



## Anderson County Farm Service Agency

### February 2011

111 N Maple  
Garnett, KS 66032-9405

PH 785-448-3128  
FAX 785-448-5559  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/ks](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ks)

#### Hours

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

#### Office Staff

Jolene Alexander,  
County Executive Director

Michelle Rockers,  
Program Technician

Brenda Hubler,  
Program Technician

Denise King,  
Program Technician

Dixie Schettler,  
Temporary Program  
Technician

#### County Committee

Keith Hirt, Chairperson  
Sandra Kueser, Vice-chair  
Jason Beckmon, Member

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## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

Congratulations to Sandra Kueser on being re-elected to the County Committee for Local Administrative Area (LAA1) which covers Reeder, Jackson, Putnam, Monroe, and Walker townships.

Committee members are an important part of the administration of federal farm programs at the county level. The County Committee ensures USDA Programs are delivered in a timely, fair and equitable manner.

The County Committee meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. in the USDA Service Center.

FSA appreciates those who serve on the county committee and the producers for taking the time to vote for committee candidates.

## LIVESTOCK LOSSES

The Livestock Incentive Program (LIP) provides assistance to producers for livestock deaths that result from disaster. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, lightning, tornados, wildfires, extreme heat/cold, and winter storms. Producers must file a notice of loss within 30 days after the livestock death is apparent, and provide proof of death. If there is no verifiable proof of death (such as vet records, rendering truck receipt, etc.) you may request a measurement service within one week of death and a county office employee will conduct a field visit to verify the death loss. A dated picture may also be used along with beginning and ending inventory. Normal mortality must be documented before eligible losses will be paid.

## PAPER CHECK CONVERSION

Over the next year, FSA/CCC is moving toward an electronic method for processing producers' checks. This will allow FSA/CCC to process collections faster. When producers present checks, either in person or through the mail, the checks will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt. Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information: [https://www.pccotc.gov/pccotc/pcc/usingpcc/Legal%20Notices/legal\\_notices.htm](https://www.pccotc.gov/pccotc/pcc/usingpcc/Legal%20Notices/legal_notices.htm).

## SORGHUM REFERENDUM

USDA will conduct a referendum from February 1-28, 2011 at FSA Offices to determine if the sorghum checkoff program will be continued based on a simple majority vote. Ballots may be obtained in person, by mail, or facsimile at county FSA offices, or via the Internet at [www.ams.usda.gov/sorghumpage](http://www.ams.usda.gov/sorghumpage).

Any eligible person engaged in the production or importation of sorghum from July 1, 2008 to December 31, 2010 is eligible to participate. Individuals are required to provide documentation such as a sales receipt or remittance form that shows they engaged in the production or importation of sorghum. For more information, contact Kenneth R. Payne by calling (202)720-1115 or faxing (202)720-1125.



Report your wheat and oats by May 31st to avoid late-filing fees. When reporting acreages, producers will also need to provide planting dates. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of FSA programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments. An FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must be filed for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted.

#### Acreage Certification Deadlines:

- Small Grains for Grain -May 31
- Small Grains for Grazing -15 days prior to grazing
- Small Grains for Haying -15 days prior to haying
- Spring Seeded Crops -August 1
- CRP -August 1
- NAP -August 1 or 15 days prior to the onset of harvest or grazing for all other crops.

## Changing Banks

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using Direct Deposit. To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions. If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

### 2009 SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE

The sign-up period for the 2009 crop year Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program has opened. SURE is one of five disaster programs included in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill) that provides assistance to farmers and ranchers who have suffered losses due to natural disasters. Any eligible producer who suffered losses during the 2009 crop year is encouraged to visit a local FSA office to learn more about the SURE program and how to apply.

To be eligible for SURE a farm or ranch must have:

- At least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance;
- A policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for all economically significant crops;
- Been physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Agriculture Secretary under a Secretarial Disaster Designation. Without a Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may be eligible if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster.

Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage. Farmers and ranchers interested in signing up must do so before July 29, 2011. For more information on the 2009 SURE program, visit any FSA county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure>

### Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. These benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. Losses are paid for losses in excess of 50% at 55% of the approved price. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date. Production records for all crops must be reported to the FSA office no later than the application closing date for the crop for the following year. FSA requires that any production reported in a loss year be verifiable according to Agency specifications. *NAP losses must be reported within 15*

*days of loss.*

### 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 4.5%. Guaranteed CL's 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 you can call (785) 242-3260 and ask for Farm

### Dates to Remember

Feb. 1-28	Sorghum Referendum Conducted
February 21	Office Closed for Presidents' Day
Mar.14-Apr. 15	General CRP Signup 41
May 31	Wheat and Oats Crop Reports Due
June 1	DCP/ACRE Signup Ends
August 1	Spring Planted Crops, CRP, and Other Land Use Reporting Deadline
15 Days Before Harvest	Crops Covered by Non-Insured Crop Assistance Program (NAP) must be reported 15 days before the onset of harvesting or grazing.
Ongoing	Livestock Deaths Reported Within 30 Days of Loss for LIP Program
Ongoing	Continuous CRP Signup for High Priority Land
Ongoing	Farm Storage Facility Loan Signup