



# NEWSLETTER



## District 7 FSA Offices

APRIL 2011

**Bollinger County FSA**  
Office Hours: 8:00-4:30  
Phone: 573-238-2671

**Butler County FSA**  
Office Hours: 8:00-4:30  
Phone: 573-785-8416

**Cape Girardeau County FSA**  
Office Hours: 8:00-4:30  
Phone: 573-243-1467

**Dunklin County FSA**  
Office Hours: 8:00-4:30  
Phone: 573-888-2536

**Jefferson/Washington**  
Office Hours: 7:00-4:30  
Phone: 636-789-2441

**Mississippi County**  
Office Hours: 8:00-4:30  
Phone: 573-649-9930

**New Madrid County**  
Office Hours: 8:00-4:30  
Phone: 573-748-2557

**Pemiscot County FSA**  
Office Hours: 7:45-4:30  
Phone: 573-333-1923

**Perry County FSA**  
Office Hours: 7:30-4:30  
Phone: 573-547-6531

**Ripley/Carter County**  
Office Hours: 7:45-4:30  
Phone: 573-996-7116

**Scott County FSA**  
Office Hours: 7:30-4:30  
Phone: 573-545-3593

**Ste. Genevieve County**  
Office Hours: 7:00-4:30  
Phone: 573-883-2703

**St. Francis/Iron County FSA**  
Office Hours: 7:00-4:30  
Phone: 573-756-6488

**Stoddard County FSA**  
Office Hours: 7:00-4:30  
Phone: 573-624-5939

**Wayne/Madison County FSA**  
Office Hours: 7:45-4:30  
Phone: 573-224-3410

**District Director**  
Billy Swiney  
Butler County FSA  
Phone: 573-785-8416

## DCP SIGNUP AND 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 were available starting December 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.

## 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 has 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](http://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.

## CRP SIGNUP ENDS APRIL 15

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is offering a general signup period until April 15, 2011. This is the second consecutive year that USDA has offered a general CRP signup. CRP acreage expiring 9/30/2011 is eligible to be re-offered, as well as land being enrolled for the first time. Landowners enrolled in the CRP program receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland. Land that is not currently enrolled in CRP can be offered during sign-up if all eligibility requirements are met. CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall can make new contract offers during the signup period. Contracts awarded during this general signup will become effective October 1, 2011. For more information, please contact your county office or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp>.

## Signup For FSA eAlerts

FSA eAlerts will be a way for the county office to send program reminders and alerts electronically. You can choose to receive alerts either via text message, e-mail or both. Please note that standard text rates will apply for any text message sent. You can opt out of receiving FSA eAlerts at any time.



FSA eAlerts will be used to notify producers of upcoming program sign-ups, upcoming program deadlines and disaster program information. FSA eAlerts are provided as a service to Missouri FSA producers. Always refer to your county office newsletter for program information or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/mo](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo).

Postcard reminders will no longer be mailed. However, county office newsletters will continue to be mailed.

## 2009 SURE SIGNUP

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) began Jan. 10, 2011, and ends July 29, 2011. SURE provides benefits for 2008 - 2011 crop year farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. A farm enrolled in SURE may be eligible for benefits when either:

- farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, **except** grazed crops.
- any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production of the farm because of disaster related conditions is less than 50% of normal production of the farm.

## Continuous CRP Signup

Environmentally-sensitive acreage qualifying for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Conservation Reserve Program, State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Practice and Continuous CRP are eligible for enrollment. These targeted programs remain funded, and continue to provide a heightened environmental benefit on select areas.

## Farming Operation Changes

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

## Crop Reports

The annual reporting of acres for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the DCP and ACRE Program, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), NAP and SURE (disaster), and commodity loans. Plus, all grazing land must be reported for the Livestock Forage Program.

Crop reports must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The deadline is June 30 for small grains and July 31 for all other crops and CRP. NAP crops, such as fruits and vegetables, must be reported by the earlier of July 31 or 15 days before harvest.

To be eligible for the SURE (disaster) program, it is now required that you timely report failed acreage and prevented planting acreage to the FSA office. Filing a claim with your crop insurance does not satisfy this requirement. The timeliness is crucial. Each crop has a designated Final Planting Date in each county. See the back page of this newsletter for a chart of the final planting dates for District 7.

