



Gentry/Worth County FSA NEWSLETTER

September 2010

Gentry County FSA Office

512 E Hwy 136
Albany, MO 64402
660-726-5525
Office Hours:
7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Mike Sager
David Waltemath
Donnie Stevens
Nancy Findley

Office Staff

Mary Ann Gibson, PT
Kathy Ward, PT
Brenda Walker, PT
Barbara Ratliff, PT

Worth County FSA Office

19 West 3rd
Grant City, MO 64456
660-564-3341
Office Hours:
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Mike Cook
Bernard Runde
Mary Ewing

Office Staff

Veronica Craven, PT
Ann Gilland, PT

County Executive Director

Mark Cadle

Farm Loan Program Manager

Charles Meissen

Fieldmen

Bill Grabb

To Gentry and Worth County Producers,

I've seen a few fields of corn being harvested in the area last week and I can hardly believe that harvest time is upon us. It seems like I just unhooked from the planter a couple of weeks ago. At this point I feel the soybean crop looks very promising considering the conditions it endured during a wet and late planting season. Most producers, I have spoken with, feel their corn yields will be average or below.

As you harvest your crops, remember that we have non-recourse Marketing Assistance Loans available. Your crops can be farm or warehouse stored. The loans have a maturity date of nine months after the month of disbursement and the current interest rate is 1.25%. These loans can be an excellent way to raise the cash you may need without selling your grain. Contact your local FSA office for our loan rates.

A general CRP signup was recently completed and we anticipate knowing what acreage was accepted no later than September 17th. If you offered expiring CRP acreage and it is not accepted you need to read the article on "Transition Incentives" for an interesting and perhaps rewarding option for that expiring acreage.

If you have released CRP acreage for haying or grazing under Managed Haying and Grazing Provisions remember that acreage being grazed must have the livestock removed and all haying completed by September 30th. Other regulations are contained in the article on "CRP Reminders". You need to report completion of your haying and grazing to the office as quickly as possible to avoid causing delays in the processing of your CRP payments.

If you have not signed up for 2008 SURE disaster program benefits you need to be in the office before the September 30, 2010 deadline. SURE is a permanent disaster program that was authorized by the 2008 farm bill. It compensates eligible producers for qualifying losses. See the article entitled "Deadline for Requesting 2008 Disaster Benefits is September 30th" for more information.

Two new programs are being administered in your local FSA offices at this time that could be of great interest to producers in this area. One of the new programs is the Conservation Loan Program that can provide financing for conservation projects and possibly equipment, such as no-till planters, that are required for HEL compliance on your farm. Loan terms are for up to 20 years on eligible conservation practices and up to 7 years for chattel type loans. Interest rates for the loans are the same as direct farm ownership loans which is currently 4.375%. FSA's traditional loan program's eligibility loan requirements for family farm size, test for credit, and graduation requirements do not apply to the CL program. These exceptions allow FSA to provide access to conservation financing to more farmers. See the article FSA announces New Conservation Loan Program or contact your local FSA office for more information on this new loan program.

The other program is the called the Conservation Reserve Program Transition Incentive Program or CRP-TIP. This program allows retiring producers that are selling or leasing their land to beginning or socially disadvantaged producers to receive CRP payments for an additional 2 years even though the beginning farmer is farming the land. A retiring producer could be a producer that is just retiring from row crop production and not necessarily completely retiring from farming. The deadline to enroll CRP acreage that is expiring September 30, 2010 is September 30, 2010. Some options also exist for acreage that expired in 2008 and 2009. Acreage that is expiring in 2011 could be placed in CRP-TIP as soon as October 1, 2010 and the new producer could begin preparations such as terracing or other conservation projects during the last year of the CRP contract. For more information see the "Transition Incentives" article. Contact the office for complete details on this program. If you have CRP acreage that expires in 2010 or 2011 contact the office, this program may be a fit for you and it may help a beginning farmer get the help they need to get started farming.

I know how hectic and fast paced harvest time can be but I urge you to remember that your first priority needs to be your own safety as well as the safety and well being of those working with you. Don't fail to take the time to work safely. I wish you a safe and bountiful harvest.

