



NEWSLETTER



Farm Service Agency

District #6

March 2011

**SERVING BUTLER,
COWLEY, HARPER,
HARVEY, KINGMAN,
McPHERSON, MARION,
RENO, RICE, SEDGWICK,
AND SUMNER COUNTIES**

Office Hours

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

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Special accommodations will be made for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. Please contact your local FSA office and we will be happy to make any arrangements you may need.

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LIVESTOCK DEATHS

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather during the calendar year for which benefits are being requested. A list of normal mortality rates for Kansas can be obtained at your local FSA county office.

The LIP program is currently set to end on September 30, 2011. Producers must file a Notice of Loss within 30 days of when the livestock loss becomes apparent to the producer. Applications for payment can be filed up to January 30, 2012 for 2011.

To be eligible for LIP applicants need to provide adequate documentation to prove that the eligible livestock deaths occurred as a direct result of an eligible adverse weather event. LIP payments are calculated by multiplying the national payment rate for each livestock category by the number of eligible.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM SIGN-UP

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Signup 41 will be held March 14 through April 15, 2011. Farm Service Agency (FSA) will accept offers only during the signup period.

CRP is the nation's largest private land conservation program. CRP is a voluntary program available to agricultural producers to help them safeguard environmentally sensitive land. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion and enhance wildlife habitat. Land currently not enrolled in CRP may be offered in this signup, provided all eligibility requirements are met.

Additionally, current CRP participants with contracts expiring September 30, 2011, may submit offers. Offers submitted will be ranked based on the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) and will compete with other offers nationwide. Kansas has 2,726,425 acres enrolled in CRP, of which 532,067 acres will expire on September 30, 2011.

REPORTING FAILED & PREVENTED ACRES

Don't forget to file a CCC-576 Notice of Loss, with FSA prior to destroying failed acres. By notifying the FSA office of these failed acres, it will give FSA the ability to certify the affected acres as failed, which in turn will retain those acres for crop history.

FOREIGN LANDOWNER REQUIREMENT

Foreign investors with an interest in agricultural lands in the United States are required to report their holdings and any transactions to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

Any foreign person who acquires or transfers any interest, other than a security interest, in agricultural land in the United States is required by law to report the transaction no later than 90 days after the date of the transaction. Foreign investors must file Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) reports with the Farm Service Agency County Office that maintains reports for the county where the land is located. Failure to file a report, filing a late report or filing an inaccurate report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land. For AFIDA purposes, agricultural land is defined as any land used for farming, ranching or timber production, if the tracts total 10 acres or more.

ACREAGE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

To avoid a late file fee of \$46 per farm, all 2011 small grain crops must be reported by May 31, 2011. Producers are reminded that acreage reports are required to receive payments from FSA programs. These programs include but are not limited to: Price Support Loans, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP). You will need planting dates when you report. In addition producers need to report all acreage that they have an interest in to maintain eligibility for the SURE program. **This includes pasture and hayland.**

DCP & ACRE SIGNUP

Signup for the 2011 DCP and ACRE has begun and runs through June 1, 2011. Advance direct payments of 22% were available beginning in December. New Adjusted Gross Income certifications are required each year and must be completed before payments can be issued. *Contact your local FSA office to ask about scheduling an appointment to complete this task.*

REPORT BASIC FARM CHANGES TO FSA

Inform FSA of basic changes to your farm operation as they occur. Examples: transfer of farm ownership into a trust; or creation of another entity (such as a partnership, corporation or LLC) to be land owner or the farm operator.

SIGNUP FOR 2009-CROP LOSSES (SURE)

Signup for 2009-crop and revenue losses under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) started Jan.10, 2011 through July 29, 2011. To be eligible you are required to have at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance; physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county under a Secretarial Disaster Designation. Producers in counties without this disaster designation may be eligible if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster; obtained crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance was not available, to have participated in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. This is not required for crops not of economic significance (5% or less of your farm revenue) or where the administrative fee required to buy NAP (\$250 per crop) exceeds 10% of the value of the coverage.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department. Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount. Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin. The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold

NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE (NAP) MARCH 15 DEADLINE

The deadline date for FSA to accept applications under NAP for 2011 crops of coarse grains, vegetable and melon crops, cotton, millet, sweet corn, and other forage crops for livestock (mechanically harvested or grazed) is March 15, 2010. Crops eligible for NAP benefits are limited to those not insurable in the county and are produced for food and fiber.

FSA UNVEILS A NEW CONSERVATION LOAN PROGRAM

FSA is committed to the conservation of natural resources, including soil, air and water. FSA Farm Loan Programs can provide direct or guarantee conservation loans to eligible borrowers to cover the cost of implementing qualified conservation projects. FSA has partnered with NRCS by providing that any conservation practice identified on an approved NRCS conservation plan will qualify for financing for eligible applicants. Examples of acceptable conservation practices include, but are not limited to: install structures to address soil, water conservation, erosion control, shelter belt, waste management systems (ag use only), refinance debt incurred for any authorized Conservation Loan purpose, purchase of equipment for new or existing conservation practices approved by NRCS. The Conservation Loan Program contains several specific differences from other FSA loan programs. These differences will allow FSA to provide access to conservation financing to more farmers and ranchers who would not traditionally qualify for FSA financing. The Direct Conservation Loan limit is \$300,000. The current rate effective March 1, 2011 is 4.875%. The Guarantee Conservation Loan limit is \$1,119,000.

If interested please contact **Gary Nuss**, Farm Loan Manager Winfield FSA/Farm Loan Programs (620)221-2060; **Limual Vinson**, Farm Loan Manager Wellington FSA/Farm Loan Programs (620) 326-2269; or **Ray Bartholomew**, Farm Loan Manager South Hutchinson FSA/Farm Loan Programs (620) 669-8266.

Dates to Remember	
March 14	CRP Sign-up 41 begins
March 15	NAP Deadline for feed grains
March 31	Deadline to request 2010 crop loss LDP on small grains or LDP on small grains
April 15	CRP Sign-up deadline
May 31	Small Grain Acreage Reporting Deadline
June 1	DCP and ACRE Enrollment Deadline
July 29	SURE sign-up deadline