



NEWSLETTER



February 2012

Douglas County FSA Office

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Hours

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

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Tell Your Neighbors--Get Free News and Updates Fast— Get GovDelivery

Farm Service Agency offices are adopting an instant delivery, electronic option. Producers can now enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and reminders via email, rather than costly paper copies delivered through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is working smarter and more efficiently. Conversion to electronic notifications via email helps conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars.

County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers. Subscribe right now to receive your free e-mail updates instantly by going to: www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe or call Roseanna Breeding at 541 673-6071 ext 104,

Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youth to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

CREP & Continuous CRP Enrollment Available

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) allows farmers and ranchers to voluntarily enroll environmentally sensitive land into a program that decreases erosion, restores wildlife habitat and safeguards ground and surface water. CREP is a partnership with federal and state government and assistance from local organizations and districts

FSA provides participants with annual rental payments for the life of the contract (10 – 15 years) and cost sharing on practice installation. There are also incentive payments based on the cost of establishing the practice. CREP targets the use of Riparian Buffers, Wildlife Habitat Buffers, and Wetland Buffers to meet the objective of the program.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency 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 currently 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 have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000.

The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans has increased from 1 percent to 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan, for loans obligated after October 1, 2011.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

NOTICE TO HISPANIC AND/OR WOMEN FARMERS OR RANCHERS

COMPENSATION FOR CLAIMS OF DISCRIMINATION

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

To register your name to receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit: www.farmerclaims.gov

The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more that 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 % of the county's median size.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov

January 2012 Flooding Event

Due to recent adverse weather conditions some Douglas County producers could have experienced flooding. Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) was established to rehabilitate farmlands and conservation facilities damaged by wind and water erosion, floods and other natural disasters.

The Emergency Conservation Program does not have money readily available. Each county must go through an approval process and then possibly receive funding. The following link to the ECP fact sheet provides further details about the program. http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/ecp_1229_fact_sheet.pdf

If you believe you may be eligible for ECP assistance please **document your situation with photos and specific information.** Our office is currently taking requests for ECP assistance. Again, it's unknown if funding will be made available. Call or e-mail Roseanna Breeding with questions or to file a request.

Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) Attention Wool Producers

A producer who is eligible may obtain an LDP. **To be eligible producer must sign the CCC-633 EZ, page 1, LDP Agreement & Request form before beneficial interest is lost.**

Contact the Douglas County FSA Office for additional information. Detailed information may be found on the FSA Internet site [LDP Fact Sheet](#).

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

An exception to the rule: spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Individual signatures are also required on the **CCC-931 AGI form**, and on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents. For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact your local FSA office.

Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act

Any foreign person who acquires, transfers, or holds 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. They must file **Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA)** reports with the FSA county office that maintains reports for the county where the land is located.

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.

For more information contact the FSA office near you or visit the USDA Web site at www.usda.gov

Land Contract (LC) Guarantee Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes loans through the Land Contract (LC) Guarantee Program. The LC Guaranteed Loans will be offered to the owner of a farm who wishes to sell real estate through a land contract to a beginning farmer or a farmer who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group.

A land contract is an installment contract between a buyer and a seller for the sale of real property, in which complete ownership of the property is not transferred until all payments under the contract have been made.

Guarantees can be used for financing the purchase of a farm with a purchase price up to \$500,000 on a new land contract. FSA offers two types of guarantees under this program.

Prompt Payment Guarantee: A guarantee of up to the amount of three amortized annual installments plus the cost of any related real estate taxes and insurance; or

Standard Guarantee: A guarantee of 90 percent of the outstanding principal balance under the land contract.

To find out if you qualify contact your local FSA office today or see additional information, including a complete list of borrower and seller eligibility criteria and application materials through the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Selected Interest Rates for February 2012	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	1.575%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.375%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.500%
Emergency	3.750%
<i>Rates subject to change on the first day of each month. Contact county office for most current rates.</i>	

Dates to Remember	
June 1	2012 DCP Enrollment ends
July 15	2012 crop acreage reports deadline
<i>LDP participants—Wool producers-- Commodity producers-- sign, date and return your CCC-633EZ page 1 before beneficial interest is lost.</i>	

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