As always if you have any questions concerning any FSA or USDA program contact your local Farm Service Agency office.

Mark Cadle, CED

Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. 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, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

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.

Deadline for Requesting 2008 Disaster Benefits Is September 30th!

Local producers have until September 30, 2010 to apply for Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) benefits on 2008 crop year disaster losses with their local FSA Office. It is imperative that producers take action now as there are no provisions for late-filed applications for the SURE program.

Producers who carried crop insurance on all insurable crops and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on crops without insurance available should review their 2008 records to see if they might be eligible for SURE payments.

Gentry and Worth Counties received a Secretarial disaster declaration from the Secretary of Agriculture in 2008 which allows producers in the counties to be eligible for SURE if they have a 10% production loss for any individual crop and had all crops of economic importance insured. If a crop's expected revenue is less than 5% of a producer's expected revenue, it did not have to be insured for the producer to be eligible. SURE benefits may also be available to producers who meet the definition of beginning farmers or socially or economically disadvantaged producers whose crops were not insured.

The SURE program provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers based on their entire farming operations. The farming operation must have suffered a revenue loss compared to expected overall revenue for the disaster year. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer in all counties and states. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE guarantee and a producer's total revenue. The producer's guarantee fluctuates depending on the amount and level of crop insurance and NAP coverage a producer carries.

Additional information regarding the SURE program is located at www.fsa.usda.gov/sure, or producers may contact their local county FSA office. Gentry and Worth Counties also received Secretarial Disaster Declarations in 2009 and 2010 so that producers meeting eligibility requirements that suffered qualifying production and revenue losses in those years may qualify for SURE payments in those years. Watch

DCP Succession in Interest

If you have made any changes that affect your interest in base acres since you signed your last Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (annual farm program) contract, you must report these

successions-in-interest to the FSA office by Sept. 30th.

Changes that qualify as a succession-in-interest include:

- a sale of land
- a change of operator or producer, including an increase or decrease in the number of partners
- a foreclosure, bankruptcy or involuntary loss of the farm.
- a change in producer shares to reflect changes in the producer's share of the crop(s) that were originally approved on the contract.

If a succession-in-interest has taken place on your farm, you, as the "predecessor," are required to refund any advance DCP payments you received for the affected base acres before a payment can be made to the "successor." Not reporting a succession-in-interest can result in contract termination and a loss of program benefits for all producers involved.

CRP Reminders

If you have released CRP acreage for managed haying remember that haying must be completed by September 30th. If released for grazing the livestock must be removed by September 30 as well. Hay bales need to be removed by October 30th and cannot be stacked or stored on CRP acreage. Only one cutting of hay is allowed. You must report the actual acres hayed or grazed to your FSA office no later than October 1, however if you wait until October 1 your CRP annual payment may be delayed. **So report the acres as soon as possible to avoid payment delays.** Hay harvested from CRP acreage may be sold.

Dates to Remember	
September 30	NAP Application closing date for fall-seeded small grains
September 30	Signup ends for 2008 SURE program
September 30	CRP haying/grazing ends
September 30	CRP – livestock must be removed
October 1	Actual CRP acres hayed/grazed reported to county office
October 11	Office Closed-Columbus Day
October 30	CRP – Bales must be removed
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY
GENTRY/WORTH FSA OFFICE**
512 East Hwy. 136
Albany, MO 64402

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Direct Deposit

The Debt Collection Act of 1996 mandated that payments from FSA be directly deposited into a producer's savings or checking bank account. A transaction statement will be sent from the FSA office indicating the payment type and amount. All producers were required to have initiated Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) by January 1, 1999. Any person may request a waiver of EFT if it poses a financial or personal hardship. It is important that any changes in the producer's account such as type account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delays.

Crop Insurance Monitoring

FSA and the Risk Management Agency (RMA) are directed to coordinate a monitoring program to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. To reach this end FSA assists RMA and insurance providers in monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA monitors selected producer's crops and will provide producer information to RMS to assist in claim audits, inspections, and quality control reviews. FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse about the Federal Crop Insurance Program to RMA. Producers may report suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse to their local County FSA Office, RMA, or the Office of the Inspector General (OIG).

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