



**District 7 - Barber - Clark - Comanche - Edwards - Ford - Gray -
Hodgeman - Kiowa - Ness - Pawnee - Pratt - Stafford**

November 2010

New SAFE Lesser Prairie Chicken Practice

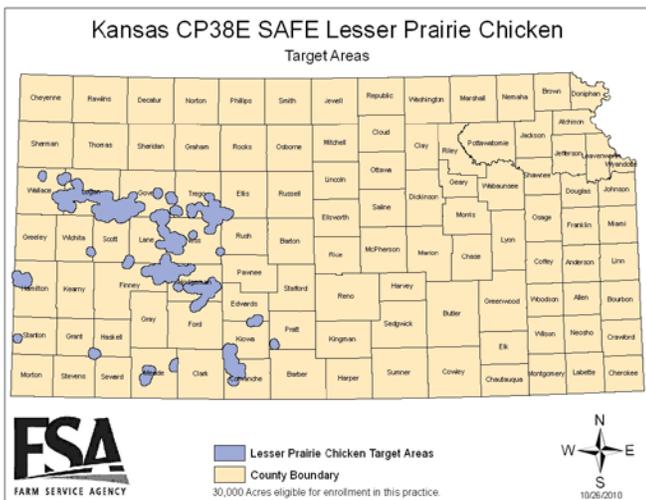
There is a new Continuous CRP practice available December 1st that may fit well with your conservation plans for your operation. It is the Lesser Prairie-Chicken State Acres for Wildlife (or SAFE) Continuous CRP that has recently been approved by FSA.

The program offers to enroll up to 30,000 targeted acres of either new or expired CRP fields into a native, warm season grass and forb species mix to create nesting and brooding habitat for Lesser Prairie-Chickens and other grassland birds.

There are no minimum or maximum field sizes; mid-contract management is required and can be one of the following: routine grazing, managed harvesting, prescribed burning, inter-seeding of forbs, or light disking; and new seedings are eligible for both Signup Incentive Payments (SIP) and Practice Incentive Payments (PIP).

The targeting for this practice is very specific so a visit to your local FSA office will be needed to see if your field is eligible. The map below gives you an approximate idea of the boundaries for the practice in your area but your local office has the actual map files to quickly see if your field is in the target area.

If you were thinking about offering fields for the last General Signup that had been in CRP previously or new fields, this is another opportunity to offer them now without having to go through the bid process used in a General Signup.



DCP AND ACRE ENROLLMENT DEADLINE JUNE 1

Counties are now taking appointments to enroll in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program. June 1 is the final date to enroll. The DCP program is an annual enrollment, similar to the past years. The ACRE program was created in the 2008 Farm Bill to give producers an option in lieu of traditional counter-cyclical payments. Producers who elect the ACRE program for a farm agree to: *forgo counter-cyclical payments; * accept a 20-percent reduction of the direct payments; and *accept a 30-percent reduction in loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm. For more information on either program or to make an appointment to enroll contact your local FSA Office.

Committee Election

Vote and make a difference! The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to all farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a direct link between the agriculture community and the USDA. Committee members deliver FSA programs at the local level. Producers who serve on committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs their counties offer. A county or multi-county area serviced by the county committee is divided into three to five local administrative areas (LAA). Each LAA is represented by one member on the county committee.

Producers in the LAA conducting an election this year should be receiving your ballots soon. Look the ballot over carefully for how and where to sign. Ballots must be returned to the county office or postmarked no later than December 6, 2010.

Notice to all FLP Borrowers

Our regulations require that you be given credit for payments on the date that the payment is received at the USDA service center. With January 1st falling on a Saturday, USDA employees will observe the New Year's holiday on Friday, December 31, 2010. To be given credit for payments in 2010 and for the interest payment to count for 2010 tax expenses, payments must be received in the County Office on Thursday, December 30, 2010.

Report Changes

It is important to keep your records accurate and up to date. Report any changes on land ownership or changes in your farming operation. Also, if you have any banking changes such as different account numbers or changing banks, report these changes to insure your Direct Deposit is accurate. Address changes also need to be timely reported including update the 9-1-1 addresses. All these changes need to be submitted to your local FSA office

Commodity Loans and LDP's

Loans are available for participating producers on commodities. Nine month Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) are available with the interest rate determined by the month of loan application and disbursement. Loan Deficiency Payments are available when the posted county price (PCP) falls below the county loan rate. The CCC-666 EZ must be completed prior to loss of beneficial interest. The final date to request a 2010 Wheat, Barley, and Oats is March 31, 2011. The final date to request a 2010 Corn, Grain Sorghum, or Soybean loan is May 31, 2011. Contact your local FSA for details and current rates.

**US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Hodgeman County FSA Office
323 Main, PO Box 277
Jetmore, KS 67854-0277**



Conservation Loan Program

The Farm Service Agency makes and guarantees conservation loans on farms and ranches to help conserve our natural resources. The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the credit necessary to implement conservation measures on their land.

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 FSA offices with loan limits up to \$300,000. Guaranteed CLs up to \$1,112,000 are available from lenders working with FSA.

NAP Application for Coverage Deadline is December 1, 2010

The final date to purchase Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for all Grasses including Alfalfa, Clover, Lespedeza, Honey, Mixed Forage, Oats, Strawberries, and Vetch is **December 1, 2010**. The application and service fee is \$250 per crop, up to \$750 per county, and not to exceed a total of \$1875 per producer for individuals with farming interests in multiple counties. The application and service fee must be filed by **December 1, 2010**. Limited resource producers may request a waiver for service fees.

REMINDER: In order to be eligible for the permanent disaster programs you **MUST** purchase NAP coverage

Acreage Reporting Date

Acreage reports are required for program participation in several programs. The final date to report acreages of 2011 wheat, barley, oats, and rye is May 31, 2011. The final date to report corn, upland cotton, grain sorghum, forage sorghum, fallow, grass and CRP is August 1, 2011. Producers should contact their local FSA Office for an appointment to certify crop acres.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call your local FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

Farm Reconstitutions

When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by August 1, 2011 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

Estate Method — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

DCP Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

Default Method — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

If DCP direct payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded.

Dates To Remember	
November 25, 2010	Thanksgiving Holiday. USDA FSA Office is CLOSED
December 24, 2010	Christmas Holiday. USDA FSA Office is CLOSED
December 31, 2010	New Years Day. USDA FSA Office is CLOSED

Nondiscrimination Statement
 "The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

PRSR7 STD
 US POSTAGE PAID
 MANHATTAN, KS
 PERMIT #86