



## Kansas FSA Today

June 2011

An Online Monthly Newsletter Covering the Hottest Topics in Federal Farm Programs

*Due to budget constraints, FSA will no longer mail regular newsletters. On-line newsletters will be available monthly. You can obtain at [www.fsa.usda.gov/ks](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ks) then click on Newsletters in left column. Or provide email address to your local FSA office and receive the newsletter by email. Or obtain a copy at the local FSA office.*

### USDA ANNOUNCES PROCESS TO RESOLVE DISCRIMINATION CLAIMS OF HISPANIC AND WOMEN FARMERS

USDA announced the establishment of a process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who assert that they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans. The claims process offers a streamlined alternative to litigation and provides at least \$1.33 billion in compensation, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. Individuals interested in participating in the claims process may register to receive a claims package, or may obtain more information, by visiting [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov) or calling the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429. USDA cannot provide legal advice to potential claimants. Persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

### EMERGENCY LOANS

Producers in counties with a Disaster Designation are eligible for low interest (3.75%) emergency physical and production loss loans. Applications must be received within eight months of the county's disaster designation date. Contact the FSA county office to see if your county qualifies.

### SURE SIGNUP

Signup for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) ends **July 29, 2011**. SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. Eligibility:

- farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide.
- any farm in which, for the crop year, the actual production of the farm because of disaster related conditions is less than 50% or less than normal production of the farm.

### BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (BCAP)

BCAP Project Area #1 with Show Me Energy Cooperative in Centerview, MO, provides financial incentives to interested farmers, ranchers and forest landowners for the voluntary establishment and production of biomass crops for conversion to heat, power, biobased products and advanced biofuels. Eligible counties in Kansas are: Atchison, Douglas, Franklin, Johnson, Jefferson, Leavenworth, Linn, Miami and Wyandotte. The project will support the establishment of mixtures of perennial native grasses and forbs, such as Switchgrass, Big Bluestem, Indiangrass, Illinois Bundleflower and Purple Prairie Clover.

### ACREAGE REPORTING

Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses on cropland and non-cropland, **by August 1, 2011** may prevent loss of benefits in a variety of programs.

#### Prevented Planting:

Prevented planting is to be reported no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date. Failure to report prevented planting acreage could result in loss of benefits for the SURE program or possibly other disaster assistance programs.

#### Failed Acreage:

Reports of failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop, and producers must be able to establish to the satisfaction of the county committee that the crop failed and was prevented from being replanted through the normal planting period because of natural disaster conditions.

### NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

The noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. Drought conditions are wide-spread throughout the state. If you have crops that have been affected by drought or adverse weather conditions file a notice of loss NOW. Do not wait until it is too late to receive assistance. NAP Losses must be reported within 15 days of a disaster event or the date the loss becomes apparent.

## **LIVESTOCK FORAGE DISASTER PROGRAM (LFP)**

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses due to qualifying drought or fire. Fire losses apply only to federally managed rangeland. Applications must be filed no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the grazing losses occurred. Losses must occur in calendar year the application is being filed.

Eligible producers must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance under FCIA or NAP coverage by the applicable state sales closing date. Payments are based on the county rating by the U.S. Drought Monitor.

## **LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM (LIP)**

LIP provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from natural disasters. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including loss due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, diseases, wildfires, extreme heat or extreme cold. Eligible losses must occur before Oct. 1, 2011. A notice of loss must be filed with FSA within 30 days of when the loss of livestock is apparent. Established normal mortality rates reflect losses that are considered expected or typical under, "normal" conditions.

**Farm reconstitutions must be requested by August 1, 2011.**

## **EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR 2011 LOSSES**

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) is another disaster program that can provide emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees, and farm-raised fish who have losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, including losses due to wildfires. Some eligible losses include but are not limited to: loss of forage or feedstuffs, loss of grazing due to wildfires, and losses resulting from the purchase of additional feed above normal quantities. A loss covered under LFP, LIP or SURE is not eligible for ELAP. Producers with 2011 losses must: file a notice of loss within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent to the producer or Oct. 31, 2011, whichever date is earlier.

## **CRP EMERGENCY GRAZING**

Thirty counties are approved for CRP emergency grazing. Barber, Barton, Clark, Comanche, Edwards, Ellis, Finney, Ford, Graham, Grant, Gray, Hamilton, Haskell, Hodgeman, Kearny, Kiowa, Lane, Meade, Morton, Ness, Pawnee, Pratt, Reno, Rice, Scott, Seward, Stafford, Stanton, Stevens and Trego. Emergency grazing is allowed through September 30, 2011. Participants shall leave at least 25 percent of each field or contiguous CRP fields ungrazed for wildlife, or graze not more than 75 percent of the stocking rate. Participants must also accept a 25 percent reduction in the annual rental payment for the acres actually grazed. Participants will work with NRCS to develop a forage management plan. If the CRP cover is destroyed, the practice must be re-established at their own expense to remain in compliance with the CRP contract.

## **COUNTY COMMITTEE (COC) NOMINATIONS:**

Since COC elections happen only once a year, here is an election refresher. For election purposes, counties are divided into local administrative areas, or LAAs. Each LAA selects one producer to serve a three-year term on the Farm Service Agency county committee. Each year, an election is held in an LAA to replace the committee member whose three year term is expiring. In counties with three LAAs, one seat is up for election. In combined counties in some years, two seats may be up for election.

### **Nominations**

Producers who are residents in the LAA holding the election and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates. The nomination form, FSA-669A, is available at the county office or may be downloaded online at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov). To be valid, the nomination form must be signed by the person being nominated, indicating agreement to serve if elected. The completed nomination form must be returned to the county office by the close of business on Aug. 1, or postmarked by midnight Aug. 1, 2011.

**Farm Storage Facility Loans are available to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities for grain, silage, hay, biomass, and cold storage for fruits and vegetables.**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.