



NEWSLETTER



Platte County FSA Office

P.O. Box 1220
Platte City Mo 64079

816-431-2101 phone
816-431-2091 fax

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

NEW PROGRAM

BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (BCAP) - The Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) Project Area 1 is the first BCAP Project Area in the nation. The program's purpose is to provide incentives for producers to establish and harvest biomass crops, such as switchgrass, for heat, power, and bio-based products and biofuels. Eligible producers will receive annual rental payments (similar to crop) for 5 years, cost share up to 75% of the cost to establish the biomass crop, and matching payments for up to 2 years for the harvesting, storage, and transport of the biomass to a qualified biomass conversion facility. Any landowner who is interested or might be interested in participating in this program should stop by the office or call 816-431-2101.

May 2011

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

DCP SIGNUP & ADVANCE PAYMENTS

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011. Advance payments of 22% on the 2011 DCP program will be available starting Dec. 1, 2010. The remaining 78% of your DCP payment will be issued after October 1, 2011. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. **DCP contract signatures for enrollment are due by the signup deadline of June 1, 2011.** For more information, producers can contact their local FSA office.

THE ACRE OPTION The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. A farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. In exchange for participating in ACRE, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent. The decision

to enroll in the ACRE program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and

will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year. The June 1, 2011 deadline is statutory for all participants.

Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available to producers who share in the risk of producing a crop. To be eligible, a producer must retain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in the commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest in the commodity. Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed

or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan. Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans. 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.



FINAL LOAN AVAILABILITY DATES FOR 2010 CROPS

- May 31-Corn, Grain Sorghum, Rice, Soybeans, Cotton

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 \$1,119,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

BEGINNING FARMER & RANCHERS FSA assists beginning farmers and ranchers 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 than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in any loan assessment and borrower training in financial and production management program sponsored

by FSA

- Does not own a farm greater than 30 % of the median size farm in the county.

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

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.

BCAP RECEIVES FUNDING CHANGES A provision to the BCAP program limits FY 2011 funding to \$112 million. BCAP supports agricultural and forest landowners and operators by providing annual contract payments and matching payments for the production of biomass crops. BCAP uses a project area to support the production of eligible energy crop feedstock produced within the project area. Project sponsors MUST submit project area proposals to the Missouri State FSA Office, Parkade Center, Suite 225, 601 Business Loop 70 West, Columbia, MO 65203 by Friday, May 27, 2011. Approved proposals may qualify for BCAP assistance under a contract agreement with the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), and BCAP crop establishment and annual contract payments would be provided. BCAP payments are also made for the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) of eligible herbaceous biomass materials to a qualified biomass conversion. At this time, matching payments are not authorized for the CHST of woody biomass species, but payments could be implemented this summer.

ACREAGE REPORTING Filing an accurate acreage report at your local FSA office can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. The deadline to report wheat and other small grains is June 30th. The deadline to report spring seeded crops, CRP, and pastures and hay is July 31th.

PREVENTED PLANTING Prevented planting is the inability to plant the intended crop acreage with proper equipment by the final planting date for the crop type because of a natural disaster. If you were unable to plant all the acres you intended, action is necessary. You may want to report those acres as prevented planted when you file your acreage report. If you have crop insurance, talk to your agent immediately to find out if prevented planted acres are covered under your policy and if restrictions apply.

Failed Acreage Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition (destroying) of the crop. 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. Failed acreage can be reported after it has been planted to another crop if insurance verification is received by the FSA office before the crop reporting deadline.

Conservation Plan Weather Variance

During the 2010 growing season, many areas of Missouri received excessive rainfall amounts. Farmers were forced to complete harvest under extreme wet conditions. The excessive moisture caused rutted up fields and loss of residue. As a result, operators will have to decide how to maintain their approved conservation system during planting season. This year NRCS can grant a temporary variance for 2011 due to excessive rainfall. This variance allows farmers to restore affected areas to pre-event conditions prior to planting and avoid noncompliance. All tracts granted this variance will be placed on the 2012 compliance review list. It is very important that the NRCS office is notified prior to beginning intended field work.

FSA eALERTS

Missouri FSA introduces FSA eAlerts—a new way to receive FSA program reminders via e-mail or text. You can sign up for eAlerts at your County Office and choose whether you would like to receive information via e-mail, text or both. If you elect to receive information by text, remember standard text messaging rates apply. Consult with your cellular carrier to discuss your text plan details. You can opt out of receiving FSA eAlerts at any time. You will still receive your FSA newsletter, but Missouri FSA will discontinue sending postcard reminders for upcoming sign ups and deadlines. FSA eAlerts are provided as an additional service to Missouri FSA producers. Always refer to your county office newsletter for program information and bookmark www.fsa.usda.gov/mo to check back frequently for program deadlines and information. If you are interested in signing up for these alerts you can come by the office, call us or drop your information in the mail.

BUDGET CUTS Due to recent congressional budget cuts The FSA Office will no longer be able to mail reminder post cards to producers who have missed signups or other program responsibilities. This includes landowner signatures on contracts that we have already mailed. Producers may want to consider signing up to receive eAlerts as discussed in the article above.

Continuous CRP Practices Available

In addition to the CRP general sign up that just ended at FSA offices, producers can also take advantage of the Continuous CRP Program. Environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for enrollment through the Continuous CRP program may be offered anytime during the year. These environmentally-targeted programs remain funded, and continue to provide heightened environmental benefits for selected areas. Please contact your FSA office for complete details.

BCAP

New program with acceptance to eligible producers being first come first serve until the allotted funds are used for the 39 county Project Area 1. See page 1.

eAlerts

Our new way of sending program reminders to landowners and other producers due to budget cuts. Everyone might want to consider this option, because our postage and telephone allocations have been severely reduced. See page 1.

DCP Signup

June 1, 2011 is the deadline for all signatures to be received for DCP contracts. This includes Producers and landowners. See page 3.

Dates to Remember	
May 30	Memorial Day – offices closed
May 31	Final availability date for 2010 MAL & LDP for feed grains, soybeans, other oilseeds, and upland cotton
June 1	DCP & ACRE enrollment deadline
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program

Selected Interest Rates for May 2011	
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.625%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years)	2.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (10 years)	3.50%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (12 years)	3.750%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.250%

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