



Kansas FSA Updates

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DCP SIGN-UP ENDS AUGUST 2

The sign-up period for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) is coming to a close. Producers are encouraged to sign up for DCP before the Aug. 2, 2013, deadline. The 2013 DCP program provisions are unchanged from 2012.

Eligible DCP participants receive a direct payment and/or a counter-cyclical payment. Direct payment rates are established by statute regardless of market prices. Counter-cyclical payments vary depending on market prices, and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate). [Read more about DCP](#) or contact the FSA county office for more information, or an appointment to enroll.

COC NOMINATION DEADLINE

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to 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.

NAP AVAILABLE FOR 2014 ANNUAL FORAGE CROPS

The Kansas Farm Service Agency will offer Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for 2014 crops that are planted annually and used for livestock feed or fodder.

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) recently announced a pilot program that offers a CAT level Rainfall Index-Annual Forage Insurance Plan to producers in several states, including Kansas. Because there is limited time for producers in these states to transition from NAP to the new RMA pilot program, an exception was made that will allow the states to continue offering NAP coverage for 2014. However, NAP coverage will not be available for 2015 annual forage crops.

Eligible producers can apply for 2014 NAP coverage at their local FSA Office using Form CCC-471, Application for Coverage. Producers must file the application and service fee by the September 1, 2013 deadline for small grains. The service fee is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

Producers who meet the definition of a limited resource farmer or rancher can request a waiver of the service fee.

For more information about NAP, please contact your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

BEGINNING FARMER LOANS

FSA assists beginning farmers 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 USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

FILING FOR NAP LOSSES

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

MICROLOAN PROGRAM

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Individuals interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available, should contact the local FSA office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official.

FOREIGN BUYERS NOTIFICATION

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

DATES TO REMEMBER

08/02/2013 Final Acreage Reporting for Spring-Seeded Crops
08/02/2013 2013 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment (DCP) Sign-Up Ends

SELECTED INTEREST RATES FOR JULY 2013

Farm Operating Loans — Direct 1.250%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct 3.250%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher 1.50%
Emergency Loans 2.250%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years) 1.50%
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).