

**County
USDA Service Centers**

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Trenton, MO 64683
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(660) 359-3249 (fax)

Mercer County FSA
RR 2 Box 317
Hwy 65 N
Princeton, MO 64673
(660) 748-4385 (phone)
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Putnam County FSA
28988 Hwy 136
Unionville, MO 63565
(660) 947-2439 (phone)
(660) 947-3141 (fax)

Schuyler County FSA
200 Green
Lancaster, MO 63548
(660) 457-3715 (phone)
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Scotland County FSA
Hwy 136 E
Route 1 Box 73H
Memphis, MO 63555
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Sullivan County FSA
23478 Eclipse Dr
Milan, MO 63556
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2010 DCP/ACRE Signup Deadline is JUNE 1, 2010

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) will continue through **June 1, 2010. By law, late-filed applications will not be accepted.**

USDA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2010, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment.

Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price. The effective price is the higher of the national average market price received during the 12-month marketing year for each covered commodity and the national average loan rate for a marketing assistance loan for the covered commodity.

ACRE Option

In addition to the traditional DCP, you also have the optional ACRE program. The 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. The June 1, 2010, signup deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications. 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. For 2010, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2008 and 2009 crop years. An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. Payment is based on 83.3% (85% in 2012) of the farm's planted acres times the difference between the state ACRE guarantee and the state revenue times the ratio of the farm's yield divided by the state expected yield.

The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. *In exchange for participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20%, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30%.* The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. **Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year.**

Please consider signing up and getting all of your landlords' signatures now before you get busy in the field. **Remember JUNE 1 is the deadline to get ALL signatures in.**

Annual Acreage Reporting

Acreage reporting time will soon be here. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date. Documentation of failed/prevented planting acres ensures compliance with current farm programs and provides history and possible eligibility for future disaster programs. Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs.

Acreage reports are to be certified by the **June 30th deadline on small grains**, such as wheat and oats, and by the **July 31st deadline on all other crops** including hay/pasture, corn, soybeans, and CRP.

Acreage reports on crops for which NAP assistance may be paid are due in the county office by the earlier of June 30th for small grains and July 31st for all other crops, or 15 calendar days before the onset of harvest or grazing of the specific crop acreage being reported.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from *extreme* adverse weather/natural disaster events. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of established normal mortality rates due to natural disasters, including losses due to floods, blizzards, wildfires, extreme heat, extreme cold, tornados, and lightning. **The natural disaster must be a direct cause of the livestock death.**

It will be the producers' responsibility to notify the county FSA office about their livestock deaths. Payments are based on 75% of the fair market value for each type and weight range of livestock as determined by FSA. Producers are reminded that LIP regulations require that they *must file a notice of loss within 30 calendar days of when the livestock died* in order to be eligible for LIP. **Producers are also responsible for providing documentation of proof of death (pictures and veterinary inspections are suggested).** Beginning inventory (as of the date of the adverse weather event) is also required. **Verifiable evidence of normal mortality throughout the calendar year will be required with a LIP Application.** Deaths due to normal mortality will be used in calculating eligibility percentages when a natural disaster occurs.

Some of the items that may be required to have a complete application include:

- Date of death loss
- Date or date range and type of weather event
- Documented livestock inventory at the time of the event
- How the extreme weather caused the death loss
- Approximate age, weight, and condition of the animals lost
- Outline steps taken to mitigate the weather event
- Management practices – Including information about feed and water sources
- Veterinary certifications including cause of death

Producers who do not have a veterinary certification of death must also provide a 3rd party certification as a part of their application on form FSA-926. This certification should include specific details the 3rd party knows about the death of the livestock such as:

- Date and type of weather event
- Condition of livestock at time of death
- Livestock location and date when last witnessed alive
- How the 3rd party became aware of the animal's death
- Cause of livestock death
- Any other information they feel is relevant to the loss of the livestock

The program is intended to compensate producers for Livestock deaths that are caused by *abnormal* weather-related events **and many losses may have weather as a factor, but not qualify as an eligible adverse weather event.**

NAP Production Reporting

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit 2010 production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.**

