



Farm Service Agency

December 2008

Andrew County News

Andrew County Farm Service Agency

Andrew County FSA
105 Hwy. 71 West
Savannah, MO 64485
816-324-3196 (phone)
816-324-5879 (fax)

Hours

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

County Committee

Roger Scott, Chairperson
James Steeby, Vice - Chair
Karen Strasser, Member

Staff

Bob Caldwell, CED
Charlotte Holeman, FLM
Sindy Barr, PT
Carrie Noland, PT
Allyson Wells, PT
John Wheeler, FA
Megan Barr, Temp.

Issue Highlights

- Pork Referendum
- CCC Loan Info
- Foreign Investors
- Controlled Substances
- Farm Storage Loans
- Bob's Corner

Direct & Counter-Cyclical (DCP) Sign up has Begun

Producers can now begin signing up for the 2009 DCP program and request an advance payment equal to 22% of the direct payment, up until June 1, 2009. There will be an opportunity to switch to the ACRE program on a farm by farm basis within the next few months. A producer can stay in the DCP for 2009 and then switch to ACRE in a later year, but once the switch is made, it is permanent. For the ACRE program producers would give up 20% of the guaranteed direct payment, and ACRE payments would be based on individual yields and revenue compared to state set averages. More details will be available later.

Change in Adjusted Gross Income Limits (IMPORTANT)

As you visit with your tax preparer or accountant, it might be a good time to review our new AGI forms with them. Under new farm bill provisions, producers who have an adjusted gross farm income of over \$750,000 per year, are not eligible to receive DCP payments. If the non-farm AGI is over \$500,000 the producer is not eligible for commodity, price support or disaster programs and if the non-farm AGI is over \$1 million per year, then they would not be eligible for Conservation (CRP) payments. Let us know if you would like the new AGI form to take and look over.

All producers will have to fill out new payment eligibility forms for 2009 programs. Please be patient as we deal with these news forms together.

If you have a trust, you need to be sure to bring in a copy for our records.

Request for Pork Check off Referendum

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announced that it will conduct a Request for Referendum among eligible producers and importers of hogs, pigs, pork, and pork products to determine if they want a referendum on the Pork Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Order, commonly known as the Pork Checkoff Program. Participation is voluntary, and only individuals who desire a referendum on the Pork Checkoff Program should participate.

The Request for Referendum on the Pork Check off Program will be **held Dec. 8, 2008 through Jan. 2, 2009**. Producers and importers who were engaged in pork production or in the importation of hogs, pigs, pork, or pork products between Jan. 1, 2007, and Dec. 31, 2007, and were at least 18 years of age on or before Dec. 31, 2007, are eligible to participate. Documentation must be provided that show hogs were owned during the this time period. This could include sales receipts, veterinary bills copies of grow contracts or cancelled checks.

For producers, the Request for Referendum will be conducted at the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices where their administrative farm records are maintained.

MILC PROGRAM

The initial sign up for the MILC program has begun and will continue until January 21, 2009. Producers who sign up during this time can select the month they want as the start month.

Removing CCC Loan Collateral

Producers are reminded, if you have grain under Commodity Credit Corporation loan it cannot be removed or disposed of without prior county office staff authorization or repayment. The county office staff may issue release authorizations based on a telephone or in person request when you are ready to move the grain. A loan violation is subject to monetary and administrative penalties, such as repaying the loan at principal plus interest, liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans and loan deficiency payments.

Unauthorized Disposition of Loaned Grain

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the county office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties for unauthorized dispositions are severe. Additionally, producer could be subject to criminal prosecution under federal law. Always call the office before any grain under loan is fed or sold.

Foreign Investors Who Hold Agricultural Land

Foreign investors, who buy, sell or hold a direct or indirect interest in U.S. agricultural land must report their holdings and transactions to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Failure to timely file an accurate report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land. Foreign persons who are buying or selling land must report the transaction **within 90 days of the date of the transaction.**

Who Must Report:

- Individuals who are not U.S. citizens or citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands or the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands;
- Individuals who are not lawfully admitted to the U.S. for permanent residence or who are not paroled into the U.S. under the Immigration and Nationality Act;
- Any organization created under laws of a foreign government or which has located its principle place of business outside the U.S.;
- Any U.S. organization in which a significant interest or substantial control is directly or indirectly held by foreign individuals, organizations or governments; and
- Any foreign governments.

What to Report:

- Each tract of agricultural land in the U.S., its territories, the Northern Mariana Islands and the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands owned by persons required to report; and
- Leaseholds of 10 years or more.