## Final Loan Availability Dates

Price support commodity loans for the 2010 crop year are available until May 31, 2011 for Corn, Cotton, Grain Sorghum, Rice and Soybeans. Commodity loans mature nine months after the month the loan is disbursed. All loans are subject to spot-check and the producer is responsible for maintaining the quality and quantity of crop under loan.

## Maintaining Loan Collateral

Producers are reminded that it is imperative to maintain the condition of grain under loan and to ensure there are adequate bushels in storage to cover the loan quantity. Producers should contact the county office to request authorization to deliver loan collateral prior to removing the grain. Removal of the loan collateral without prior authorization is a violation of the loan agreement and is subject to administrative penalties.

## FSA Signature Policy

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities. Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact your local FSA office.

## Adjusted Gross Income

USDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA. The agreement ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs. Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-927 (Individual) and/or CCC-928 (Legal Entity) to the Internal Revenue Service by June 15 to avoid interruption of program benefits. These forms may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainse/vlet>.

## 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. Producers who enroll in the ACRE option agree to a 20% reduction in the direct payments and will be eligible for Market Assistance loans with a 30% reduction in the loan rate. Once the ACRE option is taken on a farm, it will remain in effect until 2012. All owners and operators have to agree to exercise the ACRE option before it can be approved.

<b>Selected Interest Rates for April 2011</b>	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.75%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.00%
Limited Resource Loans	5.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7-yr.	2.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 10-yr	3.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 12-yr	3.625%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.25%
<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
April 15	CRP General Signup Ends
May 30	Office closed for Memorial Day
May 31	Final availability date for 2010 crop year loans for Corn, Cotton, sorghum, rice and Soybeans
June 1	Final Date to enroll in DCP or ACRE
June 30	Final Date to report wheat and small grain
July 29	2009 SURE Program Ends
July 31	Final Date to report spring seeded crops and CRP
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program

**FINAL PLANTING DATES FOR COUNTIES IN DISTRICT 7 ARE:**

	CORN	SOYBEANS	SORGHUM	COTTON	RICE
BOLLINGER	MAY 25	JUNE 25	JUNE 20	N/A	N/A
BUTLER	MAY 10	JUNE 25	JUNE 10	MAY 20	MAY 31
CAPE GIRARDEAU	MAY 25	JUNE 25	JUNE 20	N/A	N/A
CARTER	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
DUNKLIN	MAY 10	JUNE 25	JUNE 10	MAY 20	MAY 31
IRON	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
JEFFERSON	MAY 31	JUNE 20	JUNE 20	N/A	N/A
MADISON	MAY 25	JUNE 25	JUNE 20	N/A	N/A
MISSISSIPPI	MAY 10	JUNE 25	JUNE 10	MAY 20	MAY 31
NEW MADRID	MAY 10	JUNE 25	JUNE 10	MAY 20	MAY 31
PEMISCOT	MAY 10	JUNE 25	JUNE 10	MAY 20	MAY 31
PERRY	MAY 25	JUNE 20	JUNE 20	N/A	N/A
RIPLEY	MAY 10	JUNE 25	JUNE 10	MAY 20	MAY 31
SCOTT	MAY 10	JUNE 25	JUNE 10	MAY 20	MAY 31
STE. GENEVIEVE	MAY 25	JUNE 20	JUNE 20	N/A	N/A
ST. FRANCOIS	MAY 25	JUNE 20	JUNE 20	N/A	N/A
STODDARD	MAY 10	JUNE 25	JUNE 10	MAY 20	MAY 31
WASHINGTON	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
WAYNE	MAY 25	JUNE 25	JUNE 20	N/A	N/A

### Prevented Planting

If you are prevented from planting a crop due to weather, you must report the crop and file a notice of loss with the FSA office within **15 days** after the final planting date. You will be asked to provide information about the crop, such as, field preparation, fertilization, and seed purchases. The prevented planting must be due to a natural disaster rather than a management decision.

### Failed Acreage

If you plant a crop and then it fails due to a natural disaster, you must report the crop and file a notice of loss with the FSA office **after the final planting date and before the disposition of the crop**. For example, you cannot destroy your failed corn and then plant beans in the same field before you report the failed crop to the FSA office. Again, you will need to provide information about the crop, such as, tillage practices, fertilization, and seeding rates.

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).