



# Clark County FSA

## *Farm Program Sign Up Dates To Be Announced*

Producers will soon be able to visit their local offices to enroll in the Farm Programs offered under the 2008 Farm Bill. Many programs have the same name just a few new provisions under the new legislation. A few of the programs are listed below:

ACRE- Average Crop Revenue Election	LFP- Livestock Feed Program
SURE- Supplemental Revenue Assistance	FSFL- Farm Stored Facility Loans
NAP- Non-Insurable Disaster Assistance Program	ELAP-LIP- Livestock Emergency Programs

The ACRE program is new for 2009 and is a farm by farm election. ACRE payments are calculated based on the actual crop acres planted (up to the previous crop base). Crop revenue will be determined by using the farm's previous 5 year production yields times prices based on a two year average (either 2006-07 or 07-08 average prices). The two average price years have not been decided, but is a key issue in making an ACRE election decision. The election to enroll in the ACRE program is irrevocable. By enrolling in ACRE producers would give up some current benefits. A 20% reduction in direct payments, a 30% reduction in marketing assistance loan rates, and no counter-cyclical payments.

ACRE payments are triggered when both the Actual State Revenue for the crop year for the covered commodity is less than ACRE Program Guarantee AND Actual Farm Revenue is less than the Farm ACRE Benchmark Revenue.

### *Additional Farm Bill Changes For 2009 Farm Program Payments*

There will be new paperwork requirements to receive program payments in 2009. Producers will notice drastic changes in Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limitations when visiting their office. **Average non-farm AGI** cannot exceed \$500,000 to qualify for commodity program benefits, **farm average AGI** cannot exceed \$750,000 to remain eligible for direct crop base payments and **average adjusted non-farm income** cannot exceed one million (with some exceptions) to remain eligible for Conservation programs. The rules for AGI provisions have changed significantly and producers should be sure to review all information carefully before making their certification.

Another substantial change for producers is the elimination of permitted entity rules. This will allow producers to receive payments from a number of entities as long as payment limits allow. Producers that are a legal entity (LLC, LP, Trusts, Estates) *will* need to provide written documentation that accounts for all shares of the entity if it is not currently on file at the local office. Your local office will have more information as additional program details are received.

### Farm Service Agency Hours:

Monday - Friday

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

Phone: 660-727-3364

Fax: 660-727-3089



### Farm Program Staff:

Kim Meinhardt

Kim Taylor

Nancy Webster

Caren Whitehead

CED: Sharon Marks

### Farm Loan Staff:

Karma Hillyer

Bill Bonine

FLM: Kurt Shelangoski

### County Committee:

Beverly Barrows, Chrmn.

Harold Hall, V. Chrmn.

Matt Plenge, Member

District Director: Tom Balsler

Area Farm Loan Specialist:

Mike Arnold

## *USDA FOOD DRIVE*

The USDA employees will be conducting a Food Drive from December 8 through December 18. Please remember to bring in your non-perishable items when you attend Open House on Tuesday, December 9. Items collected will be donated to the local food pantry.

*Thank You!*

## SWCD Information

### *TREE APPLICATIONS:*

*Tree applications are available at the NRCS/SWCD office. Seedling bundles range from \$4 to \$30. A handling charge of \$5 is added to each order. ORDERS ARE ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVE BASIS until supplies are depleted. April 30, 2009, is the last day for accepting orders for regular shipment.*



### *RENTAL EQUIPMENT:*

*Scraper (5 ½ cy)     \$35  
Mulcher (1/2 day)    \$60*

*The bale processor (mulcher) can be used to mulch waterways, structures, diversions, and critical area seedings.*

*Call the office for rates on the following: rootplow, sodcutter, plastic pipe sales.*

*There is no charge for the following: Tree spades, level, tripod and rod, contour gauge.*

*Call Elaine at (660) 727-3364, Extension 101 for more information.*



## *Receiving A Check? Changing Banks?*

The majority of Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. This has cut down on the number of missing or late payments and reduced the time required to deposit funds. If you have changed bank accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact your county office.

