transition Incentives Program (TIP) sign-up opened May 17, 2010. Retired or retiring owners or operators are encouraged to transition their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers. Generally, CRP contracts must expire in 2010 or later. Up to two additional years payments can be received.

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

Dates to Remember	
Nov. 5	County committee ballots mailed to voters.
Nov. 20	Last day to apply for coverage for apples, apricots, blueberries, grapes, nectarines, peaches and pears.
Nov. 25	Thanksgiving Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Dec. 1	NAP application sales closing date for honey
Dec. 6	Last day to return voted Ballots in county committee election.
Dec. 9	Crop Assistance Program (CAP) signup ends.
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program.

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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). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."