



MISSOURI DISTRICT 5

Boone, Callaway, Cole-Miller, Franklin, Gasconade, Moniteau, Montgomery, Morgan, Osage-Maries, St. Louis-St. Charles, and Warren Counties

September 19, 2011

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Phone 636-922-2833

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Phone 636-456-3433

**Visit Our
Website:**
fsa.usda.gov/mo

SURE Disaster Assistance for 2011 and 2012 Crops

The 2008 Farm Bill authorized the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE), which provides assistance to producers suffering crop losses because of natural disasters. To qualify for the SURE program, a crop must have suffered at least a 10 percent loss due to a disaster which occurred on or before September 30, 2011.

At the time of filing a 2011 or 2012 SURE application for payment, the producer will be required to identify the crop that suffered the loss. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will then review the crop's planting and growing period, disaster event, and any other pertinent information that may be relevant or available. Crops must also meet the following criteria:

- The crop insurance or NAP policy for the crop defines the coverage period as beginning on or before September 30, 2011
- The final planting date according to RMA and FSA occurred on or before September 30, 2011

After reviewing this information, FSA will determine whether or not the crop is eligible for the SURE program. Crops are **not** required to be harvested on or before September 30, 2011 to maintain SURE eligibility.

The signup period for 2011 and 2012 SURE will not begin until after the national average market prices are determined for each respective crop year, which is normally one year after the applicable crop year. Please watch the newsletter for notification of SURE sign up dates.

“SURE provides assistance to producers suffering crop losses because of natural disasters.”

Successor-In-Interest

Many FSA programs will allow payments to be made to heirs or successors when a program participant dies. Contract agreements for programs such as Conservation Reserve Program must be revised to reflect the successor(s) for a deceased participant's interest.

In the event of an FSA program participant's death, please notify FSA in order to maintain eligibility of the pending benefit. Business entities and joint operations that participate in FSA programs also need to inform FSA when a shareholder or member passes away.

Bank Changes??

Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using direct deposit. Many payments are made in October. If you have changed bank accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact your county office.



Controlled Substances

Any person who is convicted under federal law of planting, producing, cultivating, harvesting, growing, or storing a controlled substance will be ineligible to participate and receive payments under USDA programs. Marijuana, opium poppies, and other drug producing plants are controlled substances.

County Committee Ballots

In November, FSA will conduct the 2012 County Committee election. Watch for your ballot in the mail. Be sure to mark your ballot for the candidate of your choice and return it to the county office by December 5, 2011.

Be certain if you are signing in a representative capacity for a trust or an entity, please use an indicator, such as “by” or “for”. Also, indicate your relationship to the trust or entity.”

For example, if your name is John Doe and you are the trustee signing for the John Doe Revocable Trust, you would sign “by John Doe, Trustee”. Acceptable signature format is important to ensure that your vote is counted. Your vote makes a difference. The County Committee plays a vital role in decision making for the office.

*Your vote
makes a
difference.*

New Eligibility Process for 2012

A new process has been developed for use in 2012. Forms used by FSA to make a producer eligible for payments (CCC-902s) will be available and referred to as the “Business File”. This process will require producers to work with FSA staff members to verify that information is accurate and correct. Producers will be asked to review current farming interests and current contributions. In addition, there will be a revised Adjusted Gross Income Certification (CCC-926) form for 2012. More information on this process will be available soon. Watch upcoming newsletters for more information.

SURE-For 2010 Losses

If you experienced revenue losses in 2010 you may qualify for additional assistance.

The SURE program is based on whole farm revenue. It couples production with price to gauge total farm revenue and potential revenue losses. This means that ALL production, in ALL counties that a producer has an interest will be considered when making a SURE application for payment.

In addition, the SURE program requires that ALL crop interests be insured either through federal crop insurance or Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). Exceptions do apply to this requirement. Limited Resource, Socially disadvantaged or Beginning Farmers are exempt from the insurance purchase requirement. Producers should consult with their local office to see if exceptions apply to them.

Producers that had losses, but not enough to qualify for an insurance indemnity, may qualify for SURE. It is in your best interest to check with your county office.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Do you need more storage capability for your farming operation this fall? Low interest loans for storage facilities are available. Producers can use the loan to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities including hay. Many bin companies offer special end of year pricing. See your county FSA office to make your application.

Actively Engaged & Payment Eligibility

USDA has amended 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.

In most cases, the stockholder or a member of a legal entity **must** make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management for the farming operation. The contributions are to be performed on a regular basis, must be identifiable, and are separate from the contributions of others. The exception to this rule for a stockholder or member of a legal entity only occurs when 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
- The total direct payment received by the legal entity and each of the members doesn't exceed \$40,000.

See your local office for more details if you have questions

Selected Interest Rates for September 2011

| | |
|--|--------|
| Farm Operating Loans — Direct | 2.125% |
| Farm Ownership and Conservation Loans — Direct | 4.625% |
| Limited Resource Loans | 5.000% |
| Farm Ownership Loans — Beginning Farmer Down Payment | 1.500% |
| Emergency Loans | 3.750% |
| Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 7 year | 1.875% |
| Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 10 year | 2.500% |
| Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 12 year | 2.875% |
| Commodity Grain Loans | 1.125% |

Farm Ownership or Operation Changes

Producers need to notify their local office of any changes in their farming operations. Failure to timely notify the county office of any changes could result in invalid contracts and payment refunds. Changes include:

Farm Ownership Changes—This includes transferring your land into a trust or other entity type, death of owner, etc... Please contact the County Office staff if you have any questions about what benefits may be affected when buying/selling property. If you're planning to sell farmland be aware that there may be program consequences. For example, if you're planning to sell land that is enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't want to continue enrollment in the program, you may have to refund all of the payments you have received to date, plus interest, and liquidated damages.

