



July 2010

District 7 News

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 FSA

Office Hours: 7:00-4:30
Phone: 636-789-2441

Mississippi County FSA

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

New Madrid County FSA

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 FSA

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 FSA

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

Crop Certification Deadline

The annual requirement of reporting planted acres to the FSA office is now underway. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

The certification form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. The certification deadline for all crops other than small grains, is **August 2** this year, because July 31 falls on a Saturday .

Successor-In-Interest

Many FSA programs will allow payments to be made to heirs or successors when a program participant dies. Additionally, contracts in programs such as CRP must be revised to reflect the successor(s) to a deceased participant's interest.

In the event of an FSA program participant's death, it is important that FSA be notified. Entities and joint operations that participate in FSA programs also need to notify FSA if a shareholder or member passes away. FSA benefits are reported to IRS and maintaining current, accurate records about participants is vital to ensuring that those payments are reported correctly.

Selected Interest Rates for July 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.875%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.875%
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.	3.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loan 12-yr.	3.500%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.375%

SURE Program

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that occurred in crop year 2008. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage.

The following are the conditions that trigger SURE payments:

At least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10 percent production loss due to an eligible disaster condition.

Producers in counties declared disaster counties by USDA, or in contiguous counties, or those who show proof of an individual loss of at least 50 percent are eligible to receive SURE payments

Losses are measured with consideration to your total revenue on all farms, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

County Committee Meeting Times

Bollinger County
First Thursday of each month at 9:00 am.

Butler County
Third Thursday of each month at 8:00 am.

Cape Girardeau County
First Tuesday of each month at 8:00 am

Dunklin County
Second Thursday of each month at 8:00 am.

Jefferson/Washington
First Wednesday of each month at 8:30

Mississippi County
Second Tuesday of each month at 8:00 am.

New Madrid County
First Tuesday of each month at 8:00 am.

Pemiscot County
Third Friday of each month at 9:00 am.

Perry County
Second Tuesday of each month at 8:00 am.

Ripley/Carter Counties
Second Friday of each month at 9:00 am.

Scott County
Fourth Friday of each month at 8:00 am.

Ste. Genevieve County
Next to Last Wednesday of each month at 8:00

St. Francois/Iron
First Friday of each month at 9:00

Stoddard County
The Wednesday closest to the 15th of each month at 7:00 am.

Wayne/Madison County
Second Wednesday of each month at 8:00 am.

Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 2** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

Available methods for crop acreage base allocation are:

- 1)Estate Designation
- 2)Owner Designation
- 3)Cropland Percentages
- 4)Default

Dates to Remember	
August 2	Acreage Report Deadline
August 2	Reconstitution Request Deadline
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Continuous CRP Signup

Continuous CRP Available

Environmentally-sensitive acreage qualifying for the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is still eligible for enrollment. These targeted programs remain funded and continue to provide a heightened environmental benefit on select areas.

Farm Loan Programs

FSA 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 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 \$1,112,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner.

FSA employees will help you understand what information is required, where to find it or who to contact to get it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

HELIC & WC Compliance

Producers are reminded of the importance of compliance with highly erodible land conservation (HELIC) and wetland conservation (WC) provisions in order to remain eligible for USDA benefits. If producers plan to clear timber and plant an annually-tilled crop, they will need to complete an AD-1026 to have a Highly Erodible Land or Wetland Conservation determination. Producers who plan to plant an annually-tilled commodity that is currently in grass should check with their local FSA to be sure the field has an HEL determination. Producers who have ruts from last year's harvest should make sure that any tillage done to restore their fields will be in compliance with their conservation system to remain in compliance for USDA benefits.

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. Farm Loan Programs 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 a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the median acreage of the farms in the county where the property is located.

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

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN

If you are thinking about building a barn for hay storage, grain bin for crops, or cool storage units for fruits and vegetables, this may be worth your consideration.

For crops and hay storage, FSA will be looking at the past production and complete a needs determination. We will take a normal year production times 2, to determine the amount of storage needed and then subtract any existing storage. Fruits and vegetables are figured using 1 year minus existing structures.

Applicants need to bring in plans and estimates on the storage facility. They will pay 15% of the cost and FSA will loan 85%. Terms of loan will be 7 years, 10 years, or 12 years depending on the loan amount. Interest rate will be what is in effect the month the loan is approved. FSA will require a first lien position on real estate adequate for the loan if the loan amount is over \$50,000. A second deed of trust will be considered, if a first deed of trust is not obtainable.

There is a \$100 application fee, and producer will be required to obtain federal crop insurance or non insurable crop protection (NAP) insurance for the life of the loan. NAP insurance is \$250 per crop per year. Insurance on the structure is also required.

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.

Transition Incentives Program

The Transition Incentives Program (TIP) was created to encourage retired or retiring owners or operators to transition their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers. TIP sign up began on May 17, 2010. If all program requirements are met, 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 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.

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 provided all of the following apply:

- The land has not been sold or leased before signing a CRP-TIP Contract
- Producers are otherwise eligible under TIP provisions
- The conservation plan is modified to require sustainable grazing or crop production methods.

CRP Management Provisions

CRP contracts with grass cover practices that were enrolled prior to the 26th signup (5/5/03) were allowed to mow up to one half of each field each year between July 16 and August 15. The mowing provisions should be included in the Conservation Plan of Operations (CPO) along with other management guidance. Mowing outside of this period is prohibited without the consent of the local FSA County Committee. Producers should consult their local FSA County office if they have questions about these provisions. Contracts that began with or after the 26th signup also need a CPO which includes burning, disking, spraying. Mowing is only allowed in conjunction with disking and spraying. Producers should review their CPO and / or consult with NRCS or the MDC Private Land Specialist to determine the best methods to achieve the desired results.

The goals of mid-contract management (MCM) practices are to achieve stand diversity along with 25-40% bare ground. May 1 through July 15 is considered the primary nesting season, and management activities are prohibited during this timeframe. All required food plots also need to be completed and reported to this office. If you have any questions regarding your CRP, please contact your local FSA county office.

CRP General Sign Up Expected

FSA anticipates a CRP general signup in 2010. As a reminder, a producer's land must physically be capable of being cropped to be eligible. This means no trees. The signup will consist of a points system for eligible producers. More information will be sent out as time permits. We anticipate more information in August.

COMPLIANCE

Compliance and spot checks will once again be utilized during the 2010 crop year. Instead of locally selecting farms, contracts, deficiency loans, etc. for spot check and review, a nationwide selection of producers is used to achieve a statistical sampling of participating producers. Spot check selections are to be conducted based on a producer's participation in Conservation Reserve Program, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Loan Deficiency Program, etc.

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