



**Atchison County
Farm Service Agency**

January 2011

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Hours

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

Office Staff

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Diane Kiehl, PT
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Susan Sprang, PT
Rick Abel, CED

County Committee (COC)

Karl Buttron, Chairperson
Gregg Oswald, Vice-Chairperson
Jim Hale, Member
Candace Sheeley, Advisor

COC Meetings are held the 2nd
Friday of the month at 9:00 am.

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DCP/ACRE Signup Underway for 2011

Signup for 2011 benefits under the Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) began on October 1, and will end on June 1, 2011. Advance payments of 22% of the calculated direct payment are available. All signatures on a contract to participate, must be obtained by the June 1 deadline. The ACRE option is available again for farms that have not already elected this option. For ACRE participation, you must agree to forgo 20% of the direct payment and 30% of the loan rate on the farm. ACRE elections are irrevocable for the life of the current farm bill. Contact our office and let us know which enrollment option you have chosen for 2011. We also need to know if you have any changes to your farm operation from 2010. Changes include added or deleted land, changes in share, and advance payment election.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Ballots for the position of county committee member were canvassed and tabulated at the regular county committee meeting held December 10th. James Hale was re-elected to serve another three year term as county committee member, representing Local Administrative Area (LAA) #3. LAA#3 is all of Atchison County that is located in Shannon, Mt Pleasant, and Walnut Townships. Jim's new term began on January 1, 2011. Atchison County is divided into three LAA's with staggered terms. Other current county committee members are Gregg Oswald (LAA#1), and Karl Buttron (LAA#2). Candace Sheeley is currently serving as Advisor to the County Committee. The committee meets regularly on the 2nd Friday of each month, at 9:00 am. The public is invited to attend the regular session of these meetings.

2009 SURE signup underway

As a critical element of the FSA farm safety net, the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) provides financial assistance to producers who suffer qualifying crop losses due to natural disasters. Deadline for enrollment in SURE is announced annually. To qualify for SURE requires that producers implement risk management measures by enrolling in either crop insurance or Non-Insured Crop Assistance Program (NAP) for all crops. SURE evaluates qualifying losses based on total farm revenue, not individual crop losses. For 2009 Atchison County producers must show a 50% loss of revenue on the farming operation. If you have an interest in land that is located in a county that has received a Secretarial Disaster designation for 2009, you must show a 10% production loss on at least one crop of economic significance to qualify for benefits. Signup for 2009 crop losses began on January 10th.

CONSERVATION LOANS

The Conservation Loan (CL) program will provide farm owners access to credit to implement conservation techniques that will conserve natural resources. Loans are available currently at a 4.5% rate for either 7 or 20 years depending on the security pledged. CL funds can be used to implement conservation practices approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), such as the installation of conservation structures; 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. 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. In fact, for those applicants with a strong financial position, paperwork requirements can be significantly reduced by eliminating the requirement to provide a cash flow and its supplementary documentation. Direct Conservation Loans have loan limits up to \$300,000. Guaranteed Conservation Loans up to \$1,112,000 are available from lenders working with FSA.

Paper Check Conversion (PCC)

Over the next year, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Commodity Credit Corporation (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.

Sorghum Referendum during February

FSA will conduct a referendum to determine the continuance of the sorghum checkoff. This checkoff is a national, coordinated, self help marketing program designed to strengthen the position of sorghum in the marketplace, maintain and expand existing domestic and foreign markets and uses for sorghum, and develop new markets and uses for sorghum. The program is funded at the rate of 0.6 percent of the net market value on grain sorghum, and 0.35 percent of the net market value of sorghum forage. The referendum will be conducted from February 1 through February 28th. Ballots may be obtained at the FSA office in person, by mail or fax, or on the internet at www.ams.usda.gov/sorghumpage. Any eligible person engaged in the production 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 that shows they engaged in the production of sorghum during that time period.

2010 Grain Loans Available

Loans are available for 2010 crop wheat and oats through March 31, 2011, and for 2010 crop corn, grain sorghum and soybeans through May 31, 2011. These loans mature at the end of the ninth month following the month of approval. The loans are available for farm stored or warehouse stored grain. This program provides operating capital while retaining control of the physical crop for later marketing. The current interest rate for January is 1.25%. Loan proceeds are based on the result of multiplying your eligible 2010 production by the 2010 loan rate for the commodity being pledged as collateral. Loan rates for Atchison County are as follows: Corn, \$2.03/bu; Soybeans, \$4.98/bu; Milo, \$3.42/cwt; Wheat, \$3.02/bu and Oats, \$1.43/bu. Remember these rates are reduced by 30% for production from farms participating in the ACRE program. There is a \$45 fee for loan processing. Contact our office for more information.

FOREIGN INVESTORS MUST REPORT LAND HOLDINGS

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 directs the Secretary of Agriculture to analyze agricultural land transactions involving foreigners and to determine the effect of such holdings on family farms and rural communities. Foreign investors are required to report purchase or sale of U.S. land to FSA within 90 days of the transaction, or risk assessment of monetary penalties up to 25% of the fair market value of the property.

Dates to Remember	
Date	What
February 28	Deadline for Sorghum Referendum Ballots
May 31	Deadline to report wheat/small grain acres
June 1	Deadline for DCP/ACRE contract signatures