



Shannon/Reynolds County News

September 2010

USDA Service Center

Shannon/Reynolds County FSA
Highway 19 South
Eminence, MO 65466
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www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
Gary Gant
David Barnett
Nancy Roberts
Katie Dowler

County Committee meets:
The First Thursday of each
Month

County Staff:
Jim Kyle, DD
Elvie Younger, CED
Sharon Parks, PT

Farm Loan Staff:
Amy Peiter, FLM
Debi Huff, FL PT



2010 County Committee Elections

The election for county committee members will be this fall. It is important that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees (COC) are a link between the community and USDA. COC members are a critical component of FSA operations. The nomination period ended August 2, 2010. The nominees for LAA 1 are Katie Dowler and Lloyd Detwiler and for LAA 3 are Nancy Roberts and Lela Elaine Albert. Ballots will be mailed out to eligible voters on Nov. 5. The last day to return voted ballots will be Dec. 6. The newly elected committee members will take office on January 1, 2011. Elections will be held for landowners South of Jack's Fork River and Current River (LAA 1) in Shannon County and also for landowners in the Southwestern part of Reynolds County (LAA 3).

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR DROUGHT COVERAGE

In the 2008 Farm Bill, Congress wrote into law a permanent disaster law. In this law, Congress stated that a livestock producer needed to share in the risk by purchasing NAP (Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) insurance. This program is a USDA program which covers all crops not insured by private insurance companies. Before 2008, NAP insurance premiums were \$100.00 per crop. After 2008, the NAP insurance premiums were \$250.00 per crop and a producer had to have a 50 percent loss to qualify and would be paid for the percent of loss over 50 percent. The pasture loss is based on a producer's hay loss. If you do not have at least a 50 percent loss of hay, then you will not be eligible for pasture loss.

The advantages of having NAP insurance is that you have to have it to qualify for payment in the event there is a disaster.

Private insurance companies now sell **Pasture Rangeland, Forage Index (PRF) pilot insurance**. This insurance is based on rainfall and/or the percentage of rainfall coverage that you choose. This private insurance will also qualify you for USDA benefits. For more information on this program, you will need to call a private insurance agent who sells this type of insurance. One private insurance company is Farm Credit Service (FCS) which was formerly Production Credit Association (PCA) or at <http://www.rma.gov>. If you do not have an agent, you can find one online using the RMA agent locator at <http://www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agent.html>. The **CLOSING DATE** for this type of insurance is **SEPTEMBER 30, 2010**, for the 2011 crop year.

Remember if a drought occurs, you will need either NAP grazing or Rangeland and Forage Insurance for your pasture to qualify for the Livestock Feed Program. The deadline for purchasing NAP insurance through USDA is March 15, 2011.

WHO DETERMINES DATE OF DROUGHT (Out of Handbook 1-LDAP Par. 171 B)

The National Office personnel will monitor the U.S. Drought Monitor and will notify applicable State and County Offices on a weekly basis of those counties eligible for LFP (Livestock Feed Program) because of a qualifying drought. The National Office will determine the beginning date of a qualifying drought by pasture type and will notify applicable State and County Offices of the beginning date of a D2, D3, or D4 drought intensity rating. The COC will use the beginning date of each qualifying drought to determine the eligibility of covered livestock.

REMINDER: Risk Management Purchase Requirement (RMPR): NAP or PRF coverage is a requirement in order to qualify for benefits received under the Livestock Forage Program (LFP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) and Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) program.

Actively Engaged

FSA wants to remind producers about the rules that govern the requirements to be 'actively engaged' in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by FSA.

Normally the stockholder or a member of a legal entity **must** make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management. The contributions are to be performed on regular basis, must be identifiable, and separate from the contributions of others.

The exception to this rule for a stockholder or member of a legal entity only occurs if both of the following apply:

- At least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management; and
- Total direct payments received directly and indirectly, by the legal entity and each of the members can't exceed \$40,000.

Continuous CRP Available

Environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the Continuous CRP will be eligible for annual rental payments and cost-share of up to 50 percent on approved practices. These programs will remain funded, and continue to provide heightened environmental benefits on select areas.

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. If you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan, ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee.

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 \$1,112,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

Emergency loans are available only as direct loans from FSA with a maximum of \$500,000. These loans assist farmers who have suffered physical or production losses in disaster designated areas. In order to qualify, a farmer must have suffered a 30 % loss in production or an actual physical loss that was essential to the successful operation of the farm. Emergency loans for actual losses are made at an interest rate of 3.75% to those eligible applicants unable to obtain the actual credit needed from another source.

FSA employees will help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.



Electronic Services Available

If a producer has Internet access, program participants can access many services from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive approval and payment by direct deposit.

To participate in these services, you must meet all program eligibility requirements. Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private information.

To utilize electronic services a producer needs an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires an e-mail address and filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification. If you have more questions, or would like assistance establishing your account, just contact your local USDA Service Center and talk with our trained FSA personnel.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists 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 median farm acreage

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

Dates to Remember	
August 2	General CRP Signup Begins
August 2	Last Day to File County Committee Nominations
August 27	General CRP Signup Ends
September 1	NAP Sales Closing Date for greens, value loss, & controlled environment crops
September 1	ACRE production certification deadline
September 6	Labor Day – FSA offices closed
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program

Loans for Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of 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 priority funding for members of socially disadvantaged applicants. 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 the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders. If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.



Preventing Fraud

The Farm Service Agency supports the Risk Management Agency in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will continue to refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA. Producers can report suspected cases to the FSA office, RMA, or the Office of the Inspector General.

Selected Interest Rates for August 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.50%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.625%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Far- mer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7-yr.	2.50%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 10-yr.	3.00%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 12-yr.	3.375%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.250%

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