New Form Must be Submitted to IRS by Every Producer

To remain eligible for certain 2009 and 2010 FSA payments, individuals and legal entities will be required to file a ***2009 and / or 2010 Consent To Disclosure of Tax Information form (CCC-927 or CCC-928) with the IRS.*** By filing this form, producers authorize IRS to disclose to USDA the accuracy of each producer's certifications regarding the AGI limits listed previously. IRS will report to USDA a "Yes" or "No" answer about each producer's eligibility, **but IRS will not provide actual tax data to USDA.**

If you receive payments from FSA, you can request the forms from your local FSA office or go online at **<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>.**

All persons directly or indirectly receiving program benefits must submit a consent form to retain their USDA benefits subject to AGI provisions.

It is the producer's responsibility to submit the applicable form to IRS. Failure to do so will result in the loss of all USDA benefits.

Some forms that have been sent in have been rejected because they are not signed and dated, or other information is missing.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) sign-up Continues

Sign up for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) on 2008 crops is under way. 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.

The SURE program is available to eligible producers if two ‘triggers’ are met. First, the county must have received a Secretarial Disaster Declaration due to natural disaster, or be contiguous to a county with the declaration. All Missouri Counties had a Secretarial Disaster Declaration in 2008. Second, **at least one crop of economic significance in a producer’s operation must have a 10% crop production loss.** For qualifying producers, if the total farm revenue is less than the SURE program guarantee, the SURE payment is made at 60% of the difference. The SURE guarantee is very similar to a producer’s crop insurance guarantee. Depending on the coverage levels, the higher the coverage the higher the guarantee level will be. There is an online calculator that can help producers estimate probable payments. You may access the calculator at www.fsa.usda.gov/mo.

If you believe that you might be eligible for SURE, please call your local office. We will access your RMA (crop insurance) informational downloads and discuss the applicable eligibility requirements with you prior to your office visit.

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.

Conservation Compliance / Weather Variance for Ruts in Fields

All people participating in USDA programs have an obligation to be in “compliance” with the original provisions of the 1985 Food Security Act. To remain eligible to participate in USDA programs, which include the Farm Service Agency’s programs, you must be following an approved conservation plan/system that reduces soil loss to acceptable levels on erodible cropland.

The 2008 farm bill has changed the way the NRCS evaluates “compliance”. In prior years NRCS was able to evaluate a 5 year tillage and crop rotation to determine soil loss. The 2008 Farm Bill allows only the evaluation of the Fall 2009/Spring 2010 tillage practices, the 2010 crop, and the crop residue remaining after planting to determine soil loss for the upcoming 2010 compliance status reviews.

WEATHER RELATED VARIANCE: Due to extremely wet conditions last fall, producers in Missouri will be allowed to till areas with ruts caused by harvest equipment prior to planting on erodible fields. **To be eligible for this variance you will have to visit the NRCS office and request permission to till ruts prior to any field work.**

Please consider this as a friendly reminder to make sure you are following a conservation plan/system for the 2010 crop year. If you are not sure what your conservation plan includes or have questions concerning the information provided above, please contact your local NRCS.

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 eligibility, or the different available loan programs, contact the county office staff for an appointment with farm loan personnel.

Banking Changes?

If you have changed banks and not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in 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 delay.

2010 DCP & ACRE Signup Deadline Approaching!

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) is underway and will continue through **June 1, 2010**.

Advance direct payments of 22% may be requested.

All DCP/ACRE signatures must be received by June 1st. There will be no late file provisions this year!

Acreage Reporting

Please remember this year the DCP/ACRE signup deadline expires prior to the yearly acreage reporting deadline!

Acreage reports are to be certified by June 30th on small grains and July 31st on all other crops.

For complete details on filing your 2010 acreage report, please see the article on page one of this newsletter.

Selected Interest Rates for April 2010

90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.875%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	5.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	3.75%
7-year Farm Storage Facility Loan	3.125%
10-yr. Farm Storage Facility Loan	3.625%
12-yr. Farm Storage Facility Loan	4.00%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.375%

Dates to Remember

May 31	Memorial Day Holiday USDA Offices are closed.
June 1	Final date to sign up for DCP and ACRE
June 30	Final date to report small grains
July 31	Final date to report all other crops (including CRP).
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program

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