



February 2012

Farm Service Agency

Missouri District 4



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www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

SURE Disaster Sign-up for 2010

If you experienced revenue losses in 2010 due to disaster conditions, you may qualify for benefits from the Supplemental Revenue (SURE) Assistance Program.

To qualify for SURE, you must have experienced an overall revenue loss on your farm. For this program a farm is defined as all crops in which you have an interest in all counties. You must also have experienced at least a 10 percent loss on a crop of economic significance to your operation. Additionally, you must have had crop insurance or NAP coverage on all economically significant crops in your operation. (Exceptions to this requirement apply for limited resource, socially disadvantaged, and beginning farmer applicants.)

The only way to know for certain if you qualify for SURE benefits is to consult with your county FSA office. Sign-up for this program ends on June 1, 2012.

General CRP Sign-up Announced

USDA has announced a General Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) sign-up will run from March 12 through April 6, 2012. General CRP sign-ups allow the enrollment of entire fields.

Currently, about 30 million acres are enrolled in CRP nationwide, and approximately 6.5 million acres are scheduled to expire this fall. This is an opportunity for new enrollments, as well as re-enrollment of contracts scheduled to expire on September 30, 2012.

If you have CRP land scheduled to expire this fall, and you intend to re-enroll it, be sure to address any erosion or invasive growth issues now. These issues must be corrected prior to the end of the sign-up period on April 6, 2012.

Contact your local FSA to learn more about CRP or schedule an appointment to submit an offer.

CRP Mid-Contract Management

CRP participants should keep the following dates in mind when completing their required mid-contract management.

Activity	Cool season grasses	Native warm season grasses
Prescribed burning	March 15 through April 30	July 16 through March 15
Chemical application	March 15 through April 30 or October 1 through December 1	July 16 through September 15
Strip disking	July 16 through March 31	

Refer to your conservation plan and contract for more specific information regarding mid-contract management requirements. If you are not certain what you are required to do, contact your FSA office. Failure to complete mid-contract management activities may result in the termination of your contract.

Mid-contract management and maintenance activities **may not** be completed during the primary nesting season which runs from **May 1 through July 15**.

New Crop Reporting Deadlines Beginning in 2012

Crop	FSA Deadline	RMA Deadline
2012		
Fall-seeded small grains (to be harvested in 2012)	June 30, 2012	December 15, 2011
All other crops & uses		July 15, 2012
2013		
Fall-seeded small grains (to be harvested in 2013)	December 15, 2012	
All other crops & uses		July 15, 2013

the Acreage Crop Reporting Streamline Initiative. The goal of this initiative was to reduce the number of different crop reporting dates by aligning FSA and RMA reporting deadlines. These revised dates are being phased in beginning with the 2012 crop year.

DCP/ACRE Enrollment for 2012

Enrollment is under way for the 2012 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. The deadline for enrollment is June 1, 2012. For 2012, the payment factor is increased from 83.3% to 85% of base acres. This change was stipulated by the 2008 Farm Bill.

Producers may still elect the ACRE program for 2012. And remember, if ACRE was elected in a previous year, that election still stands for 2012. Those who have ACRE farms must certify their 2011 production data by July 15, 2012.

IRS Form 1099-G

FSA program participants should have received a 1099-G for 2011 payments. Keep in mind that refunds are not reflected on the 1099-G. Participants are encouraged to review their payment statements to ensure accurate information is reported to the IRS.

Youth Loans Available

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H, FFA, and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

Loans for Socially Disadvantaged and Beginning Farmers

FSA has loan programs available to assist applicants begin or continue agriculture production. Loans are available for operating loans and/or to purchase or improve farms or ranches. While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, FSA has provided targeted funding for members of socially disadvantaged groups and beginning farmers. 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.

Loans are also available for beginning farmers who have not operated a farm for more than 10 years, and who do not own a farm greater than 30 percent of the median size farm in the county. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Are you bringing new land into production?

Favorable winter weather and high commodity prices have resulted in many producers clearing trees and/or sod busting land that hasn't been cropped before. Make certain you have consulted with your FSA and NRCS office before bringing this land into production. Failure to follow highly erodible land and wetland provisions could result in a loss of USDA program benefits.

DISTRICT 4 OFFICES

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Women in Ag and Ag Landowners Regional Conference in Marshall

The 9th annual Women in Agriculture and Ag Landowners Regional Conference will be held on Friday March 9, 2012 at the Martin Community Center in Marshall.



This year's quilt theme, "Stitching life's pieces together", pays homage to women agriculturalists striving to hold everything together, in addition to the conference's effort to bring together the "pieces" of farm business management, rural development, family, and gardening. Keynote speaker Sharon Oetting will inspire you to "*Tell Your Story*", while luncheon speaker Chris Chinn will motivate you to "*Stand Up for Agriculture.*" A light breakfast and lunch is included with your registration fee. Mix-and-match from 4 tracks of breakout sessions throughout the day. Register before March 1 to receive a \$3 discount.