Changes in entity structure—These could include new shareholders, different shares, or other member changes.

Operator changes—These can be made with the owners verification or by submitting a lease containing the operator and owner's signatures.

Changes in land use—Could include building a new house, machine shed, barn, etc. These changes may affect land eligibility.

Commodity Loans

Farmers can borrow money through FSA's Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) Program using their stored grain as collateral. The grain can either be stored on the farm or in a government approved warehouse facility. The term of the loan is nine months, and is offered at low interest rates (September is 1.125%).

A commodity loan provides producers with interim financing at harvest time to meet cash flow needs without immediately having to sell their grain. Contact your county office for details.



Reduction in Commodity Loan Rate for ACRE Farms

Producers will need to keep the production from ACRE farms separate from DCP farms for grain loan purposes. The commodity loan rate on ACRE farms is reduced by 30%. Farm stored commodities harvested from ACRE and non-ACRE farms will have separate loans. Warehoused ACRE commodities need separate warehouse receipts.

If ACRE and other production cannot be distinguished separately, then the entire quantity will have the 30% reduction in loan rate. Please keep this in mind when making grain storage decisions.

Dates to Remember

| | |
|---------|--|
| Sept 30 | NAP sales closing date for strawberries and fall seeded small grains |
| October | CRP, DCP, ACRE Payments Issued |
| Oct. 10 | OFFICES CLOSED Columbus Day Observed |

Actions To Take Now:

| |
|--|
| • Report Wheat, Barley, Other Small Grain Planting |
| • Check Crop Insurance Needs |
| • Farm Storage Facility Loans |
| • Continuous Conservation Reserve program. |
| • Check Conservation Compliance |

County Office Information

Boone
601 Bus Loop 70W, Suite 213E
Columbia, MO 65203
Kim Viers, CED
COC Meets 2nd Tues. @ 8:30 am.

Callaway
4549 State Rd H
Fulton, MO 65251-5465
Darrell Campbell, CED
Mark Mudd, FLM
COC Meets 2nd Tues. @ 9 am.

Cole-Miller
1911 Bogg's Creek Rd.
Jefferson City, MO 65101
Drew Parmley, CED
Kelly Volmert, FLM
COC Meets 1st Wed. @8:30 am.

Franklin
1004 Vondera Ave., Suite 1
Union, MO 63084-3122
Sheria Yancey, CED
COC Meets 1st Wed. @ 8:00 am.

Gasconade
316 Olive Street
Owensville, MO 65066
Kate Gerlemann, CED
COC Meets 2nd Thurs. @ 8:45 am.

Moniteau
410 West Buchanan
California, MO 65018
Daryl Raithel, CED
COC Meets 3rd Thurs. @ 9 am.

Montgomery
1013 South Sturgeon
Montgomery City, MO 63361-2700
Priscilla Eggering, CED
COC Meets 1st Tues. @ 9 am.

Morgan
100 S Burke Street
Versailles, MO 65084
Dennis Schad, CED
COC Meets 2nd Fri. @ 9 am.

Osage-Maries
1315 East Main Street
Linn, MO 65051
Randy Frisbee, CED
COC Meets 2nd Thurs. @ 8:30 am.

St. Louis-St. Charles
160 St. Peters Centre Blvd.
St. Peters, MO 63376
Connie Gibson, CED
COC Meets 2nd Wed. @ 9am

Warren
635 W. Booneslick Rd.
Warrenton, MO 63383
Ryan Eddy, CED
COC Meets 1st Mon. @ 9 am

US Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency
Boone County
601 Bus Loop 70W Suite 213E
Columbia MO 65203



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Official Business

Loans Available for Socially Disadvantaged Groups

The Farm Service Agency has special loan programs available to assist members of socially disadvantaged groups. These groups include American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Asians, African American, Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders, Hispanics and women.

Loans available include direct and guaranteed loans. Direct loans are originated at the local Farm Service Agency office. Guaranteed loans are requested by a commercial lender who, if approved, is provided with a guarantee against loss. Loan funds can be used to purchase real estate, purchase equipment, purchase livestock or to provide operating credit. Eligibility requirements are similar to other FSA loan programs, but specific funds have been reserved for socially disadvantaged applicants. Contact your local Farm Service Agency Office for additional information.

Foreign Investors Must Report U.S. Agricultural Land Holdings

Foreign investors who acquire or transfer any interest, other than a security interest, in agricultural land in the United States are required by law to report the transaction no later than 90 days after the date of the transaction.

Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County Government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Reminder to “MAINTAIN” Acres

Producers should be aware that idle acres (including those prevented from being planted or failed) that are receiving payments in the DCP program must be maintained. Weeds must be controlled and erosive acres adequately protected with appropriate cover. Failure to comply with this provision could result in penalties.

Final Payments for the DCP, ACRE, and CRP programs will be issued after October 1st.

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