



NEWSLETTER



May 2011

BCAP Project Area 1 Designated Kansas Counties

Atchison	913-833-5460
Douglas	785-843-4260
Franklin	785-842-3260
Jefferson	785-633-2221
Johnson	913-294-3751
Leavenworth	785-863-2221
Linn	913-795-2940
Miami	913-294-3751
Wyandotte	785-863-2221

Hours

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

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Are You Interested in Growing Biomass Crops?

The Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) provides financial assistance to owners and operators of agricultural land who wish to establish, produce, and deliver biomass feed stocks. **Signup began May 9, 2011.** For more information about the BCAP program contact your local USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office.

BCAP provides two categories of assistance for participants. First, establishment and annual payments for producers who enter in contracts with the Commodity Credit Corporation to produce eligible biomass crops on contract acres within the BCAP project area. Second, matching payments up to \$45 per dry ton may be available for the collection, harvest, storage, and transportation (CHST) of eligible material to qualified biomass conversion facilities by eligible material owners.

Qualified biomass conversion facilities produce heat, power, biobased products, or advanced biofuels from biomass feed stocks. Show Me Energy of Centerview, Missouri is the first biomass conversion facility that became qualified under BCAP and is the sponsor of the first project area. Project Area 1, comprised of 39 contiguous counties in Missouri and Kansas, proposes the enrollment of up to 50,000 acres for establishing a dedicated energy crop of native grasses.

To be eligible a producer must be an owner or operator of agricultural land, comply with all requirements for Highly Erodible Land and WC, and agree to grow eligible crops on the enrolled acreage. Foreign producers are eligible.

Eligible land includes cropland, grassland, hay land and pastureland, or other lands on which food and fiber or other agricultural products can be produced.

Land enrolled in other USDA programs may be eligible for BCAP provided the land would not earn benefits for the same purpose under other USDA programs and the practice measures do not conflict with BCAP

Ineligible lands include Federal or State-owned land, land owned by local governments or municipalities, land in native sod, land enrolled in Conservation Reserve Program, Wetlands Reserve Program, or Grassland Reserve Program, land unsuitable for growing an eligible crop, and land that is subject to restrictions such as easements or conveyances that conflict with production of eligible crop.

Eligible crops for BCAP Project Area 1 are limited to perennial native grasses and forbs such as Switchgrass, Big Bluestem, Indiangrass, Illinois Bundleflower and Purple Prairie Clover.

BCAP Contract participants are eligible for reimbursements of up to 75% of the cost of establishing a bioenergy perennial crop, and Annual Payments of up to 5 years. Annual Payment rates for cropland will be calculated base on the relative productivity of the soils for the offered land. The rates for non-cropland will be the Marginal Pastureland rate for the county. Project Area 1 participants will receive an incentive rate of 20%. Annual payments will be issued on the anniversary date of the contract.

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

BCAP Program Policies

- All land must be determined physically and legally suitable for the production of biomass crops to be eligible.
- Existing grass stands that include more than a 5% woody cover canopy will be classified as Marginal Pastureland and the Annual Payment rate will be calculated at the Marginal Pastureland rate.
- Existing grass stands that include more than a 20% woody cover canopy will not be eligible for enrollment
- Existing monocultures and mixtures of warm season grasses are eligible for immediate enrollment.

Program Policy-Harvest Provisions

- Harvest of enrolled contract acreage crop is not allowed during the primary nesting season from April 15 through July 15
- Haying is allowed outside the primary nesting season.
 - Contract holders must report annually the number of acres harvested, bales produced and amount tonnage harvested for the monetary value earned.
- Grazing is allowed outside the primary nesting season
 - Contract holders must report the number of acres grazed, the number days utilized and the number of cattle units that grazed
- The harvest of seed is allowed outside of the nesting season
 - Contract holders will be required to submit verifiable documentation of all sales evidence. Verifiable documentation must meet 2-CP requirements.
- The harvest and sale of biomass to other facilities that utilize biomass in the production of heat, power, energy, fuel, or production of other bio-based products is allowed
- Prior to the issuance of the annual payment contract holders will be required to report all crop usage and submit reliable or verifiable documentation of the monetary value earned.
- Payment Reductions for collection or harvest from contract acres will be based on a percentage of the combined value of 1) any BCAP matching payments obtained for the material and 2) the value of the collected or harvested material:

Reason for Reduction in Annual Rental Payment	Percent of Reduction
If the biomass is used for cellulosic bio-fuels defined by RFS regulation as having 60 percent lower lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions.	1
If the biomass is used for advanced bio-fuels.	10
If the biomass is used for heat, power or bio-based products.	25
If the biomass is used for anything other than heat, power, bio-fuels, or bio-based products.	100