All conference details, including directions, information and photos from past conferences, and this year's registration form, are available online at www.womeninag.net. Or you can contact the Saline County Extension Office at 660.886.6908 for more information and to register.

Mid-Missouri Women in Ag Conference in California

The 8th annual conference will be held on Thursday, March 15, 2012 at California High School, and is open to all. For a registration fee of only \$10 you can fill your day with information, entertainment, good food, and great company. This event promises to have something of interest for everyone. Five concurrent breakout sessions are planned.

The keynote speaker for the General Session is KRCG TV anchor, Teresa Snow. Teresa will entertain you with stories of her "conversion" from city girl to farm wife. Numerous vendors will also have booths at the event to provide information and offer items for sale.

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., with the opening session at 10:30 and workshops beginning at 10:45.

Deadline for registration is March 9, 2012. To obtain an event flyer and registration form, call the Cooper County USDA Service Center at 660-882-5647, extension 2; or the Moniteau County office at 573-796-2010. Or go to the Moniteau County SWCD web site: www.swcd.mo.gov/moniteau/projects.

County Committee Election Results

FSA would like to congratulate and thank the following producers in District 4 who were elected to serve on their County Committee. Their 3-year term began on January 1. These individuals' willingness to serve on the County Committee ensures local oversight in the delivery of Federal farm programs in your county. We also want to thank all those who participated in the nomination and voting process.

County Committee meetings are currently more sporadic due to budget restraints. Contact your local FSA office to find out when the next County Committee meeting will be held.

County	LAA	Townships	Elected Member
Benton	1	Tom, Alexander, Fristoe, Union	Brenda Arnett
Carroll	3	Ridge, Rockford, Carrollton, Combs, DeWitt, Eugene	Gary Sanders
Chariton	3	Clark, Musselport, Keytesville, Bowling Green, Chariton	George E Schupback
Clay	5	Kearney, Platte, Chouteau, Liberty	Brian Black
Cooper	1	Palestine, Clarks Fork, Prairie Home, N. Moniteau, S. Moniteau	Warren Graff
Henry	2	Walker, Davis, Clinton, Deepwater, Bear Creek	Stanley Nold
Howard	1	Prairie, Burton, Bonne Femme	Oran Boulden
Johnson	1	Jackson, Columbus, Hazel Hill, Simpson, Grover	Timothy Kirchhoff
Lafayette	2	Sni-A-Bar, Washington, Freedom	Olin Struchtemeyer
Pettis	3	Cedar, Bowling Green, Sedalia, Smithton, Lake Creek	Thomas Oelrichs
Randolph	1	Chariton, Jackson, Salt River, Clifton, Salt Springs	Joel Land
Ray	2	Polk, Fishing River, Northern Half Richmond	Michael Shane
Saline	1	Arrow Rock, Cambridge, Clay, Salt Fork	Lloyd French

Receive FSA Information Electronically

Missouri FSA launched eAlerts last year to provide program updates to subscribers through text messages and/or emails. Now FSA at the national level has launched a similar service called  GovDelivery. In the near future, eAlert participants who provided an email address should receive a welcome message from the GovDelivery system. There are a few things you should keep in mind:

- Participation in GovDelivery is not mandatory.
- Producers may continue to receive eAlert correspondence from their local FSA office only.
- In order to sign up for GovDelivery, producers will need to sign in through the welcome email. If producers do NOT wish to receive GovDelivery, no action is necessary. You will still receive eAlert information from your local FSA office.
- GovDelivery is generated from the national office and provides general program information.
- eAlerts can provide general program information as well as information and reminders specific to your farming operation.
- eAlerts has the ability for text messaging, where GovDelivery does not.
- Local FSA newsletters may be sent electronically, through eAlerts and GovDelivery.

FSA is working to communicate with producers electronically to provide timely information. Due to ongoing budget constraints, FSA has already reduced the frequency of newsletter mailings. Additionally, FSA is no longer able to mail postcard reminders to producers. It will continue to become more critical for FSA program participants to enroll in eAlerts and/or GovDelivery in order to stay up-to-date with program information. Please sign up at your local FSA office!

Interest Rates for February 2012

Farm Operating	1.375%
Farm Ownership	3.375%
Farm Ownership Down Payment	1.500%
Commodity Loans	1.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	
7 year (\$100,000 or less)	1.375%
10 year (100,000.01-\$250,000)	2.000%
12 year (\$250,000.01-\$500,000)	2.250%

Dates to Remember

Mar 12 - Apr 6	CRP General Sign-up
May 28	Offices closed - Memorial Day
June 1	DCP/ACRE Sign-up Deadline
June 1	2010 SURE Sign-up Deadline
June 30	Report small grains to FSA
July 15	Report all other crops & uses
Ongoing	Continuous CRP sign-up

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).

Annual Reminders

A complete list of annual notifications is available at www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/required_items_2012.pdf