Maximum Loan Authorities Effective 10/1/2016
As outlined in 2-FLP Paragraph 244 A, FSA guaranteed loan limits have typically increased annually each October 1st. The dollar limit of guaranteed loans is adjusted based on the percentage change in the Prices Paid by Farmers Index, as compiled by USDA.

As reported by USDA, from September 2015 to August 2016, prices paid by farmers have fallen slightly from 108.8% to 105.7%. Additional information can be obtained HERE.

The guaranteed loan limit of $1,399,000, for loans approved on or after 10/1/16 (fiscal year 2017), remained unchanged from fiscal year 2016.

Please contact the FSA County Office for increased loan limits when working with multiple loans in both guaranteed and direct FSA loan programs.

Annual Lender Training
Kansas last conducted a Zoom® Webinar in March 2015. Much of the content centered on the then recently passed Farm Bill and the new entity / owner-operator changes.

Last year during the month of February, ahead of snowy March, we visited seven towns across Kansas to conduct lender training. That training content covered loan narrative quality, guaranteed loan servicing, the secondary market and a discussion regarding the impact of the current ag economy. If you missed that training, materials can be accessed at www.fsa.usda.gov/ks. Click on Programs under related topics and search under Farm Loans.
In an effort to have balance for on-site training vs online training, we are planning for ONLINE training in 2017. Tentatively, we are planning to provide a good overview of the *how-to’s* of assembling and submitting a complete guaranteed loan application. Stay tuned as additional information will be forthcoming in the New Year.

**EZ Guarantee Loan Program**

The EZ Guarantee Program is available for smaller loans. This program provides a simplified Guaranteed Loan application process to help small, new or underserved family farmers with early financial assistance. The EZ Guarantee is available for loan applications **up to $100,000** for farm operating or farm ownership purposes. Lenders need only submit one application form FSA-2210 per loan request containing all necessary information for the application. No other supporting documents will typically be required. In addition, streamlined financial underwriting is available for these loans, allowing all approved lenders to analyze the request in the same manner in which they would analyze a nonguaranteed loan request of the same size and type. All existing eligibility, loan purpose, security, and other requirements remain the same.

For additional information regarding the EZ Guarantee Program, please contact your local FSA Farm Loan Programs County Office.

**FSA’s Fiscal Year 2016 Year in Brief**

FSA completed a record year of providing farm loans to farmers and ranchers nationwide. In FY 2016, FSA exceeded the volume of loans previously made by 8%. Both of these programs were the highest dollars loaned in history.

Following is a breakdown of Kansas FSA’s 2016 farm loan assistance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Dollar Amount</th>
<th>Number of Loans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guaranteed Loan Program*</td>
<td>$100,993,985</td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Loan Program*</td>
<td>$119,634,943</td>
<td>1,193</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Loan Program includes all loan types (OL, FO, Beginning Farmer, Underserved)

**Shelly Wolf – FSA Guaranteed Farm Loan Specialist**

Announcement to Kansas lenders and FSA guaranteed loan partners: I am retiring from the Federal Government effective 12/30/2016.

I started my career early, in Wichita, with four separate federal government agencies before moving to Pratt, Kansas in 1981. After a short hiatus due to a hiring freeze, I soon became employed with Farmers Home Administration in Pratt, in March of 1982. Along the way in my career with FmHA/FSA, I was promoted to Farm Loan Officer, Farm Loan Manager and the position I currently hold as Farm Loan Specialist. Pratt to Wellington, Winfield, Dodge City and for the last 10 years, right here in the Kansas FSA State Office in Manhattan. It’s been a great career, working with farmers and ranchers and all of the Kansas lenders and FSA partners,
including the awesome FSA Kansas staff that delivers programs and services to Kansas’ agriculture economy. I am very grateful to have met and worked with each one of you in some sort of fashion so THANK YOU and I wish you well.

As I bid ado, I want to introduce Marissa Kepley. Marissa has been employed with the KS FSA State Office since December 2015 but prior to coming to Manhattan, she was employed in the Lyon County FSA FLP Office. She began her FSA career in November 2010.

Marissa and her husband live in Council Grove, KS raising their two children, ages 7 and 3 ½.

Best wishes for a Happy New Year!

Robert E. White, Farm Loan Chief, robert.white@ks.usda.gov, Phone: 785.564.4759
Marissa Kepley, Farm Loan Specialist, marissa.kepley@ks.usda.gov, Phone: 785.564.4764
Shelly Wolf, Farm Loan Specialist, shelly.wolf@ks.usda.gov, Phone: 785.564.4765

KS FSA Farm Loan Programs Fax: 855.782.9610

Guaranteed Loan Making and Servicing, 2-FLP Handbook and *new* Lender Toolkit Click HERE

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual’s income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department (not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities and wish to file a program complaint must contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) must contact USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax at (202) 690-7442 or e-mail at program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.”