There will be a change for vendors or producers that receive payments in a check from the FSA office. **County offices will no longer disburse checks directly from their offices.** Offices will now notify the U.S. Treasury that a payment is due and the Treasury will mail a check. This may mean an additional 7-10 day delay in receiving a payment. Producers with direct deposit will not be affected by this change.

Another part of "Check Centralization" means all producers will now be notified of either a direct deposit or check payments from Kansas City instead of a mailing from their county offices.

## *Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE)*

The 2008 Farm Bill created the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program. To be eligible for this program, producers must purchase at least catastrophic risk protection (CAT) level of crop insurance for all insurable crops and/or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for non-insurable crops. **Every crop in every county that a producer has a risk in must be covered by crop insurance or NAP coverage in order to be eligible for the new disaster programs.** (See below)

Two exceptions are: crops considered "not of economic significance for the farm" and grazed land are not required to be insured to be eligible for the SURE program. In order for the program to take effect, producers must be in a county that has had a secretarial disaster declaration (or a contiguous county), or they must have had at least a 50% loss in total farm revenue regardless of county designation.

The program is revenue based and will not pay at the individual crop or farm loss level. Payments will be based on average market prices following the marketing year and would be issued late in 2009 for 2008 losses.

## *2009 Non-Insured Crops*

NAP was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

**Deadline for alfalfa, mixed grass hay/pasture, and double crop soybeans is March 15, 2009.**

For 2009-2012, the NAP Service Fees will increase from: \$100 to \$250 per crop; \$300 to \$750/county; \$1,875/producer for all counties.



## *Farm Loan Year End Reviews*

Producers who have a farm loan with FSA are reminded they must provide data for their Year-End Analysis (YEA) to their loan officer each year. Borrowers are urged to provide this information timely so that their files can be maintained. The office will contact you for the data you will need to provide us.

## *Operating Loan Applications Needed Now*

Farmers who plan to apply to the Farm Service Agency for annual operating loan assistance next year are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. The earlier an application for loan assistance is filed, the quicker the FSA staff can process your request. In addition, due to budget constraints, farmers who wait until later in the year to apply, often run the risk of finding out that our funding allocations have been utilized already. Farmers should also contact their local FSA office to setup an appointment with a Farm Loan Official for information as to what is required in order to have a complete loan application on file. Decisions on loans can not be made until a complete application is received.

## *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.

All Farm Storage Facility Loans are secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000 for each borrower. A minimum down payment is also required. For details, contact the county office staff.

## *Selling Land*

If you're planning to sell farmland, there may be some program consequences you should be aware of. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't want to continue the CRP contract, you might have to refund all of the payments you've received to date.

Reviewing program implications with your local Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.

*The USDA Service Center Will Be Closed:  
December 25 in observance of Christmas  
January 1 in observance of New Year's Day*

## **Farm Ownership or Operation Changes**

Producers need to notify their local office prior to the beginning of the 2009 program year of any changes in their farming operations including:

Farm Ownership Changes (this includes transferring your land into a trust)

Changes in entity structure

Operator changes-(can be made with the owners verification or by submitting a lease containing the operator and owners' signatures)

Changes in land use (did you build a new barn, house, machine shed).

## **Reasonable Accommodations**

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

### **Facts or Opinions?**

Which would you choose to make decisions?

Make the facts known to agriculture's leaders. If asked, please respond to USDA's Agricultural Resource Management Survey.



Clark County USDA Service Center  
RR1 Box 16A  
Kahoka, MO 63445



FSA Website: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

*We cordially invite you to come and enjoy our Christmas hospitality at the annual*

# *OPEN HOUSE*

## *December 9*

*(Tuesday)*

*9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.*

**FSA \* NRCS \* SWCD**

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