



Allen County Farm Service Agency

January 2011

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Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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Jandy Wiltse,
Program Technician
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County Committee

David Bedenbender,
Chairperson
Sandra Murrow, Vice-
Chairperson
Blake Mueller, Member

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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, 2011. 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.

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 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, 2011**.

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, 2011, deadline is mandatory for all participants wanting to sign up for DCP and ACRE. 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 31st, 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.

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.

2009 Disaster Sign-up Underway

Crop producers with land physically located in Allen, Anderson, Bourbon, Linn or Neosho County may qualify for disaster benefits under the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE). For a producer to be eligible for SURE, **ALL** mechanically harvested crops on your farm **MUST** be covered by an insurance policy. The "farm" definition under SURE is the sum of **all** crop acreage in **all** counties planted (or intended) for harvest and sale, or on farm livestock feeding, including native grassland intended for hay. Insurance must have been purchased for all crops on your "farm" that are of economic significance. Economic significance is defined as any crop that contributed, or is expected to contribute 5% or more of the total expected value of all crops grown by the producer.

In order to receive payments, the farm must suffer at least a 10% production loss on at least one crop of economic significance. The sign up period began January 10, 2011 and will end **July 29, 2011**.

If you feel you meet the eligibility requirements noted above, please contact our office **IMMEDIATELY**. We will be able to download your crop insurance information and data load your application. Once complete we will contact you to review and sign.

Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

CRP Reminders

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 1st and ends May 15th. 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.

CRP Burning: If you have CRP land, now is a good time to review your CRP conservation plan to see if you are required to burn the acreage in 2011. This may be required as a maintenance or management practice in your contract. All burning activities need to be completed before the primary nesting season which begins **April 15th**. Once the burn has been completed, you will need to report this to the FSA office. Failure to complete required CRP burns will result in noncompliance, and could make contract subject to termination. If you have any questions pertaining to the burning requirements of your contract, please contact our office prior to **April 15th**.

General CRP Sign-up Coming! We have been informed that a general CRP sign up will be conducted in 2011. General CRP sign ups allow eligible whole fields to be offered or reoffered for acceptance at the national level. If you have an interest in offering new land or if you have CRP that has recently or will expire in 2011, stay in touch for the sign up details.

COC Election Results

Congratulations to Blake Mueller who has been elected by producers in Local Administrative Area (LAA) #2. We thank all of you who participated in the election. Following are the election results. Each person will serve a three year term.

Blake Mueller - COC Member
 Ginger Roberts - 1st alternate to COC
 Karl Allen – 2nd alternate to COC

We send out a special thanks to Gary Coltrane, who spent 9 years representing producers in LAA #2.

Report your 2011 Farm Operation Changes

Please ensure your farm operation changes are timely reported to our office. All changes of tenants and owners are to be reported within 30 days from the date the change is final. A farm, as defined by FSA, is generally made up of tracts that have the same owner and the same operator. A sale of land in the farm or a tract of land within the farm would be an instance that requires notifying the local FSA office so a farm reconstitution can be initiated using the FSA-155, Request for Farm Reconstitution. Failure to timely report these changes, may result in over or under payments to the affected individuals.

A special provision exists that would allow contract acres to be divided in a manner agreed to by all sellers and buyers. The method of division, know as the "Designation by Landowner" provision, must be requested and requires all sellers and buyers agree to the method by signing the FSA-155, or providing a memorandum of understanding that includes signatures of all sellers and buyers.

When notifying the county office of ownership changes, the designation by landowner method of division should be discussed to see if this method would result in a more satisfactory division of contract acres compared to the default method most commonly used for farm and tract divisions. The designation by landowner method can only be used when requested and if all buyers and sellers agree in writing.

Dates to Remember	
April 15th	Last day to complete 2011 CRP burns
May 15th	Last day to timely plant native CRP grass
May 31st	Last day to report 2011 wheat, oats, & barley
June 1st	Last day to timely enroll in 2011 DCP/ACRE
July 29th	Last day to enroll in 2009 SURE program
Ongoing	Report farm operation changes
Ongoing	File notice of loss within 30 days for the 2011 Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)