



# Andrew County News

September 2010

**Andrew Co. FSA**  
105 Hwy 71 West  
Savannah, MO 64485

**Phone:**  
**(816) 324-3196**  
**Fax:**  
**(816) 324-5879**

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

**County Committee**  
Roger Scott  
Jim Steeby  
Karen Strasser

The COC meets the third  
Friday of each month  
at 8:30 a.m.

**Staff**  
Sindy Barr, PT  
Carrie Noland, PT  
Allyson Wells, PT  
Martie Schuman, Temp.  
John Wheeler, Field  
Charlotte Holeman, FL  
Bob Caldwell, CED

**District Director**  
Jim Nance

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**Please take time to read this newsletter to be aware of new programs and upcoming deadlines. CRP & DCP payments will be made after Oct 1. Have a safe harvest.....**

**.. Bob Caldwell, CED**  
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## FSA Announces New Conservation Loan Program

The Farm Service Agency is now making direct and guaranteed conservation loans to help conserve our natural resources. The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the credit necessary to implement conservation measures on their land.

FSA's traditional loan programs eligibility loan requirements for family farm size, test for credit, and graduation requirements do not apply to the CL program. These exceptions will allow FSA to provide access to conservation financing to more farmers.

The direct CLs loan limit is up to \$300,000. The guaranteed CLs, up to \$1,112,000, may be available by applying with lenders working with FSA to obtain a guarantee. The interest rate on these loans is the same as FSA's direct farm ownership loans which at the present time is 4.375%

Applicants will work with Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) staff to develop a conservation plan. Conservation practices must be approved by NRCS before FSA can provide financing. Examples of conservation practices include installation of conservation structures such as terraces; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; transitioning to organic production; manure management, including manure digestion systems; or the purchase of qualifying machinery necessary to maintain conservation compliance on your farms.

Contact your local FSA office for more information on this loan program.

## CRP-Transition Incentives Program

The CRP-Transition Incentives Program (CRP-TIP) sign-up for expiring CRP opened May 17, 2010. Retired or retiring owners or operators are encouraged to transition their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

TIP provides annual rental payments to the retiring farmer for up to two additional years after the date of the expiration of the CRP contract, provided the transition is not to a family member.

To be eligible, TIP requires that the retired or retiring farmer or rancher:

- Have land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) that is in the last year of the contract.
- Agree to allow the beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher make conservation and land improvements.
- Agree to sell, or have a contract to sell, or agree to long-term lease (a minimum of 5 years) the land under CRP contract to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher by Oct. 1 of the year the CRP contract expires.

Acreage that expires September 30, 2010 must be enrolled in the CRP-TIP program no later than September 30, 2010. Land that is expiring September 30, 2011 can be enrolled as early as October 1, 2010 allowing the new producer to begin completing necessary conservation practices on the land to ready it for crop or forage production during the last year of the CRP contract.

The definition of a retiring producer may be a producer who is just retired from grain production. A retired producer could still have a livestock operation or other farming interests just not be actively producing grain. No age restrictions apply. Some restrictions apply to family members.

Generally, TIP only applies to contracts that expire on September 30, 2010, or later. However, retired or retiring owners or operators with CRP contracts that expired on September 30, 2008, and September 30, 2009, may be eligible to enroll in TIP. To learn more contact your local FSA Service Center or go online at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).



## Sodbuster Regulations

The term “sodbusting” is used to identify the plowing up of erosion-prone grasslands for use as cropland. Sodbuster violations are unauthorized tillage practices on highly erodible lands that converted native vegetation, such as rangeland or woodland, to crop production after Dec. 23, 1985. Farmers and ranchers should be aware that if they use highly erodible land for crop production without proper conservation measures, they risk losing eligibility to participate in Farm Service Agency programs. Before producers clear, plow or otherwise prepare areas not presently under crop production for planting, they are required to file an AD-1026, indicating the area to be brought into production. If Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates on a CPA-026 that the area will be highly erodible land, the producer will be required to develop and implement a conservation plan on the affected acreage, before bringing land into production. In addition, producers and the producer’s affiliates have to file an AD-1026 in the administrative or control county office before any farm program payments can be made. The AD-1026 is the producer’s signed certification that HELC, as well as wetland conservation, provisions will not be violated.

### **Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) sign-up ends September 30, 2010**

Sign up for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) on 2008 crops will end on September 30, 2010. SURE is a permanent disaster program created by the 2008 Farm Bill that replaces the previous “ad hoc” crop disaster programs of the past. Unlike those disaster programs that paid for losses by unit and crop, **the SURE program is a “total farm” disaster program.** This revenue based program compares crops’ expected revenue and program guarantee dollar amounts to the actual crop revenue of the entire farming operation. **Entire farming operation refers to all farms and all interests, in all counties.**

In order to be eligible for payments under SURE, you are required to have carried insurance at the CAT level or better on all insurable crops and NAP coverage on all non-insurable crops (hay for example) with an economic significance of 5% or greater, within the farming operation. In 2009 and subsequent years, RMA’s Rainfall Index policy is acceptable coverage for hay acres. For the SURE program, grazing acres do not require coverage.

**If you believe that you might be eligible for SURE, please call 816-324-3196, ext 2.**

Sign up for 2009 crops will be later this winter.

***Since the SURE program is available through 2011, as a producer, you can prepare your operation for SURE eligibility by insuring all economically significant crops in all counties each year.***

## Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the 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.

The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification. Remember, **Call Before You Haul.**

Andrew County

**LOAN RATES: Corn - \$1.90 Soybeans - \$5.00**

Interest Rate for September: **1.25%**

### **Civil Rights/Discrimination Process**

As a participant or applicant for programs or activities operated or sponsored by USDA you have a right to be treated fairly. If you believe you have been discriminated against because of your race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, disability, or marital or familial status, you may file a discrimination complaint. The complaint should be filed with the USDA Office of Civil Rights within 180 days of the date you became aware of the alleged discrimination. To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD), USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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### ***FSA Farm Loans***

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources. 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. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial Disaster Declaration. Rural youth loans, loans to beginning farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA. For detailed information on loan eligibility or the different available loan programs, contact the county office staff for an appointment with farm loan personnel.

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### ***Rural Youth Loans***

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, 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 \$5000.

#### **Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:**

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing agricultural project in a supervised program of work as outlined above.
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision. Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms. FSA staff can help you with questions you may have about a particular program.

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### ***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 than 10 years.
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm.
- Agrees to participate in loan assessment, borrower training, and financial management program sponsored by FSA.
- Does not own a farm in excess of the county's median farm size.

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](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)



**Continuous CRP**

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is a private lands environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll environmentally sensitive acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources. The Continuous CRP program is a voluntary enrollment program. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment. To be eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year. For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments, please contact your local FSA office.



Dates to Remember	
Sept. 30	NAP Application closing date for fall-seeded small grains
Sept. 30	Signup ends for 2008 SURE program
Oct. 11	Office Closed – Columbus Day
continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans Grain bins – Hay barns
Continues	Continuous CRP buffers

Visit our website at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/mo](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo)

September Interest Rates	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	2.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7-yr. term	2.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 10-yr. term	2.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 12-yr. term	3.125%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.250%

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