



NEWSLETTER



POLK County FSA Office

1333 East Broadway
Bolivar, MO 65613
(417) 326-4823 phone
(417) 326-6174 fax

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

May 2011

County Office Staff

Karen Stillings, County Executive Director

Cathy McNatt
Cindy Scott, Farm Program Technicians

Brian Hedges
Farm Loan Manager

Kim Mitchell
Farm Loan Officer

Ella Strode, Farm Loan Program Technician

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

2011 RAINFALL

Recorded at county office

January	.51"
February	5.05"
March	5.59"
April	5.38"
May to date	.87"

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 are available. 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, please contact our office.

ACREAGE REPORTS DEADLINE APPROACHING The deadline to timely make report on planted crops is **June 30** for wheat, barley, oats (small grains) and **July 31** for corn, soybeans, grain sorghum, harvested hay, seed, and Conservation Reserve Program acres. *Final planting date for corn is May 25th, soybeans and grain sorghum June 20th.* Prevented planting acres shall be reported by July 31.

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.**

LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM (LIP) LIP provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from natural disaster. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal

mortality due to adverse weather, including loss due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, diseases, wildfires, extreme heat or extreme cold. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011. A notice of loss must be filed with FSA within 30 days of when the loss of livestock is apparent. USDA has established normal mortality rates for each type and weight range of eligible livestock, i.e. Adult Beef Cow = 1.5% and Non-Adult Beef Cattle = 3%. These established percentages reflect losses that are considered expected or typical under, "normal" conditions. Producers should file a LIP application as soon as possible to avoid a delay in processing and receipt of disaster assistance.

NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is a federally-funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. Production records for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the final acreage reporting date for the

crop for the following year. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications. ***NAP Losses must be reported within 15 days of a disaster event or the date the loss becomes apparent.***

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR 2010 LOSSES



More than \$8 million in disaster assistance will be issued to livestock, honeybee and farm-raised fish producers that suffered losses in 2010 because of disease, adverse weather or other conditions. The aid will come from the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). ELAP sign-up for 2011 losses is also underway. Producers with 2011 losses must file ELAP application no later than October 1, 2011. They also must file a notice of loss within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent to the producer or Oct. 31, 2011, whichever date is earlier. ELAP benefits related to 2011 losses are expected to be issued in early 2012.

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 maintain 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 a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest. 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, Soybeans

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 facility by eligible material landowners. At this time, matching payments are not authorized for the CHST of woody biomass species, but payments could be implemented this summer.

MEASUREMENT SERVICE Farmers who would like a guarantee on their crop plantings and land use acreages can make it official by using the FSA measurement service. Producers must file a request with the county office staff and pay the cost of a field visit to have stake and referencing done on the farm. Measurement service is available using digital imagery. If an on-site visit is not required producers are charged a reduced rate. Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty or loss of eligibility. Producers can request ortho-imagery and CLU covering their land (commonly referred to as a clip) at no charge. This would provide the acreage of an entire field.

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VILSACK ANNOUNCES PROCESS TO RESOLVE DISCRIMINATION CLAIMS OF HISPANIC AND WOMEN FARMERS As part of continued efforts to close the chapter on allegations that discrimination occurred at USDA in past decades, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Assistant Attorney General Tony West today announced the establishment of a process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who assert that they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans. The claims process offers a streamlined alternative to litigation and provides at least \$1.33 billion in compensation, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. This announcement follows the Obama Administration's settlement of longstanding litigation brought by African American farmers and Native American farmers.

In conjunction with this announcement, USDA is launching an outreach effort to potential claimants that will include a call center for farmers and ranchers, a website, public service announcements, and in-person meetings around the country. Individuals interested in participating in the claims process may register to receive a claims package, or may obtain more information, by visiting www.farmerclaims.gov. Beginning February 25, 2011, individuals can register to receive a claims package by calling the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429. USDA cannot provide legal advice to potential claimants. Persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

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.

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%

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. 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, employer and lender.