



June 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

Crop Reporting

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report 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, Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program, Supplemental Revenue (SURE) Assistance Program, Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments. The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The producer certification deadline for small grains is June 30, and July 31 for all other crops. Livestock Forage Program (LFP) pastureland, or grazing land acreage for which LFP benefits may be requested, must be reported by the final reporting date (July 31).

CRP & NAP Certification

Conservation Reserve Program acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments. Crop acreage for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be reported by final reporting date, or 15 days before harvest.

Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting is to 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, not a management decision.

County Committee Elections "FSA Counts on You"

Since COC elections happen only once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into *local administrative areas*, or LAAs. Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee. Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. In counties with three LAAs, one seat is up for election. In Livingston County this year the election will be in LAA #1, consisting of the townships of Chillicothe, Rich Hill, Jackson, and Sampsel. Mary Smith is the current FSA Committee representative from that area and she is eligible to be nominated to another three year term.

Nominations

Candidate nominations for the FSA county committee election will be accepted June 15 through Aug. 3, 2009. Producers who are residents in the LAA holding the election, who participate or cooperate in an FSA program, and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates. The nomination form, FSA-669A, is available at the county office or may be downloaded from <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=cce>.

To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected. The completed nomination form must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Aug. 3, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 3, 2009.





Voting

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 6, and must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Dec. 7, or postmarked by midnight Dec. 7, 2009. Agricultural producers of legal voting age can vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm can also vote.

No one can 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.

Candidate Eligibility

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate

Not have been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

For additional clarification about county committee elections, contact your local county office staff.

DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline

Signup for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program has been extended until August 14, 2009. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. Signup in the ACRE option is also available through August 14, 2009. FSA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established

for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2009, you may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

The electronic DCP (or eDCP) service will save you time, reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices. It is available to anyone eligible to participate in the DCP Program. To access this on-line service, you must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> followed by a visit to the local USDA Service Center for identity verification.

2009 Compliance

Compliance and spot checks will once again be utilized during the 2009 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, loans, etc., for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers is used to achieve a statistical sampling of participating producers. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Marketing Assistance Loans, Loan Deficiency Payment Program, etc.

State and county offices shall view and print their producer spot check lists as posted on the designated website. If an entity is selected from the national database that is no longer farming or participating in the 2009 crop year, a notation shall be made on the spot check list. For more information about the new spot check selection procedure, feel





free to contact your local office for additional clarification.

Changes in Payment Limitations

The payment limitation provisions over the last 39 years have been expanded to more programs. Some of the changes in this area are listed below.

New forms for 2009 and subsequent years

Anyone that plans to participate in 2009 programs is required to submit a completed CCC-902, CCC-926, and CCC-901, if applicable, for payment eligibility and payment limitation purposes. The form used prior to 2009 was named CCC-502.

Another change for 2009, all must make a contribution in an entity.

All partners, stockholders, or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make a contribution, whether compensated or **not** compensated, for active--*

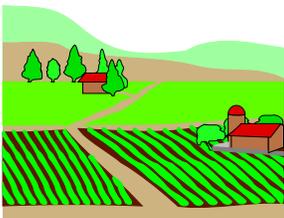
- personal labor,
- personal management,
- or a combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation;

*Note: there are exceptions for spouses.

Person or Legal Entity Payment Limitations	Limitation (in Dollars)
Program Payment Type	2009/ 2010/ 2011/2012
Commodity Programs	
Counter-cyclical and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE), except peanuts	65,000 <u>1/</u>
Counter-cyclical and Average ACRE payments on peanuts	65,000 <u>1/</u>
Direct payments on covered commodities	40,000 <u>2/</u>

Conservation Programs	
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) annual rental payment.	50,000
Cost Conservation Stewardship Program (CSTP) for FY 2009-2012	200,000
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) FY 2009-2012	300,000
Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)	50,000
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)	50,000
Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)	50,000
Disaster Assistance Programs	
Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP); Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP); Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP); Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)	100,000
Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)	100,000
Tree Assistance Program (TAP)	100,000
Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP); Marketing Assistance Loans; Marketing loan gain (MLG)	No limits

1/ Under ACRE, this amount will be a combined limitation for counter-cyclical and ACRE payments. If a person or legal entity has a direct or indirect





interest in payments earned on a farm participating in

ACRE, this limitation will reflect an increase for the amount that direct payments are reduced. 2/ If the person or legal entity has a direct or indirect interest in payments earned on a farm that is in ACRE,

this limitation will reflect a 20 percent reduction in direct payments on each far that is participating in ACRE. **Additional information on payment limitations is available at FSA county offices or on line at: www.fsa.usda.gov**

Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary.

Dates to Remember	
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 1	Last date to request a farm reconstitution for 2009
August 14	DCP signup deadline
August 14	ACRE signup deadline
Continues	CRP Continuous Signup

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.