USDA designated the FSA to collect the AFIDA report forms. Individuals wanting to obtain an AFIDA report form (FSA-153) may do so from any FSA County office. The (FSA-153) is available in both English and Spanish translations. You can also go on-line and download the form at: http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/Forms/FSA0153_010524V02.pdf.

Although interested parties may obtain a report form from any FSA County office, the completed form must be returned to the FSA County office where the land or where the programs are administered.

Foreign investors should contact your local FSA if this pertains to you. To locate the Farm Service Agency county office, you can look in the telephone book white pages or go on-line to: www.fsa.usda.gov/mo and then click on the "County Offices" link. Then click on the county where the land is located.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal law of planting, producing, cultivating, harvesting, growing, or storing a controlled substance will be ineligible to participate and receive payments under USDA programs. Marijuana, opium poppies, and other drug producing plants are controlled substances.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the County Executive Director of their local Farm Service Agency office.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Low interest rate loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities, including wheat, soybeans and corn.

The seven-year Farm Storage Facility Loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type cribs or bins and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures.

Bob's Corner

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your patience during this busy and uncertain year. As you know, we were late in getting the sign up for the 2008 Farm Program started due to the late passage of the Farm Bill. We took your crop report and signed you up for the program all at one time, which on the bright side saved you a trip to the office.

As you read on the front page of this letter you can now start signing up for the Direct and Counter-cyclical program (DCP), but it will be a while before we know all the details of the ACRE option that is available this year.

Another big change, is that we will no longer be issuing CCC checks from the county office. All payments will be made by Direct Deposit, or a check issued from the U.S. Treasury. (This includes loan disbursements and refunds from loan repayments). If you obtain a CCC grain loan or Facility loan and a joint check is required, we will have to have a check printed by the Treasury which will delay the process for 7 to 10 days. If a joint check is not required, and the funds are deposited in your bank account, it will take 2 to 3 days. If you have not signed up for direct deposit, it would be a good idea to do so. If you make a change in a bank or an account, be sure to notify us to avoid further delays in receiving your payment.

If you have bought or sold land during the year, this would be a good time to bring in the deed, so that we can get our files updated before sign up begins. If you have formed a trust, LLC or other entity, be sure to bring in all of the paperwork, so that we can get those files updated as well. If your land is in a trust, we must have a copy of the trust to see who the trustees are and other important information. If there are co-trustees named in the trust, both must sign all required documents, unless you initiate a power of attorney form in our office to allow one co-trustee to sign for the other. If you are buying or selling a farm that has CRP on it, be sure to check with our office to obtain information about the contract or contracts on the farm, to avoid expensive problems for the buyer or seller. If you want us to give out information on your farm to realtors and others, be sure to give us a written statement to this effect. Due to strict privacy laws, we do not give out certain information without the owner's permission.

We look forward to serving you in the coming year. Be sure to watch for future newsletters and news releases as more information becomes available. Please note the important change by the SWCD printed below.

Bob Caldwell, CED

State Cost-Share Changes for Fiscal Year 2010

The Andrew County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors has voted to eliminate the Cost-Share sign-up and scoring process for all practices for fiscal year 2010 (July 2009 – June 2010). Funding for terraces, waterways, and diversions will be available on a first-come first-serve basis **when the field has been harvested and ready to be surveyed**. All other practices will be funded on a first-come, first-serve basis. Landowners will be eligible for funding every other year.

The District is in the process of completing all the rules and regulations for this new policy. The change in policy is to improve the Cost-share program making it as efficient and effective as possible. If you should have any questions, please call the District office at 816-324-3196, ext. 3

DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec. 22	DCP sign up began MILC sign up began
Dec. 25&26	Christmas Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Jan. 1	New Year's Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Jan. 1	Elected Committee Members and alternates take office.
Jan. 2	Last day to return form <i>LS-54-1</i> and supporting documentation for the Request for Referendum on the Pork Check off Program to the FSA County office.
Jan. 19	Martin Luther's Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
Jan. 31	Deadline on 2008 LDPs for wool, mohair and unshorn lamb pelts.
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program.
Continues	FSFL (bin loans) Program

**Jim Steeby Re- Elected to
FSA County Committee**

Congratulations to Jim Steeby, who has been re-elected to the County Committee for another 3-year term. We thank you for serving!

**Selected Interest Rates for
December 2008**

90-Day Treasury Bill	0.750%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.375%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.875%
Farm Ownership Loans — Beginning	1.500%
Farmer Down Payment	
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loans	3.000%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	2.250%