



Allen County FSA Office  
202 W Miller Road  
Iola, KS 66749  
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**Hours:** Monday- Friday  
8:00 am to 4:30 pm

## November 2010

### County Committee Members

Gary Coltrane, Chairperson  
David Bedenbender, Vice Chairperson  
Sandra Murrow, Member

*The Committee meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month*

**Office Staff:** Doug Peine, CED  
Lindsey Hammond, PT  
Marthena Spainhoward, PT  
Jandy Wiltse, PT

### DCP/ACRE sign-up underway

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program has begun and will continue through June 1, 2010. It is the time of year to make a decision if you want to enroll in DCP or ACRE for the 2011 crop year. Both options have a direct payment in which eligible producers may request to receive an advance payment that is based on 22 percent of the total farm payment for the year. USDA will issue advance direct payments beginning December 1, 2010.

The DCP and ACRE payments are computed differently. Please call or stop by the office for a detailed explanation of the differences between DCP and ACRE.

The Allen County staff is preparing for signup activities. If you prefer to receive an advance farm program payment in calendar year 2010, we ask that you call for an appointment **IMMEDIATELY**.

In early January, we will begin sending postcards to all farm operators. We will establish an appointment time and date for you to enroll into DCP/ACRE, report wheat and grass acres, and complete the 2011 eligibility forms. We will ask the farm operators to take on the responsibility of taking DCP/ACRE contracts and payment eligibility forms to the necessary landowners for completion. It will be very important for each landowner to view the completed items for accuracy, complete the highlighted areas, sign, and return the documents by **JUNE 1, 2010**.

If you have questions when completing the document or if the completed information is not correct, please contact our office prior to sending it back.

The June 1, 2010, deadline is mandatory for all participants wanting to sign up for DCP and ACRE. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications. If you would like to establish your appointment time and date to sign up, please contact our office.

### Report your wheat acres

Winter is a great time to report your wheat. Please remember that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, will prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits. Producers participating in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments, Conservation Reserve Program, SURE, and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must report their acres or coverage.

Producers are required to file reports by May 31, 2011, for wheat, oats, barley, and all other small grains. When reporting acreages, producers will also need to provide planting dates. If the May 31<sup>st</sup>, deadline is not met, producers will be required to pay for a field visit at a minimum charge of \$46 per farm.

One of the eligibility requirements of the new crop disaster program (SURE) is that you report all crop and land uses for your operation including grass and grazing land. As a result we will be completing this task when you report your wheat acres this winter.

### Don't forget about the Livestock Indemnity Program

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides benefits on a calendar year basis to livestock producers who suffered livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather. Adverse weather events include tornados, floods, lightning, wildfires, winter storms, blizzards, extreme heat, and extreme cold.

To be eligible for LIP, a livestock producer must have legally owned the livestock on the date of death and the livestock must be maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation. Applicants must provide adequate documentation to prove the eligible deaths occurred as a direct result of the adverse weather event.

A notice of loss must be filed within **30 calendar days** after the death is apparent. When the application for payment is filed, producers must provide an acceptable proof of death. The death records must provide sufficient data to identify the quantity, kind, type, and weight range of the livestock. This may include veterinary records, private insurance documents, rendering truck receipts, dated photos, or contemporaneous producer records. Allen County producers who dispose of livestock carcasses at the Allen County Landfill can request the scale operator to provide a print out for the FSA livestock program. The scale attendant would need to document the quantity, type, and kind of livestock and sign the document. Proof of death documents can be maintained by the livestock producer for non weather related deaths so normal mortality is not reduced from the LIP payment.

Some of the death documents noted above require the livestock owner to also provide beginning and ending inventory records. If you suffer livestock deaths due to adverse weather, **please contact our office as soon as the loss is apparent** to receive additional details on filing a notice of loss and provide an acceptable proof of death.

### Foreign land ownership requirements

FSA is required by the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act to keep record of land purchased by persons who are not citizens of the United States. Foreign owners of agricultural land are required to visit a FSA office and report their land on a FSA-153 form. Any foreign person who holds, acquires, or transfers an interest in agricultural land and does not submit a FSA-153 is subject to a civil penalty of 25 percent of the fair market value of the land on the date the penalty is assessed. Contact your local office for additional information.

### Farm record changes

If you have recently bought, sold, renting different land, put your land in a trust, or even if you have switched bank accounts make sure and report all changes to FSA on all land you have or accounts that you use. Not reporting could lead to possible program ineligibility, delays in payments, or loss of benefits. For farm ownership changes you will need to provide a recorded deed or recorded land contract to verify proof of ownership.

