



NEWSLETTER



Harrison County FSA Office

1400 N 41st Street
Bethany, MO 64424

660-425-7635 phone
660-425-3536 fax

Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

June 2011

County Committee:
Teresa Johnson-Chair
Mike Folgate-Vice
Glenn Dale Cox -
Member

Farm Program Staff:
Tony Thompson-CED
Kim Hulett- PT
Bettie Lee-PT
Korissa Robertson-PT
Paula Rinehart-PT
Linda Vandivert-PT

Farm Loan Staff
Charles Meissen-
Manager
Teresa Akers-Officer
Pat Barnet-PT

**The County
Committee meetings
are held the 3rd
Wednesday of every
month from 8:00 AM
– 12:00PM.**

Visit our Website at:
www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

BIOENERGY FEEDSTOCK PRODUCTION PROGRAM SIGNUP IS UNDERWAY AND ACRES ARE LIMITED!

The nation's first Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) Project Area is located in 39 counties in western Missouri and eastern Kansas. **Harrison County** is one of the 39 eligible counties. The project area provides financial incentives to interested farmers for the voluntary establishment and production of biomass crops for bioenergy. Eligible producers located in this project area can receive incentives to establish and cultivate biomass crops, such as switchgrass, for heat, power and bio-based products and biofuels. The BCAP Project Area 1 allows the initial enrollment of up to 20,000 acres, for the establishment of a dedicated energy crop of native grasses for energy purposes. Producers in the area will plant mixes of perennial native plants, such as switchgrass, for the manufacture of biomass pellet fuels and other biomass products to be used for power and heat generation.

SURE Signup

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) runs from now until July 29, 2011. The 2009 SURE provides benefits for 2009 crop year farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. A farm must have suffered a 10% or greater production loss on at least one crop of economic significance to be eligible. A farm is defined as a producer's share of all crops on all units he farms in all counties he farms. Also to be eligible for SURE an applicant must have had crop insurance or NAP on all his commercially grown crops of economic significance.

CROP REPORTING DATES

The final date to report small grains (wheat and oats) is June 30, 2011. The final date to report all other crops including CRP acreages is August 1, 2011. The 2008 Farm Bill requires crop reports to be made annually for participation in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program, the Conservation Reserve Program and for Commodity loans to name a few. **Prevented planting** is the inability to plant the intended crop acreage with proper equipment by the final planting date for the crop type because of a natural disaster. If you were unable to plant all the acres you intended, action is

necessary. You may want to report those acres as prevented planted when you file your acreage report. If you have crop insurance, talk to your agent immediately to find out if prevented planted acres are covered under your policy and if restrictions apply.

FSA eAlerts

Missouri FSA introduces FSA eAlerts—a new way to receive FSA program reminders via email or text. You can sign up for eAlerts at your County Office and choose whether you would like to receive information via e-mail, text or both. If you elect to receive information by text, remember standard text messaging rates apply. Consult with your cellular carrier to discuss your text plan details. You can opt out of receiving FSA eAlerts at any time. You will still receive your FSA newsletter, but **Missouri FSA will discontinue sending postcard reminders for upcoming sign ups and deadlines.** FSA eAlerts are provided as an additional service to Missouri FSA producers. Always refer to your county office newsletter for program information and bookmark www.fsa.usda.gov/mo to check back frequently for program deadlines and information.

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.

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 1, 2011, 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/mainserverlet>.

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available. Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan. 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 \$1,119,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

COUNTY COMMITTEE (COC) NOMINATIONS

Since COC elections happen only once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into **local administrative areas, or LAAs**. Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee. Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three year term is expiring. In counties with three LAAs, one seat is up for election. This year LAA 1 will have an election. Teresa Johnson currently represents this LAA as Chairman of the County Committee. This LAA covers Lincoln, Hamilton, Colfax, Clay, Washington, Union, Marion, and Madison Townships. A nominating petition is contained on the next page of this newsletter. All interested parties must complete said petition and return it to this office by August 1, 2011. To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected.

FSA-669A (03-31-11) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Farm Service Agency

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

1. NAME OF NOMINEE (Type or Print Nominee's Full Name)		TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE	
2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE		4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED	
		5. COUNTY	
3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION: <i>I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee. <input type="checkbox"/> I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.		6. LAA	
		7. STATE	
3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE		8. NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION: <i>If this nomination is by other than self, the following eligible voter or representative of a community based organization hereby nominates the afore-named person to be a candidate in the next County FSA Committee election for the county.</i>	
3B. DATE		8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.		8B. DATE	
(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required).			

9. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE

VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES: The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.

ETHNICITY	RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)	GENDER
<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native	<input type="checkbox"/> Male
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American	<input type="checkbox"/> Female
	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	
	<input type="checkbox"/> White	

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

Complete the form as follows:

- ITEM 1** Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:
 - A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.
 - B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.
 - C. Willing to serve if elected.
- ITEM 2** Enter the nominee's current address.
- ITEM 3** The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.
- ITEMS 3A & 3B** The nominee must sign and date.
- ITEMS 8A & 8B** The nominator must sign and date. (If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required.)
- ITEM 9** Completing this item is voluntary.

ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 1, 2011.

NOTE: The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a - as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246). The information will be used to obtain nominees for election to the County FSA Committee. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for County Personnel Records, USDA/FSA-5. Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility for nomination for election to the County FSA Committee.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. **RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE**

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 pasture or woodland to crop production after Dec. 23, 1985. Farmers 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 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.

DATES TO REMEMBER!!

June 30 – Last day to report small grains

July 29 – Final date to sign up for SURE

August 1 – Final date to report spring seeded crops, CRP, hay and pasture

August 1 – Last day to return COC nomination forms

Continuous Signups Include:

- * **Farm Storage Facility Loans**
- * **Continuous CRP**
- * **BCAP (acres are limited)**
- * **Farm Loan Programs**
- * **NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)**

***Sign up today for
FSA eAlerts!***

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual’s income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).”

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). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”