



**Phelps/Crawford  
County FSA  
Office**

1050 Highway 72  
Rolla Mo. 65401

573-364-2088 phone  
573-364-7936 fax

**Hours**

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

**December 2011**

**County Office Staff**

Gregg Barrows,  
County Executive  
Director

Amy Peiter,  
Farm Loan Manager

Brenda Braidlow  
Sharon McCartney  
Program Technicians

Jim Kyle, District  
Director

**County Committee**

Ann Edgar,  
Chairperson  
Rod Frees, Vice-Chair  
Gary Mullen, Member  
Tom Strain, Member  
Jim Parker, Member

Visit our Website at:  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/mo](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo)

**FSA ADOPTING GOVDELIVERY**

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation. Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic 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 will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers. Producers can now subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>.

**2012 DCP/ACRE SIGN-UP**

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment will begin Jan. 23, 2012 and will end June 1, 2012. Here are some IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.
- 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.

**SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE)**

The sign-up for 2010 losses started on **Nov. 14, 2011** and runs through **June 1, 2012**. The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2010. 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.

**Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance (NAP)  
Coverage Application Deadline is  
March 15**

Nap coverage is available for crops such as forage and hay crops. Coverage is also available for grazing acres which is required to be eligible for the Livestock Forage Program. March 15<sup>th</sup> is the last day for producers to apply for Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance. The application and service fee must be filed by March 15<sup>th</sup>, the deadline date for 2012 grazing acre coverage. The service fee is \$250 per crop per county. Limited Resource Producers (LR), Beginning Farmers (BF) and Socially Disadvantaged Producers (SD) may request a waiver of service fees.

## **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 has increased from 1 percent to 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan, for loans obligated after October 1, 2011. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.



## **LDPs FOR UNSHORN LAMB PELTS**

Eligible producers have until Jan. 31, 2012, to apply for Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) for unshorn pelts produced during the 2011 crop year. Eligible producers must have beneficial interest in the pelts, owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. Producers must also comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or in which they have an interest. To qualify for payment, pelts must have been produced by an eligible producer from live unshorn lambs of domestic origin in the United States.

## **DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

FSA disaster assistance programs include:

- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

To be eligible for these programs, producers must have purchased catastrophic risk protection insurance for all insurable crops, and coverage for

non-insurable crops under SURE, TAP, and ELAP. Sign-up ends Jan. 30, 2012 for LFP, LIP and ELAP. Producers have 90 days from the time a loss is apparent to file an application for TAP. Farm-Raised fish means all fish being produced for sale by an eligible producer. In the case of honey, the term "farm" means all bees and beehives in all counties that are intended to be harvested for a honey crop by the eligible producer. Producers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource Producer, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher, are not required to purchase the catastrophic insurance.

## **FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM**

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a minimum down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. If a participant provides 20% or greater down payment, then the requirement for a severance agreement for loans under \$50,000 will be waived. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department. Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount not to exceed \$250,000. Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin. The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities
- Honey

For more information about FSFL, please visit your FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

### **COMMODITY LOANS**

Commodity loans, also referred to as Marketing Assistance Loans, are available to producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, you must maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the time of application. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if you regain beneficial interest. Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans. The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

### **MAINTAINING THE QUALITY OF LOANED GRAIN**

Bins are ideally designed to hold a level volume of grain. When bins are overfilled and grain is heaped up, airflow is hindered and the chance of spoilage increases. Producers who take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored grain as collateral should remember that they are responsible for maintaining the quality of the grain through the term of the loan.

### **UNAUTHORIZED DISPOSITION OF 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. Financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe and a producers name will be placed on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Always call before you haul any grain under loan.

**FSA SIGNATURE POLICY** Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities
- Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

**LOANS FOR THE SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED** FSA has loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches. While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided targeted funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged groups. A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of a group. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

### **USDA STREAMLINES COMMON ACREAGE REPORTING DATES**

USDA recently established 15 common acreage reporting dates (ARDs) for farmers and ranchers who participate in Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Risk Management Agency (RMA) programs. The common reporting dates will simplify the reporting process for producers and reduce USDA operating costs by sharing similar data with participating agencies. Before the streamlining, FSA had 17 ARDs for 273 crops and RMA had 54 ARDs for 122 crops. FSA and RMA will implement the July 15, 2012, and August 15, 2012, ARDs for certain commodities during the 2012 crop/program year. The remaining common ARDs will be implemented during the 2013 crop/program year. Stay tuned for crop-specific information.

### **COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS**

Congratulations to Jim Parker. He was re-elected to represent farmers from LAA#4 on the County Committee. FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation. The committee members held their organizational meeting immediately after the election. Ann Edgar will serve as Chairperson and Rod Frees will serve as Vice-Chairperson.

### Gregg's Notes

On behalf of Gregg, Brenda and Sharon, we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Dates to Remember	
December 26	Christmas Day (observed) Holiday - FSA offices closed
December 31	NAP application sales closing date for potatoes
January 2	New Year's Day (observed) Holiday - FSA offices closed
January 23	2012 DCP Enrollment begins
January 30	Signup ends for LFP, LIP and ELAP
January 31	Deadline to apply for Unshorn Lamb Pelts Loan Deficiency Payment

Selected Interest Rates for December 2011	
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	1.50%
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.	1.50%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 10-yr.	2.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 12-yr.	2.375%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

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