### County Committee Elections

Just a reminder: Be watching your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters in LAA #2. This includes the Logan, Humboldt, Salem and Cottage Grove townships in Allen County. It also includes Woodson County producers who have farms administered in Allen County and the majority of their interest is physically located south of 54 Highway. Blake Mueller and Ginger Roberts are the candidates. If, for some reason, you do not receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office. Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on December 6, 2010. Ballots will be counted in the Service Center conference room at 9:30 am on December 9, 2010. No one can be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

#### Nondiscrimination Statement

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**Take Actions to Remain Eligible for 2011 SURE Disaster Program**

The same insurance requirements will apply if you want to ensure you are eligible for the crop disaster benefits (SURE) in 2011. With this said, we have a very important insurance sales closing date approaching. If you want to be eligible for 2011 disaster, you need to make sure all mechanically harvested crops of economic significance are covered by an insurance policy. A crop of economic significance is any crop that contributed, or is expected to contribute, 5% or more of the total expected value of all crops grown and mechanically harvested by the producer. Keep in mind that hay is a mechanically harvested crop.

**December 1, 2010**, is the final date to pay the applicable service fee and obtain Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) policy for all Grasses, Alfalfa, Apricots, Asparagus, Blueberries, Cane berries (Blackberries and Raspberries), Cherries, Clover, Grapes, Lespedeza, Honey, Mixed Forage, Nectarines, Oats, Peaches, Plums, Strawberries, and Vetch.

The NAP administrative service fee is \$250 per crop per administrative county not to exceed \$750 per producer per administrative county and an \$1875 maximum fee for multi-county producers. The NAP program will provide coverage for losses exceeding 50% of your Actual Production History (APH) for the crop and benefits are calculated on 55% of the price for the crop. Contact our office prior to December 1<sup>st</sup> if you are interested in a 2011 NAP policy.

**CRP Reminders**

**CCRP** - The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) is a private lands environment improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

The Continuous CRP program is a voluntary enrollment program. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment.

To be eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year.

For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments, please contact our office or visit:  
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/crpcont03.html>

**CRP Seeding Date:** If your land was accepted in the recent general sign-up or if you enrolled into a continuous CRP practice recently, please remember the requirement to complete your practice timely. The native grass seeding period begins December 1<sup>st</sup> and ends May 15<sup>th</sup>. Now would be a good time to think about completing these activities. You will need to ensure you purchase the appropriate seed mixture and begin making arrangements for drilling. Once your grass is seeded, please remember to submit all of your bills to our office as well as the seed tags to NRCS. We will have some cost share forms for you to sign after completion. If you have any questions about completing CRP practices, contact our office or NRCS.

**Marketing Assistance Loans**

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. Nine-month commodity loans may be obtained by placing the eligible commodity in an approved:

- Farm storage and either requesting a measurement service or certifying the loan quantity on CCC-666.

- Warehouse storage and obtain a loan on 100 percent of the net quantity on the receipt.

To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting, and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition, and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan, and denial of future farm-stored loans.

The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

**FSA announces Conservation Loan Program**

Farm Service Agency has announced the launch of a Conservation Loan (CL) program that will provide farm owners and farm-related business operators access to credit to implement conservation techniques that will conserve natural resources.

CL funds can be used to implement conservation practices approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), such as the installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; implementation of manure management; and the adaptation of other emerging or existing conservation practices, techniques or technologies.

Direct CLs can be obtained through local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices with loan limits up to \$300,000. FSA is presently offering fixed interest rates for these loans of 4.125%. Guaranteed CLs up to \$1,119,000 are available from lenders working with FSA. Applicants in a strong financial position may qualify for a streamlined application process. Unlike FSA's traditional farm ownership and operating loan programs that are targeted toward smaller and less financially established farmers, eligibility requirements are expanded to permit the agency to provide assistance to some applicants who may be large and financially strong.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center or call 620-724-6227, Ext 229. You may also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

<b>Dates To Remember</b>	
<b>Oct. 1, 2010 – June 1, 2011</b>	2011 DCP and ACRE Sign Up Period
<b>Nov. 5, 2010</b>	COC Election Ballots Mailed out
<b>Nov. 15, 2010</b>	Final Plant Date for Wheat
<b>Dec. 1, 2010</b>	Nap polices due for all grasses, alfalfa, clover, lespedeza, honey, mixed forages, and oats Beginning of native grass seeding period
<b>Dec. 6, 2010</b>	COC ballots due to the Allen County FSA office
<b>Dec. 9, 2010</b>	Counting of election ballots