



October 2012

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*FSA Mission:
"Farm Service Agency is equitably serving all farmers, ranchers, and agricultural partners through the delivery of effective, efficient agricultural programs for all Americans."*

USDA - Kansas Farm Service Agency – State Office

Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period Now Open

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in past decades can file claims between September 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013.

To read the Secretary's entire news release issued on 9/24/12, in both English and Spanish please find it on the web at www.usda.gov and click on **Newsroom** finding the title "**Claims Filing Period for Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Who Claim Past**

Discrimination at USDA to Open on September 24, 2012."

If you, or someone you know, believes the USDA has improperly denied you farm loan benefits between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic or female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

If you think you might be eligible to file a claim, please access the Farm and Rancher Call Center or Website:

1-888-508-4429
www.farmerclaims.gov

Claims MUST be filed between September 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013 to be considered for cash payment or loan forgiveness.

For guidance, you may contact an attorney or other legal service provider in your community. If you are currently represented by an attorney regarding allegations of discrimination or in a lawsuit claiming discrimination, you should contact your attorney regarding this claims process.

USDA cannot provide legal advice.

2013 Acreage Reporting Deadline



All producers are reminded that the acreage reporting dates for 2013 crops have changed.

New dates are:

November 15, 2012 – Perennial Forage crops which includes all grasses (examples: brome, fescue, native, etc), alfalfa, clover, etc.

December 15, 2012 – Fall-seeded small grains

which includes wheat, barley, etc.

July 15, 2013 – Spring seeded crops.

Producers may call for an appointment to their local FSA County Office to certify their 2013 crops.

*FSA Vision:
 “A market-oriented,
 economically and
 environmentally
 sound American
 agriculture delivering
 an abundant, safe
 and affordable food
 and fiber supply while
 sustaining quality
 agricultural
 communities.”*

Producers are Encouraged Receive FSA News via Email

Producers may sign up to receive FSA news through their email service provider.

You have probably already noticed that you haven't been getting newsletters in your mail box. FSA has limited funding to mail newsletters.

Producers are being asked to provide their email address to the local FSA office to receive

newsletters and other reminders by email.

The email address that you provide FSA will automatically be added to our electronic news system “*GovDelivery*.”

We also request that farm and ranch operators receiving FSA e-news to keep their landowners informed of program signups.

Newsletters are prepared and delivered

electronically each month to those that have already signed up or will after reading this.

Copies of Newsletters can be obtained by visiting your local FSA Office or visiting us on the web at **www.fsa.usda.gov**.

GovDelivery does not sell or distribute email lists to other clients or organizations. Email addresses are protected by the Privacy Act.

Farmers and Ranchers in all Kansas Counties are Eligible to Apply for FSA Emergency Loans

Between July 12, 2012 and August 8, 2012, the entire state of Kansas was declared a disaster using the new, streamlined Secretarial Disaster Designation process.

Applicants in all Kansas Counties are eligible to apply for low interest emergency (EM) loans. These loans help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought,

flooding and other natural disasters or quarantine. The current emergency loan interest rate is 2.125%.

Producers have eight months from the date of the designation to apply for EM loan assistance.

In the last few months, modifications to the EM program have been made, allowing for pasture compensation to be made earlier in the season.

In the past, emergency loan eligibility was determined after the production cycle. Producers no longer have to wait until the end of the production cycle to obtain a loan. This change will provide support to assist in offsetting the high production costs.



2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) Final Payments

DCP payments for 2012 participants will begin being issued in October. These payments will be deposited directly into participating producers' personal bank accounts.

If there are any unearned payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the October DCP payments you will receive.

If you have not received your final direct payment by the end of October, Participants should contact their local FSA County Office.

Drought Assistance Available for Livestock Producers

Livestock Producers may request assistance in approved KS counties by filing an application for cost-share assistance. Applications must be filed under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) from Oct 15 to Nov 15, 2012, at their local

FSA County Office.

ECP was implemented to assist in providing access to water because of extended period of severe drought.

The damage must be of such magnitude that it would be too costly for the

producer to rehabilitate without Federal assistance.

All Kansas counties are eligible with the exception of Republic County.

Dates to remember:

Oct 22, 2012 – SURE **Signup** begins

Acreage Reporting Deadlines:

Nov 15, 2012 – Perennial Forage Crops; includes all grasses, alfalfa, clover, etc.

Dec 15, 2012 – Fall-seeded small grains; includes wheat, barley, etc.

July 15, 2013 – Spring-seeded crops

NAP Applications for Coverage Closing Deadlines:

Dec 1, 2012 – Alfalfa, Grass, Clover, Lespedeza, Mixed Forages, Oats, Berries, Fruit Trees, Grapes and Honey

Jan 1, 2013 – Apples and Pears

CRP Emergency Grazing Extended to November 30

The emergency grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage has been authorized past Sept. 30th.

Because of the severe and ongoing drought conditions, emergency grazing in approved Kansas counties is

authorized through November 30, 2012. The emergency grazing extension applies to eligible practices except for continuous practices.

Emergency grazing was authorized to assist producers in Kansas and

other states in the nation who have endured the record breaking drought. The emergency grazing extension, not to go past November 30 will also be without an additional CRP rental payment reduction.

Direct and Guaranteed Loans Available

FSA's Guaranteed Loan program increased its maximum loan limit to \$1,302,000 on October 1st. The limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service. The lending limit increases every year according to an inflation index.

There is a one-time loan origination fee charged by FSA for a guaranteed loan requested by your lender. The 1.5% fee is calculated off the portion of loan that is guaranteed, up to 90% of the approved loan.

Producers should discuss FSA guaranteed loan options with their Lender.

The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness has also increased to \$1,602,000.

Direct loans are also available to purchase real estate, livestock, and farm equipment; or provide for annual operating expenses. Loans are subject to eligibility and feasibility.

A \$300,000 loan limit is available for each loan type (operating type loans

or farm ownership type loans).

FSA also has youth loans available up to \$5,000 to assist with youth agriculture projects.

FSA also targets funding to assist beginning farmers and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

Producers should contact their local FSA County Office – Farm Loan Programs with questions about farm loans.

October Interest Rates:

Direct Operating Loan Interest Rate:	1.125%
Direct Farm Ownership Rate:	3.00%
Youth Loans:	1.125%

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County Committee Elections

Be watching your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month.

Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters starting on November 5, 2012. If, for some reason, you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office.

Completed and signed ballots will be due back in the county office by the close of business on December 3, 2012.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.fsa.usda.gov/ks

SURE Enrollment Begins - October 22

Producers can enroll in the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program for 2011 crop year losses beginning October 22, 2012. Under the 2008 Farm Bill, SURE authorizes assistance to farmers and ranchers who

suffered crop losses caused by natural disasters occurring through September 30, 2011.

All eligible farmers and ranchers must sign up for 2011 SURE benefits before the June 7, 2013 deadline.

For additional information on SURE program eligibility requirements, be sure to contact your local FSA County Office or visit the website at:

www.fsa.usda.gov/sure

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. 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).