



# NEWSLETTER



**January 2011**

## **Wichita County Farm Service Agency**

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

### **Office Staff**

Amanda Ahrens  
County Executive Director  
Darla Luebbers  
Program Technician  
Dedra McKinney  
Program Technician  
Jim Reynolds  
Program Technician  
Angie Goudy  
Field Assistant

### **County Committee**

Kenneth Gerstberger, Chair  
Cole Carpenter, Vice-Chair  
VACANT POSITION, Member  
Merret Krenzel, Advisor

### **COC Meeting Date**

1st Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.

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### **Special Accommodations**

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office directly or by phone.

### **2011 Acreage Reporting**

The Wichita County FSA Office is currently taking appointments for producers to sign up and certify their acres. If you have not picked up or dropped off your maps please do so before scheduling an appointment. Filing an accurate acreage report at your local FSA office can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Failed acreage is acreage that was timely planted with the intent to harvest, but because of disaster related conditions, the crop failed before it could be brought to harvest. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date. Annual acreage reports are required for most Farm Service Agency programs. Final date to report your small grains and alfalfa is **May 31, 2011**. If you have a NAP grass insurance policy the final date to report that acreage is 15 days prior to grazing. All other crops must be reported by **August 1, 2011**, including all grass and CRP.

### **2011 Direct & Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Signup**

Signup deadline for DCP or ACRE is **June 1**. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. You can enroll a farm in DCP or ACRE, but not both. Once you enroll in ACRE the decision is irrevocable through the 2012 crop year, but you are still required to enroll annually by June 1. For Wichita County producers, sign up for one of these two farm program options will take place during your acreage reporting appointment.

DCP Program payments are calculated using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Direct payments are made regardless of market prices. You can request advance payments based on 22 percent of the final direct payment. Final rates in cents per bushel: Wheat .52 Corn .28 Barley .24 Oats .024 Sorghum .35 Soybeans .44 Sunflowers .008 per lb. Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is statutorily set below its target price.

The ACRE alternative provides eligible producers a state level revenue guarantee, based on the 5-year state Olympic average yield (high & low year not included) and the 2-year national average price. Producers who elect the ACRE program for a farm agree to:

- forgo counter-cyclical payments;
- accept a 20-percent reduction of the direct payments;
- accept a 30-percent reduction in loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm.

### **Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Signup Begins for 2009 Losses**

SURE provides financial assistance to producers who suffer qualifying losses due to natural disasters. To qualify producers are required to have obtained crop insurance on all crops in all counties, or if crop insurance was not available, you must have participated in the Non-Insured Crop Assistance Program (NAP), except for grazed acreage. **Another requirement is all crops on cropland, including grazed grass, hayed grass, and grass left standing must be certified each year.** If the grass on is not used, it is the owner's responsibility to make sure it is certified timely. SURE evaluates qualifying losses based on total revenue from all farms in which you have an interest, not individual crop losses. SURE is available to eligible producers on farms in counties with a Secretarial disaster declaration, including contiguous counties, with a crop production loss of at least 10 percent on at least one crop of economic significance. If not located in one of these counties, producers must show proof of an individual loss of at least 50 percent to a crop of economic significance. Wichita County has been designated as a contiguous county for 2009. Signup for 2009 crop losses runs Jan. 10, 2011 through July 29, 2011.

### **Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)**

To qualify for the SURE program you must have Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the crops you cannot insure with crop insurance, if the crops are economically significant to your operation. Economically significant crops are those that provide at least 5% of your revenue. The most common crop in our area needing NAP coverage is livestock forage crops, NAP is not needed on grazed forage to qualify for SURE, but it is available. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date. Production records for all crops must be reported to the FSA office no later than the application closing date for the crop for the following year. NAP forage coverage is available at FSA offices through March 15, 2011. The cost is \$250 per crop, limited to \$750 per county, or \$1,875 for all counties. Losses on a NAP crop need to be reported within 15 days of the loss. Failure to get this NAP coverage could cost you thousands in lost SURE payments. Think ahead.

**County Committee Election Results**

**Cole Carpenter** was elected to the FSA county committee in the December election

**General Farm Loan Programs**

FSA offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland construct farm buildings, improvements, annual operating expenses, equipment and livestock. We also work with beginning farmers, rural youth loans, limited resource and socially disadvantaged borrowers. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters. Loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000 or a guaranteed loan through a commercial lender with a maximum indebtedness of up to \$1,094,000. For detailed information regarding loans and loan eligibility, contact the Finney County FSA Office at 620-275-0211 for an appointment with a farm loan representative.

**Down Payment Program**

FSA has a special low interest 1.5% loan program to assist socially disadvantaged (minorities and females), and beginning farmers to purchase farm land. Down payment 5% maximum loan 45% of the less of: 1) purchase price, 2) appraised value, or 3) \$500,000 x 45% = \$225,000, with the remaining balance from a private party or commercial lender. We guarantee up to 95% of financing from a commercial lender.

**Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)**

Low cost financing between 2.5% and 3.75% percent is available to build or remodel on farm storage facilities for grain, hay and biomass storage. Loan terms of 7, 10 and 12 years are available for the purchase and installation of new, eligible storage facilities or permanently affixed drying and handling equipment or for new components used to remodel existing facilities. Eligible facilities include conventional type bins or cribs, new or remanufactured oxygen-limiting upright and bunker silos, flat storage, and new permanently affixed structures suitable for storing hay and renewable biomass. Loan limits and terms \$100,000 or less – 7 years; \$100,000.01 - \$250,000 – 7 or 10 years; \$250,000.01 - \$500,000 – 7, 10 or 12 years. Sign-up is continuous, as long as CCC funds are available.

**Change in Farming Operation**

If you've bought or sold land, or leased 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. Not maintaining accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur.

**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.

**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 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs. The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

- **Estate Method** - the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;
- **Designation of Landowner Method** – may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;
- **DCP Cropland Method** - the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;
- **Default Method** - the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.
- **Note-- Reconstitutions must be requested by August 1 of the fiscal year for farms subject to DCP.**

Dates to Remember	
January 10	Start of 2009 SURE Program Enrollment
January 17	Office Closed – Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
February 21	Office Closed – President's Day Holiday
March 15	Last Day to Purchase NAP Coverage on Feed for 2011
March 31	Last Day to Obtain 2010 Wheat Commodity Loans
May 31	Last Day to Report 2011 acres of Wheat, Oats, Barley, Alfalfa
June 1	Last Day to Enroll into DCP/ACRE Program
July 29	Last Day to Enroll into 2009 SURE Program