



Kansas FSA Updates

**Kansas State Office
Farm Service Agency**

Address:
3600 Anderson Ave.
Manhattan, KS 66503

Phone: 785-539-3531
Fax: 785-537-9659

State Executive Director:
Adrian J. Polansky

DCP/ACRE 2013 SIGN-UP

The Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program are being offered for the 2013 crop year under the 2008 Farm Bill Extension.

DCP and ACRE sign-up for 2013 crops will begin on February 19, 2013. The DCP sign-up period will end on August 2, 2013 and ACRE sign-up will end on June 3, 2013.

The only program change from 2012 to 2013 is that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013 (and vice versa).

Producers who wish to enroll will need to acknowledge receipt of the CCC-509 appendix. The appendix can be obtained from the USDA eForms website:

<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eForms/welcomeAction.do?Home>

USDA ANNOUNCES 45TH GENERAL SIGN-UP FOR CRP

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will conduct a four-week general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), beginning May 20 and ending on June 14. CRP has a 27-year legacy of protecting the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States.

Currently, about 27 million acres are enrolled in CRP. Producers that are accepted in the sign-up can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract (10-15 years).

Contracts on 3.3 million acres of CRP are set to expire on Sept. 30, 2013. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP.

Additional sign-ups for continuous CRP programs such as Highly Erodible Land Initiative and Initiative to Restore Grasslands, Wetlands and Wildlife will be announced in spring 2013.

MILC PROGRAM EXTENDED

As a result of the 2008 Farm Bill Extension, all Milk Income Loss Contracts are automatically extended to September 30, 2013. Eligible producers do not have to re-enroll in MILC.

MILC payments are triggered when the Boston Class I milk price falls below \$16.94 per hundredweight, after adjustment for the cost of dairy feed rations. MILC payments are calculated each month using the latest milk price and feed cost.

The payment rate for September 2012 is approximately \$0.59 per hundredweight. The payment rate for October 2012 marketing is approximately \$0.02 per hundredweight. The payment rate for November 2012 marketing is zero.

Before the October MILC payment can be issued, dairy farmers must complete a new FY 2013 Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) form. The new form, CCC-933 Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information, must be completed by producers before they can receive payments for a variety of programs administered by FSA and USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. Producers may obtain CCC-933 at their local USDA Service Center or online at www.fsa.usda.gov/cc933.

Dairy operations selected start month is automatically applicable for 2013 if previously selected. Producers who want to select a different production start month must visit their local FSA office between Feb. 1 and Feb. 28, 2013, also known as a relief period.

NEW AGI FORM FOR 2013

Under the 2008 Farm Bill extension, all payment eligibility and payment limitation provisions were extended, including AGI limitations for the 2013 crop year, program year and fiscal year.

All rules and requirements effective for 2012 program payments and benefits are applicable to eligible recipients of 2013 program payment and benefits. This includes the requirements of actively engaged in farming, cash-rent tenant, substantive change, minor child, and spousal provisions. Payments will continue to be limited by direct attribution for a person and legal entity. All average AGI limitations for commodity, price support, disaster assistance, and conservation programs are also continued for 2013 including the \$1 million average AGI limitation for 2013 direct payments.

The average AGI for 2013 payment eligibility purposes will be based on the average of AGI amounts for the 3-year period of 2009, 2010, and 2011. Producers will be required to complete a new AGI compliance certification and written consent for disclosure for 2013 using form CCC-933, which is a new form for 2013 only. The CCC-933 must be completed by the person or legal entity earning USDA benefits either directly or indirectly in the 2013 program. Producers who fail to provide the certification and consent must refund all applicable program payments received from FSA and NRCS.

Producers may obtain CCC-933 at their local USDA Service Center or online at www.fsa.usda.gov/cc933.

FSA FINANCIAL SERVICES WEBSITE AVAILABLE TO PRODUCERS

The Financial Services website is available for producers to conveniently view financial information and conduct FSA business. The website located at www.fsa.usda.gov/fmi is accessible to producers who have an e-Authentication Level 2 account.

Producers who do not currently have an account may register for an e-Authentication Level 2 account at <https://identitymanager.eems.usda.gov/registration/selfRegistrationForm.aspx?level=2>.

The Financial Services website allows producers to view summary and detailed information about specific payments, collections, outstanding debt (excluding loans) and CCC-1099-G statements. This information can be helpful for record keeping and income tax preparation.

If you have any questions about accessing the Financial Services website or obtaining an e-Authentication Level 2 account, contact your local FSA county office.

BEGINNING FARMER LOANS

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 than 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 percent of the county's median size.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local FSA County Office.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO COMPLETE YOUR AG CENSUS

Spring planting is only a few weeks away so Kansas farmers are encouraged to take care of some unfinished business now. The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is reminding producers that it's not too late to respond to the 2012 Census of Agriculture and thanking those who already have.

Although the deadline to submit Census forms recently passed, NASS stresses that it is not too late for producers to respond. Farmers can return their forms by mail or complete them online by visiting a secure website www.agcensus.usda.gov.

If producers have questions about the Census; lost, did not receive, or need help filling out their form, they can visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call 1-888-4AG-STAT (1-888-424-7828).

SELECTED INTEREST RATES FOR FEBRUARY 2013

Farm Operating Loans — Direct 1.1250%

Farm Ownership Loans — Direct 3.125%

Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher 1.50%

Emergency Loans 2.125%

Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years) 1.25%

Commodity Loans 1996-Present 1.125%

For more information on bulletin subjects or details regarding your Gov Delivery subscription with the Kansas FSA State Office, contact Rachel Jones at rachel.jones@ks.usda.gov or phone 785-539-3531.

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