



## Kansas FSA Updates

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Farm Service Agency

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### ACRE SIGN-UP ENDS JUNE 3

The sign-up period for ACRE is still open, but the June 3 deadline is quickly approaching.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants 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. Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment. DCP sign-up ends August 2.

Producers with level 2 access who wish to enroll online should start now. If you encounter a problem with online enrollment, please contact your local FSA office immediately.

[Read more about DCP and ACRE](#) or contact the FSA county office for more information, or an appointment to enroll.

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### MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS (MAL)

Short-term financing is available by obtaining low interest commodity loans for eligible harvested production. A nine-month Marketing Assistance Loan provides financing that allows producers to store production for later marketing. The crop may be stored on the farm or in the warehouse.

Loans are available for producers who share in the risk of producing the eligible commodity and maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the duration of the loan. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity, responsibility for loss because of damage to the commodity and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, it is ineligible for a loan, even if you regain beneficial interest

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## **GENERAL CRP SIGN-UP STARTS MAY 20**

USDA will conduct a four-week general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), beginning May 20 and ending on June 14. CRP protects 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 while 32.0 million acres are authorized for CRP. Producers that are accepted in the program can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract which is 10-15 years.

Contracts on 3.3 million acres of CRP nationwide, including 212,000 acres in Kansas, 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.

Along with sign-up for general CRP, USDA has also announced the restart of sign-up for continuous CRP. Sign-up for continuous CRP began on May 13 and will continue through September 30, 2013.

For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, visit a local FSA service center or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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## **2011 SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM APPLICATIONS**

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will continue to accept SURE applications for 2011 crop losses through June 7, 2013. Under the 2008 Farm Bill, SURE authorizes assistance to farmers and ranchers who suffered crop losses caused by natural disasters occurring through Sept. 30, 2011.

During 2011, all counties except Republic County received a Secretarial Disaster Designation, whether primary or contiguous, and producers are eligible to apply for SURE benefits if they experienced at least a 10 percent production loss that affects one crop of economic significance.

To meet program eligibility requirements, producers must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation or obtained Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for all economically significant crops. Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of a socially disadvantaged, limited resource or beginning farmer or rancher do not have to meet this requirement. Forage crops intended for grazing are not eligible for SURE benefits.

For more information on SURE program eligibility requirements contact your local FSA office or visit the website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure>.

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## COC ELECTION NOMINATIONS

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

The COC nomination period runs from June 17, 2013 through August 1, 2013. The nomination form is available at USDA Service Centers and [online](#).

For more information contact your local FSA office.

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## DCP AND ACRE FRUITS AND VEGETABLES (FAV) EXEMPTION

Producers enrolled in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) or the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program can plant any crop on base acres except for fruits, vegetables and wild rice other than mung beans and pulse crops. The restrictions also apply where a mixture of crops which include a FAV are planted.

Fruits and Vegetables (FAVs) and wild rice can only be planted if the commodity is destroyed without benefit before harvest unless one of the following exceptions applies:

- On a farm with a history of planting FAVs or wild rice, except that direct and counter-cyclical payments shall be reduced by an acre for each acre of base acreage planted to a fruit, vegetable or wild rice.
- If the producer has an established history of planting a specific fruit, specific vegetable or wild rice. If you meet this exception, please check with your county office for additional requirements.

Failure to comply with FAV and wild rice provisions is a CCC-509 violation that could result in termination or a reduction in direct, counter-cyclical and ACRE program payments. Compliance and payment reductions will be determined on wild rice and all FAVs planted on base acres, with the following exemptions:

- FAVs that are designated as and meet the definition of a home garden
- FAVs planted and reported with an intended use as FAV cover only, foraging, green manure, grazing, left standing or silage, and the producer pays a fee to cover the cost of a farm visit to verify that the crop has not been harvested.
- Mung beans and pulse crops

The intentions must be declared when the acreage report is filed. These exemptions can't be used to negate CCC-509 violations or payment reduction

## **DIRECT AND GUARANTEED LOANS AVAILABLE**

Farm Service Agency direct loans are 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 is available for each loan type (operating type loans and farm ownership type loans).

Other loans available are those for rural youth up to \$5,000 to assist with agriculture projects and also Microloans, up to \$35,000 to serve unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program has a limit of \$1,302,000. A qualifying Lender originates the loan with their rates and terms and seeks a FSA Guarantee, which can be up to 95%, depending upon loan type and purpose. There is one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for socially disadvantaged applicants. A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

Producers should contact their local FSA County Offices with questions about farm loans.

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## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

05/20/2013	Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Sign-Up Begins
05/31/2013	Final Availability Date for 2012 MAL - Corn, Cotton, Grain Sorghum, Soybeans
06/03/2013	2013 Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Sign-Up Ends
06/07/2013	2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) Sign-Up Ends
06/14/2013	CRP General Sign-Up Ends
07/15/2013	Final Acreage Reporting for Spring-Seeded Crops
08/02/2013	2013 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) Sign-Up Ends

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## **SELECTED INTEREST RATES FOR MAY 2013**

Farm Operating Loans — Direct 1.375%

Farm Ownership Loans — Direct 3.50%

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

Emergency Loans 2.375%

Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years) 1.375%

Commodity Loans 1996-Present 1.125%

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USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence  
Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800)  
877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).

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