



April 2009

Livingston FSA Office News

Livingston County USDA Service Center

Livingston County FSA

1100 Morton Parkway
Chillicothe, MO 64601
660 646 6220 (phone)
660 646 4894 (fax)

Hours

Monday - Friday
7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
The office will be closed
on all Federal holidays.

County Committee

David Williams
Mary Smith
Ben Beetsma

County Committee meets
the third Thursday each
month at 8:30 a.m.

Staff

Program Technicians
Dianna Sewell
Anissa Johnson
Jeannette Straker
Diana Briscoe

County Executive Director
David Meneely

Farm Loan Manager
John McKinny

Farm Loan Officer
Gary Elrod

ACRE Program Enrollment Opens on April 27

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced on April 9, 2009 that producers can elect and enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program beginning April 27, 2009. ACRE is a provision of the 2008 Farm Bill.

"The Average Crop Revenue Election program is an innovative alternative to the traditional farm safety," Vilsack said. "This new option presents an opportunity for producers to review both programs and decide which one will work best for their operation."

Producers have until Aug. 14, 2009, to make their decision for the 2009 crop. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

Producers who elect the ACRE program for a farm agree to:

- forgo counter-cyclical payments;
- accept a 20-percent reduction of the direct payments; and
- accept a 30-percent reduction in loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm.

Commodities eligible for ACRE payments are wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, peanuts, soybeans, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, safflower, mustard seed, rapeseed, sesame seed, crambe, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas and large chickpeas.

The ACRE program was created in the 2008 Farm Bill to give producers an option in lieu of traditional counter-cyclical payments. Producers may elect and enroll in ACRE for the 2009 crop year even if they have already accepted advance direct

payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

To elect ACRE for a farm, producers must complete Form CCC-509 ACRE, which irrevocably elects ACRE for the farm through crop year 2012. Form CCC-509, the contract to participate in ACRE, must then be completed each year the producer intends to participate and receive benefits.

For more information about the ACRE program please visit your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Disaster Buy-In Waiver Extension

Producers who did not obtain crop insurance or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2008 can pay a buy-in fee through May 18, 2009, to become eligible for 2008 disaster assistance programs authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. Farmers have an additional opportunity to become eligible for several programs if they suffered 2008 agricultural losses due to natural disaster. If you have not already taken the necessary steps to become eligible for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP), and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP), you are required to complete the following steps by May 18, 2009:

- Pay a \$100 "buy-in" fee per crop. The maximum fee is \$300 per county, per producer, not to exceed \$900 for multi-county producers.
- In the case of each insurable crop, excluding grazing land, agree to obtain a policy or plan of insurance for the next insurance year for which crop insurance is





available; coverage level should equal 70 percent or more of the yield at 100 percent of the price.

- In the case of each noninsurable crop, agree to file the required paperwork and pay the applicable administrative NAP coverage fee by the applicable state application closing date for the next available year.

Those who choose to “buy in” under this provision will be considered, for insured crops, to have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for the 2008 crop year at a level of coverage not to exceed 70 percent of the yield at 100 percent of the price. For noninsurable crops, producers will be considered to have a level of coverage equal to 70 percent of the yield. These levels of coverage will be used to calculate the 2008 SURE guarantee.

Producers who meet the definition of "Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource," or "Beginning Farmer or Rancher," are not required to pay the buy-in fee.

Acreage Reporting

Acreage reporting time will soon be here. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. For crops other than NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) crops, acreage reports are to be certified by the **June 30th** deadline on small grains, such as wheat and oats, and by the **July 31st** deadline on all other crops including

hay/pasture, corn, soybeans, and CRP.

Acreage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of June 30th for small grains and July 31st for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

Public Comment on Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), will hold two public meetings to solicit comments on the Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) Program. Each comment received will be considered in the preparation of a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for FSFL. The purpose of the PEA is to aid USDA decision-makers and the public with an analysis of the environmental benefits and potential impacts associated with implementing various changes to FSFL consistent with the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

Two national meetings are scheduled for the following dates and locations:

- April 14, 2009, from 5 until 8:00 p.m.
Hilton Garden Inn Kansas City
- April 15, 2009, from 5 until 8:00 p.m.
Hilton Garden Inn Cleveland

Downtown

In addition, written and electronic comments may be submitted by the close of business on May 13, 2009, to ensure consideration. Comments and requests for copies of the final PEA should be directed to:

FSFL PEA, Geo-Marine
Incorporated
2713 Magruder Blvd., Suite D
Hampton, VA 23666-1572





Producers can also log on to <http://public.geo-marine.com>

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers & Ranchers

FSA has a program to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more that 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size.

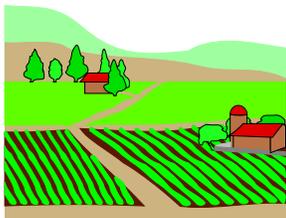
Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov and www.nrcs.usda.gov .

NASS Statistical Survey

Have you been asked to participate in a survey with USDA's Agriculture Statistics Service?

The Quarterly Agricultural Surveys, conducted by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), provide inventory and production estimates for crops and livestock at state and national levels. Each quarter a list sample of farm operators are contacted by mail, telephone or personal interview for inventory information on the land they operate. Sample segments also screened for farm operators.



Why is it important for producers to participate in these surveys?

Because... Statistical information on acreage, production, stocks, prices, and income is essential for the smooth operation of Federal farm programs. It is also indispensable for planning and administering related Federal and State programs in such areas as consumer protection, conservation and environmental quality, trade, education, and recreation. Regularly updating the information helps ensure an orderly flow of goods and services among agriculture's producing, processing, and marketing sectors. Reliable, timely, and detailed crop and livestock statistics help maintain a stable economic climate and minimize the uncertainties and risks associated with the production, marketing, and distribution of commodities.

Direct and Guaranteed Loans

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 available now.

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.

Loan funds can be made available. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner. Most of our loan programs have special funding available for minority, female and beginning farmers.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.



Banking Changes?

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 of account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

Dates to Remember	
April 27	ACRE signup begins—DCP signup already underway
May 13	Farm Storage Facility Loan comment period ends (http://public.geo-marine.com)
May 18	2008 NAP & Crop Insurance Buy-in Deadline
June 30	Crop reporting deadline for small grains
July 31	Crop reporting deadline for all crops and land uses (including CRP) except small grains
August 14	DCP signup deadline
August 14	ACRE signup deadline
Continues	CRP Continuous Signup

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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.